

Mr. Juan Williams
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1150 15 St., NW
Washington, D.C. 20071

7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, Md. 21701
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Dear Mr. Williams,

Today's brief mention of "Eyes On the Prize" in Book World and of inclusion of Bull Connor in it takes me back 50 years, to something that may interest you.

I was an investigator for and then editor of the record and reports of the Senate Civil Liberties committee. It was also known as the Rights of Labor and the LaFollette committee.

As part of our investigation of U.S. Steel we had a Bull Connor story. He was chief cop, what today would be called director of security, for a U.S. Steel subsidiary in Alabama.

And no less a racist than when Art Hanes, Sr., who'd quit the FBI, finding it too liberal, as Birmingham mayor, made him chief of police. I presume you deal with those dogs and firehoses.

There was a college professor named Joe Gelders who opposed racism there in the 1930s. My recollection of the details is skimpy and perhaps not completely faithful but Connors had him kidnapped and flogged to within an inch of death. What they used included a heavy, studded leather belt. But he didn't die. We had him as a witness. And the hearings still exist.

I have them and some of the many library copies I deposited in the Washington area may not have been discarded. In the early 1960s, when Judson McCarthy edited the United Mine Workers Journal, I gave him a set and other hearings intended for permanent deposit with that union.

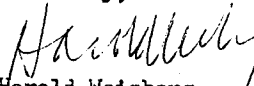
I'd offer to xerox them for you but I can't because of a little petty graft I then indulged in, having the Printing Office put fancy and more durable bindings on them. With three or four volumes per binding the gutter will block copying of the insides of the pages.

Those hearings are in Volume 3.

The committee's focus was on the rights of labor but in this we got into many fields, even corporate farming in California ("Frapes of Wrath"), native fascist organizations and thuggery and corporate opinion-conditioning. Ours was solid and well-documented material, with much live and sometimes colorful testimony, if you know other writers interested in that era.

I'm almost 75. My hearings and other materials will be a deposit at local Hood College.

Sincerely,


Harold Weisberg