

Box 1407
Shreveport, La.
February 10, 1961

Mr. Harold J. Salemsen
12 Brookdale Road
Glen Cove, Long Island, N. Y.

Dear Harold:

At last I am ready to proceed. I have a tape recorder and think I know how to operate it. I would have started already but we had the house decorated before Christmas to be ready for our grandchildren's visit. Our first disappointment was that John Jr. could not get away and we missed their visit. Next, Mildred's eyes got worse and she began to have severe headaches. I became alarmed and thought maybe a tumor or something was responsible for the pain. I took her to Houston to see a specialist friend of ours, and although I do not think he found the trouble, he gave Mildred a good bedside assurance that nothing was wrong. Since John and Ann could not bring the grandchildren to see us and since Mildred thought she was almost well, we went to New Orleans. As the old saying goes, "If Mohammed will not come to the mountains, the mountains will come to Mohammed" or vice versa. Anyway we are settled at home again and I believe, ready to go to work.

I have read the outline and preface and do not see anything that cannot be handled with very little correction. I am beginning as of now to tell the tape recorder the story of my birth and early life. You see I am really interested in getting started. I didn't know that I had done anything extraordinary even after I had done the tour to advertise the picture "Inherit the Wind". With all of the press reports, pictures, etc., I still did not think I was a public figure and would attract enough attention to be the subject of a book. However, when the First Methodist Church of Shreveport invited me to talk to a group of church members and the auditorium was crowded to standing room only, and I opened by saying "I am an agnostic member of a Catholic family and would like to tell a Methodist group how to think----" They loved it. (I would hate to think what would have happened if it had been a group of Baptists.) And now, I believe that at least a few people are interested in me.

Harold, if I have delayed too long or if Jane has run into trouble, I have a friend who will finance the publishing of the book if his writer protege has a part in writing the script and an interest in the financial returns. I hope Jane has not run into any trouble because I'm afraid the friend would be critical of my ideas. Tell that beautiful wife of yours that my tour for "Inherit the Wind" was a complete failure. You were always with her or Mildred with me. I suppose you hear from or see Mike and Helen and the others who were with me. To all of you Mildred and I send our heartiest and best regards.

Sincerely,

Shreveport, Louisiana
January 11, 1961

Mr. Harold J. Salamson
12 Brookdale Road
Glen Cove, L.I., New York

Dear Harold,

I just received a letter from Jane and I am more than anxious to get under way on the project. I think you know me well enough to know what points could be emphasized and I feel that you know me well enough to know what points I would be able to emphasize.

If you have any ideas on how and when we should start please let me know.

I don't know how I will arrange to obtain a tape recorder but I feel certain that one can be rented someplace in Shreveport.

Cordially yours,


John T. Scopes

JTS:sbr

Shreveport, Louisiana
January 11, 1961

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