

January 20, 1980

Dear Sylvia,

Thanks for your letter of the 14th. I've sent the x edited intro on to Russ, suggesting that he drop you a note/indicating that it's okay.  
directly

Here are two copies for you. (I sent one to Gary too.) Also, the Donner article, my 1/13 newsletter, and the JD letter to Stokes. (The JD letter is actually less encouraging than the news reports. It's hard to tell what they are up to - especially in a letter which starts by talking about their inability to get the full report. Are they talking about the missing MLK footnotes, or what?)

Nobody seems to want to write ~~xx~~ the necessary letters to the Nation. I can't get the energy together for it. I hope you'll give it a try. Donner is so far from ~~xx~~ knowing what's going on in the case that maybe the only appropriate short answer is rhetorical, and I'm not ~~xxx~~ very good at that. I don't think I can explain the acoustics to him in 250 words!

Incidentally, I just noticed that Donner's rhetorical punch line - the truth is bad enough - was the title of an anti-Skolnick piece (mainly about the Dorothy Hunt plane crash) by Ron Dorfman, which ran in the Nation on July 3, 1973. Unfortunately, Carl Oglesby came to his/Skolnick's defense, and (I think) ended up looking not too good. (Letters, Nation, 9/3/73.) That was the old Carl - before he learned lots of facts about the case and mellowed out quite a bit - so I've forgiven him, but maybe the Nation~~x~~ hasn't!

Anyhow, if you want to lift any of the points I made in my notes on the Donner piece, please feel free.

Thanks for the check. I really didn't keep track of my Xeroxing and postage costs on the indexes, but I'm sure that more than covers it - and will keep you in newsletters for the rest of the year.

I haven't heard how Peter's meetings with the libel lawyers went; we should have some sort of decision soon. At this point, I really want to be able to spend time on things other than the book. There's not much chance of influencing the JD, but perhaps we have to try. If you have any ideas, or comments on the musings in my latest newsletter, let me know.

Speaking of the JD - for your information, Russ' comments (bottom of p. 3 in the revised intro) about them needing your indexes were made without any knowledge that I had sent them. Pure coincidence. Luckily, it came out phrased in an appropriate way.

With best regards,



PLH