

Dear Dave,

3/1/77

I am a firm believer in what I call intellectual judo and in the making of a record. In your campaign to make the pseudo-historians responsible you are making a record. In time they will. In a factual attack on their record you will not have succeeded in undoing what they will have done in New Orleans but you will be able to offset it with some effectiveness in your response. I dare say the proceedings will be published. I think you should ask for an opportunity to have a dissident view incorporated. Failing in that you can ask for your response to be circulated to the same list. Failing in that you will have material for the next convention.

What Evans tells you is incredible - that if Lane's claims are destroyed before the proceedings that will enrich those proceedings. They have already been destroyed in the OPR in vastly understated footnotes. The rest is being reserved for the appearance of the crap. I think you should get a letter for later quotation off to Evans, asking him if he is organizing a scholarly session or a sideshow.

Glad Les has agreed to go there in April. Newsday has just done a very fine thing. They have reprinted Les' articles as a special supplement. He or someone else sent me a copy. It came yesterday. I worked until midnight without having a chance to read it. Not was Lil able to. She is busy with her tax work. I think maybe your students might like to read and have copies.

My material on Lane is too extensive to send. It includes the unread draft of a book written over a weekend in I think 1968 when it looked like he was about to wreck the Garrison business without it getting into court, which I much wanted. I think Jim's idea, if it could be carried out for an entire book, is the best approach. None of the harsh words I use. It could be done without my descriptives and would be more effective.

Les fully understands that part of my reason for wanting your students to hear him is for them to be subjected to him, his knowledge and attitudes and beliefs and as precept: if he can do it they sure as hell can try. He is a superior human being in every way, all heart, soul and integrity plus a great ability. He'll be wonderful for them, especially, I think, those who to now have been denied. He may inspire some.

More appearances sound great. As you know I applied the honorarium to the costs of obtaining these records. That I will continue to do. That account has now been exhausted several times. We have replenished it from the escrow account accumulated without ease over the years for the reprinting of works, as PW recently. As I told you we now have other expenses, like the court reporter in the depositions.

I don't really understand your close. I think you are saying that you are scheduling a meeting between Les and Dreyfus and ask for advice. If you mean having to do with my records Les has skimmed some of those on King and can give Dreyfus an estimate of their value is scholarship and in the study of law and as what I think he has seen, an unprecedented inside view of the real FBI. It will be rich in thesis material for years. Countless aspects of the machine and the people are reflected as nowhere else.

On Weston, what he really said is not what CBS aired. They edited it and I understand caused a change in meaning. I do not have the details.

Thanks for the stamps and best to you all. We did not have an ice storm but we do now have fireplace wood and I'm using it.

Sincerely,



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February 24, 1977

Harold Weisberg  
RR 12  
Frederick M 21701

Dear Harold:

This week we had a terrific ice storm that knocked out all power for two days, including heat, water, etc. It was accompanied by a rain the next day that fell in 33 degree temperatures, but if the thermometer had dropped five degrees, we would have had a major disaster. We are all it seems rather precariously perched in this world.

Thank you for the several letters and copies which are so instructive to me that I can not begin to tell you how much so.

At present I am working on the Lane article. I want to the subject and would like to assemble every thing on the swine to make a package of material or better a small book ultimately on him that would enable the future to judge issues more appropriately. Soon I send a letter of inquiry on the specifics of an Article to NY Review. Putnams never responded to my proposal or to a letter asking if they had gotten the proposal.

I have a copy of the speech Jim delivered for you.

I spent some time on the telephone with Bill Evans attempting to block Garrison and Lane and seeking to develop a more sane session, but to no avail. I fit into the question as a mere participant, apparently Kurz is the organizing medium, full of enthusiasm, knowledgeable on all aspects seeking to give a good session that really is attractive and etc. I will send out a formal letter stating the matter to all. Evans listened to me over the phone and heard my objections and took the suggestions for a moderator, but felt that every thing I mentioned as negative was actually good for the session. Especially he said if the Lane debacle occurs--and I Wrone seem to be in the King thing pretty deep(?)--it will make the session all the more spectacular and draw a big crowd, and thereby presumably be significant. Thus truth becomes falsehood; bunkum scholarship; a serious subject a toy for personal promotion. I insisted Roffman be added as a commentator, and that if need be as a third one, if they persist in the Lane and Specter madness. My concern at present is that Howard be given a public podium to state his perspective and that I be given a chance to wrap up the bibliographical perspective in objective, ~~in~~ calm terms. Thus I must not scare these historians into an Ostrich position, especially since nothing historians can do or not do will make much of a difference in the world, but might have an impact on their future theses or student papers.

Les agreed to speak here in April. I am going to work through Jim Vance the black student counselor here (the only black) who is extremely enthusiastic about the issue. Especially he said after the terrific impact the November symposium made. This time he suggested we stress Les' Rhodesian subject and expertise and then schedule a special news conference on for him on King and Lane. In addition a session for blacks on investigative reporting will be set up. We shall try to get you and Jim speaking engagements through state wide minority institutions and contacts. ~~Yes~~ we will

also ~~will~~ schedule **Department of History • (715) 346-2334** for a meeting with ~~regius~~ our Chancellor. *advised*