

5 June 1966

Personal

Mr. David Welsh
RAMPARTS
301 Broadway
San Francisco, Calif.

Dear Dave,

I think I have only myself to blame--I should not have retreated one inch from my position, as expressed in the telegram I sent you some weeks ago requesting the return of my manuscript and in the subsequent letter withdrawing any express or implied authorization to photocopy or in any way use my work. I should not have allowed myself to be disarmed, as I was, first by agreeing to check your material before publication, to avoid inaccuracies that would only reflect on all the researchers; then by the fact that my friends, Maggie Field and David Lifton, were working closely with you.

Your unfamiliarity with the evidence is such that you certainly need access to the kind of expertise that Maggie and Dave have acquired. For my own part, I was ready to put aside my decision to disassociate myself from your activities and offer whatever help I could give--but I was not and am not prepared to be distracted and abused by incessant reversals of decisions and changes in plans which have assumed ludicrous proportions.

You asked me to do a review/essay of the Epstein, Weisberg, and Jones books, and I agreed; the next day you asked me to let you use a chapter from my manuscript--specifying the Tippit chapter, among others--and I agreed; then you wanted to use only the first half of the Tippit chapter; then I was told that you were using it all, and words (from Bill Turner) to the effect that it was a valuable contribution; and last night I was told that you don't want to use it at all, you are now thinking of using my Odio chapter.

You asked me to approach Sauvage, about using one of his chapters. I did so, You received three chapters; last night, you told me that you may not use Sauvage at all; and that you are using a Mark Lane chapter, the first mention of which I heard yesterday from David Lifton.

I am disinclined to involve myself in what seems to be hysterical indecision and ineptitude; your buffeting my chapter around is an indignity to which I am scarcely obliged to submit--for 5¢ a word, or 7¢ a word, or for the sake of principle. Therefore, I hereby withdraw consent to the publication or other use of my written work or any mention of my name in your special issue or in any other form. You have been and are now using the photocopy of my manuscript for reference. I see no way to put a halt to that but I wish you to know that I do not consent to your use of my material, and that I so state for the record in the event of legal contest at any future time.

You will agree, I hope, that you have no moral or legal right to use my work in the absence of my authorization and consent. That applies to the Odio chapter as well as to any and all other unpublished writings and research which I have performed or produced and which, in good faith that I assumed to be mutual, I have made available to you and copies of which are now in your custody against my wishes.

Yours very truly,

Sylvia Meagher
302 West 12 Street
New York, NY 10014

cc: Joseph Lobenthal, Attorney