

FROM: Saefer Company Richard Helms	TO: DCI	ER NO. 82-2518
		DATE 25 Feb 82
P-309		CLASS. None

SUB: Letter- Writing about a television project which could involve a series based on fictionalized stories about the Agency. Produced by Jack Webb.
 XXX 1 March 82 Orig GS fm Mail.
 1 March 82 Orig D/OEA fm ES for action. Info cy DCI, DDCI, EXDIR. cy ER. (SUSPENSE DATE 4 March 82)

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SUSPENSE DATE : ~~02/02/82~~ 4 March

ACTION OFFICE(S) : D/OEA

FIRST REMINDER SENT :

SUSPENSE DATE EXTENDED TO :

SECOND REMINDER SENT :

DATE OFFICE CALLED & CURRENT STATUS :

DATE COMPLETED :

EN: DCI has responded to Helms directly by phone

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

Routing Slip

TO:		ACTION	INFO	DATE	INITIAL
1	DCI		X		
2	DDCI		X		
3	EXDIR		X		
4	D/ICS				
5	DDI				
6	DDA				
7	DDO				
8	DDS&T				
9	Chm/NIC				
10	GC				
11	IG				
12	Compt				
13	D/EEO				
14	D/Pers				
15	D/OEA	X			
16	C/PAD/OEA				
17	SA/IA				
18	AO/DCI				
19	C/IPD/OIS				
20					
21					
22					
		SUSPENSE	4 March		

Remarks: Recommendation, please, to DCI together with a reply for his signature.

Executive Secretary
 7 March 1982
 Date

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Executive Registry
82-2518

SAFEER COMPANY
INTERNATIONAL CONSULTING

RICHARD HELMS
PRESIDENT

TELEX: 440242 SAFR UI
CABLE: SAFEER WASHDC

February 25, 1982

The Honorable William J. Casey
Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Bill:

I have been asked, and cheerfully agreed, to write you about a television project which could involve a series based on fictionalized stories about the Agency. Let me quote from the information I have been given:

The producer of this proposed television program would be Jack Webb. Mr. Webb, who happens to be an old and trusted friend of the President and Mrs. Reagan, is well known in the motion picture industry for his patriotic motives in his support of law enforcement institutions and the armed forces. He believes that a television film or films can be developed to present the Agency in the most favorable light possible, emphasizing the patriotic role that intelligence plays in the national interest. The presentation would be designed to portray the dedication, professionalism, patriotism and high moral standards that apply to the work of the CIA and its personnel.

As you may be aware Jack Webb has been extremely successful in presenting activities of law enforcement agencies, such as the Los Angeles Police Department, the United States Treasury, and the U.S. Marine Corps and other services. His methodology has always been to work in close cooperation with the agency involved to assure the credibility, authenticity, and quality of the activities and institutions concerned. He would propose to follow this same practice in any project involving the CIA and would seek not only its professional advice but give it veto power over all matters of content to insure considerations of security.

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The film would include in its credit titles an appropriate "credit" to the CIA such as accorded by the FBI to the current series and innumerable films supported by the Defense Department. Any stories about the Agency would produce a successful format for today's television audience.

Mr. Casey is faced with the same difficulties that have consistently plagued the Agency in defense of attacks from the media and certain political quarters. While silence has been the answer adopted in the past, perhaps an opportunity to use media in a manner such as proposed by Jack Webb might reverse some of the negative attitudes that have been created by these attacks. There would undoubtedly be value in having a film program that would have a beneficial impact on the morale, pride of service and personal achievement of employees of the CIA who collectively make such a contribution to the security and well being of the United States.

If important people in the media combined with a network want to support the Agency in a positive way with a quality product, advantage should be taken of the proposal. In the past the Agency has not endorsed any mass media efforts but time, circumstances and the quality of the proposers may be sufficient reason to explore this project.

If you are interested in this idea at all, please let me know, and I will put you in direct touch with Jack Webb.

With warmest regards,

Cordially,



Richard Helms