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1/8/66

Mr. Steve Allison
WWDC
Washington, D.C.

Dear Steve,

I'm assuming you really told Joan to invite Wesley Liebeler to debate me. I assume also, based on a more inclusive record than I recalled on the spur of the moment, that he will not. After all, he's had the chance on coast-to-coast TV and in his own home town. There seems to be a slight chance he'll be wheedled into doing it the end of the month with "Cris Hizer and several of his former assistant counsel to champion him. He is by no means anxious to do so even with this loaded deck.

Anyway, your Friday night show was a real public service, for it presented the Capitol Record "Rotating Whitewash" and gave me at least the minimum time to comment on it. I'm glad it was totally unexpected, for I might have restrained myself and been less angry, and that would have been wrong. This is, I believe, the most dishonest of all the futile efforts to defend the Report and the government. There is but a single visible defense: the truth, as total and untainted as man can make it. It was dishonest in design and intent, for I at least was interested in cooperating because of false representations made to me about it by the people who did it.

Obviously, it is anything but what Capitol represents it as being: unbiased, and I'm surprised an old pro like you found this unworthy of a single prick.

I meant my offer seriously. I would love to do with this record what I've offered to do with Liebeler's TV appearances in California of which I've got taped, stop it every time he lies and prove he's lying, from just the official record. For you I'll do better: I'll stop it on everything he says and prove that it is either a lie, a half-truth, a distortion, or just plain untrue. You asked, on the air, "How can you", and I replied, spontaneously, "Try me". If you want a night off, lets just get together before a tape machine. Or, I can do the same thing for you with the entire record, for he is not alone in lying and distorting. Or, I'll do it for you live. Believe me, that record is a monster and the people who did these bad things and said bad things know better. The "flaws" are that obvious.

I doubt if you'll read my second book, because I think you are so busy you have a good excuse to avoid what is unpleasant and what will convince you of what you do not want to be convinced. Let I tell you my work amounts to the only possible defense of the Commission, meaning its members. All this lies and obfuscations, all the journalistic efforts to pin the rightness of the Report on the integrity of the members will in the long run serve only to destroy the members. The Report is right or wrong on the basis of fact alone. No matter how honorable the signers, they cannot make wrong right. But this flackery that seeks to prove the Report is right only because the members are honorable fixes in the public mind, and these words are used by such columnists as Roscoe Drummond, the belief that if the Report is wrong the members are conspirators. Nonsense. Thanks, and I'd appreciate a tape (3 3/4).

Sincerely, Harold Weisberg