

8 September 1971

Mr Howard Roffman
357 Craig, U of P
37th and Spruce Sts.
Philadelphia 19104

Dear Howard,

Thanks for your letter of the 3rd and the new address. If you have a phone number there, please let me know. I am glad that you received the copy of Accessories and that the prospects for your own book continue to be encouraging.

I enclose herewith a copy of Belin's letter to Kaye Northcott. Yesterday, before I received your new address, I had mailed to your home address a copy of the letter I have written to Belin, dated 7 September 1971, commenting (as dispassionately as I could manage) on his so-called reply to my article. I think I enclosed also a copy of a ridiculous "editorial" by Penn Jones, disparaging my Givens article, which strengthens me in the impression that Penn has become deranged. I intend to ignore his pronunciamento.

I do agree with you about Burke Marshall but the attempt has got to be made. I do not know if Wecht has considered or would be willing to start a court action. I hope to hear from him in due course what response he got from Marshall, and then to discuss next steps.

This next item, which I mention with considerable hesitation, please consider as absolutely confidential. I had a phonecall yesterday from a man from Minnesota, who has called me several times in the past, who is a newcomer to the "cause" recommended originally by Gary Schoener--his name, which may already be familiar to you, is Ned Crosby. He is anxious, through his "important contacts", to get the investigation re-opened; but I take rather a dim view of his efforts and his knowledge of the case. Anyhow, in the course of his phonecall, he told me that he will be visiting Harold Weisberg one day next week, with a possible view to helping Harold to finance the immediate publication of his book(s) Post-Mortem. Why, I asked myself, but without dropping any hints to Crosby, is Harold suddenly urgent about publishing a manuscript--which I presume to consist of or to include his book-length attack on the Russell Fisher panel report--which he has been content to hold back since 1969? Does that urgency have any connection with your own ms? Is it possible that Harold is trying to get published first? If my suspicions are unfounded, and I hope that they are, good. Just the same, I felt that I should at least mention this, since it does trouble me somewhat.

I hope to hear from you again as soon as there is any further news.
Warm regards,

Sincerely,