

Rt. 7, Frederick, Md. 21701
3/28/68

Dear Dave,

Jim and I each kept working so intensively while I was in New Orleans on this last trip I did not see him for the last five days. However, I have delivered your message two ways: via an assistant DA, with whom I discussed it, and in a long memo. In each I encouraged him to accept your offer. I also discussed the two variants I suggested to you, for he ~~may~~ be willing to appear yet not to answer a long night of questions. Also, the amount of work he feels he must do (and that is enormous) and his by now thoroughly taxed physical capacity may preclude this.

He is his own and his own kind of cat. He will do what he thinks is right and best and he will not be easy to dissuade or convince. Were he any other kind of man he would not have survived the real campaign against him.

If he does this it will give you a memorable night. It will be an important thing you have done, for your station, your city and your country. It will be a wonderful demonstration of what is possible with the imaginative use of your medium, which has yet, really, to come into its own. I do hope he accepts your generous offer.

But if he does not, or if he feels he can for only a limited time, I encourage you to consider what I offered, answering the questions. I have often done this for an entire night. I mean this quite literally. I have done several shows that begin at midnight and end 6 a.m., without sleep or rest the previous nights, which I spent working. And I have gone from an all-night show to a daytimer, without sleep. I am used to it. I know the subject as I think no one else does. I can add something really unusual- I can have enough of the once-secret documents that I have ransacked from that official oblivion to put them on camera in response to spontaneous questions. The effect is tremendous. Just showing secret FBI and Secret Service reports on camera is in itself of sensational impact on an audience which in its lifetime never sees a single one.

We need not stop here. Such a marathon show could and, the way I do them, I think undoubtedly would, turn up new evidence and new witnesses and would give you quite a local reputation, aside from helping establish truth. My last trip to California turned up seven such people, with solid information. Remember, Lawrence Howard went to court in a successful effort to avoid honoring Jim's subpoena and then, after I talked to him, went to New Orleans voluntarily, without even the protection of the subpoena. That is a rarity. There is something in my approach that reaches people, and they do come forth. On my last trip to New Orleans I turned up new witnesses, new information, people never spoken to by official investigators.

There are aspects of the New Orleans case that should not be aired. This presents no problem at all. There are aspects that I alone know, as there are some that Jim knows that I do not. Much of that follows my work, which qualifies me alone of those who have written or worked in this field to do what you have in mind to which I make these suggestions. In this connection, I remind you that although Dymond (falsely) alleged that I was part of a conspiracy with Jim to deny Shaw his rights, he failed to subpoena me as a witness to prove it. This was

neither an oversight nor an accident.

I am satisfied that we can fill in some of the missing gaps, that we can turn up people who will recall having seen Oswald here or there, with this or that person. We might turn up pictures (as I have before), unseen and ~~unknown~~ unknown. The possibilities are enormous, especially if you can get Jim to do the beginning. He has, besides his other very considerable gifts and his unique importance, a presence in public appearances that few men have. I have seen him with live audiences. There are few like him. He can be tremendous.

If you do not hear from him by a couple of days after you get this, why not phone him (822-2414). If he is not there, speak to his secretary and leave a message. If he does not respond then, phone me and I'll tell you how to reach him (2 301/473-8186), and perhaps make a few suggestions on your approach.

I already have enough new information that I have personally developed in New Orleans to guarantee excitement on your show, entirely new information about Oswald, who he was with, what he did, what was done to make it seem like he did it, etc. In three cases, the information is from Cubans, two of whom speak English but with a heavy accent. ~~xxx~~ The other speaks only Spanish. I have all of this on tape, with translation simultaneously made by a friend of the witnesses. In short, your station and you can become part of the solution of the crime of assassination and may help overcome the crime of silence. I hope you will see it this way. From my own experience, I suggest that this could be a tremendous boost for your new station.

There need be no jeopardy to the accused. I would not be part of anything that would endanger his rights. Again I point out that with all I have written and all I have said on so many shows all around the country, Dymond did not and did not dare call me as a witness.

One other thing: so few copies of my books are available in New Orleans that this cannot be profitable to me. The exposure, at this point, means nothing personal. It is what we can accomplish, something never before done in TV, something important to the country, that is exciting.

I do hope it can come to pass.

Let me know if there is any way I can help you with Jim. My present schedule calls for my absence from home the next five Monday nights, beginning in the afternoon at the latest. I did a three-hour show on the Washington UHF station that was so successful they have asked me to do six more. I did the first this past Monday. They will be on successive Monday nights, with the possibility of a switch to Wednesday. Aside from the normal necessities that take me away for a few hours at a time, I have no other immediate plans for working elsewhere.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg