

March 27, 1964

To: Jesse Zousmer

From: Lisa Howard

I still don't think you have any concept of why I am waging such a titanic battle on behalf of my script for the Cuba show.

What is involved here, essentially, is a struggle for truth; for honor; for integrity; for fair-minded objectivity. And, in the process, an attempt to redress widely held misconceptions about Castro and Cuba today.

I have travelled the length and breadth of the Island; I know Fidel as well as one can know a human being as complex as his is; I have read about twenty-five books on the Cuban revolution, pro and con; I have been scrutinizing every article written on Cuba for the past several years. In short, I am a minor authority on the subject. I was shocked to learn that you didn't even know who Huber Matos was! Matos, the most important political prisoner of the revolution. You had never heard of the Escalante affair, which was and remains a central crisis of the Cuban revolution. Who is in a better position to explain the Cuban revolution... you or I?

It isn't that I want to do a pro-Castro show. On the contrary, I merely want to try to tell the truth, as nearly as I can gauge it, about Castro and his revolution.

You, on the other hand, seem far less interested in seeking the truth, than in not rocking the boat. You don't want to offend any anti-Castro groups. You don't want to upset anyone in the State Department. You don't want the network to receive any derogatory mail on this show. Well, that just isn't possible if we are to tell both sides of the story of the Cuban revolution.

My job as a reporter is not to appeal to popular prejudices, but to report objectively on my areas of competence.

Thus, I cannot, I will not associate myself with a project as dishonest as the one you are trying to present to the American public.

Please try to understand my position.

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