

10/24/71

Miss Selma W. Warner, President
Wide World Lecture Bureau, Inc.
18 E 48 St.,
New York, N.Y. 10017

Dear Mrs. Warner,

Please permit me to take you back several years.

On December 16, 1966, you telegraphed me, "Delighted prospect managing your lectures" and then arranged a meeting at the Willard in Washington in January. After reading the two books I had then published (you may remember, I am the "inventor" of the "underground" book), with honesty I appreciated, you wrote "I am still frightened at the questions you so logically raised and their implications", which led you to the conclusion that "we are not ~~in~~ in a position to offer you a contract" but would like to "keep ~~open~~ the door open for the submission of an occasional request," to which I did agree, I think.

Since then I have made very few appearances, but those I have made got the best reception at the more conservative institutions, like "Innesota, Trinity (Hartford), Hobart and a few other colleges. In each of these cases, the requests came directly to me, not through a bureau.

I have continued my work on the John Kennedy assassination and have just completed the writing of a book that includes what there once was great clamor for, "new evidence", in this case official evidence actually withheld from the Warren Commission. I don't know how much interest there would be today. And I have done the only definitive book on the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (reviews enclosed). While I have no way of estimating the lecture interest there can be in this today, interest in the subject is inevitable, I think, with the appearance of Jim Bishop's type-set goose-grease, the coming of Gerold Frank's commercialization of the official mythology, after long delay now due in April, and thereafter George McMillan's mid-west Tobacco Road treatment. The latter two books will have enormous promotions behind them. Doubleday advanced Frank \$100,000, and Little, Brown contracted the McMillan book in eight countries before he began to write. He hasn't finished after almost four years.

For your information, not for use or commercialization, for I must keep my lives separate, I am Ray's investigator, arranged for his present counsel, and in regular touch with him and his family, and have developed the defense the government is resisting letting go before a jury. You may recall he was never tried. It is I, not Ray, who made this decision, and until I am satisfied that the cause of justice will be advanced by public disclosure, I intend making no public use of it. Ray wants me to. But I'm not off on a free-~~James~~ Earl Ray kick. My purposes are to seek to effectuate justice, to make the institutions of our society work and, to the degree possible to force solutions to the political crimes. However, I think you can tell from the foregoing that I have a knowledge of this case that is not and will not be equalled. You have a measure of this in one incident: Percy Foreman, who actually sold Ray up the river and prevented a trial, flew all the way to New York to appear on a TV show. He had read FRAME-UP, but he had not been told he was scheduled to confront me. He learned this for the first time when his make-up was being applied. He fled! Literally, without removing the make-up. This happened so fast that the listing in The New York Times could not be changed. Our confrontation got a highlight, but there was only an

empty chair for the man who calls himself a great lawyer than Darrow and the country's best criminal lawyer.

Because the case is actively in the courts now, there is a good chance of further attention to it.

As you can see, I am saying I can do this all first-person. And with Foreman's flight, there is one effective promotion. There is another, and that provides a separate topic or a sub-topic. I am one of the first to use the "Freedom of Information" law. I sued the Departments of Justice and State, successfully, to get the records of the Ray extradition hearing our government had confiscated in London, with the complicity of the British government. Unheard of, but fact. When BBC has a free crew here, they plan at least one TV show on this. In court I got a summary judgement against Justice, an almost unheard-of thing. The records in this case, with long correspondence in which the government without deviation never told the truth and usually lied, including in court, might be attractive to some specialized groups, professional and collegiate

With the passing of four and a half year, what I can say is enormously increased over what you read in January 1967.

What prompts this letter at this time is the local appearance of my friend Dick Gregory at a small local college, Hood. It is a very conservative school. With a student body of about 500, they had more than a thousand at his speech the other night. He is, of course, sui generis, but I suggest this is a reflection of the fact that basically conservative institutions today also seek the unusual, opinions and subjects not necessarily consistent with the ideas of those booking the speakers.

If you have any interest, I am available.

Best regards,

Harold Weisberg