

6/9/71

Mr. John Leonard, Editor
New York Times Sunday Book Review
229 W. 43 St.,
New York, N.Y. 10036

Dear Mr. Leonard,

As I promised he has told you, the young man who phoned you with some indignation after appearance of John Kaplan's attempted literary communication in your section, has been in touch with me. He now tells me that you told him you had written him upon receipt of my first letter and that an original carbon of my letter to Geoffrey Wolff was not included in my most recent letter.

Both statements are not true, if you made them.

If you were not dependent upon such notoriously corrupt sources for understanding of my work, you would know that the concern of Public 49 is the integrity of the institutions of our society, including the press. But even what you pointed there is no way for your readers or you to know anything about the book or its contents.

Even I anticipate that this disreputable thing you have done and repeated through part of the story of the political communications and their consequences, for you have passed me of the points made in the book.

Having with some pain learned that any responsible disagreement with the official mythology about the political communications will be suppressed or misrepresented and those associated with it, has a fine expectation of being treated with skilled dishonesty, I have undertaken an additional responsibility, that of writing a record for the future. In this way those who have discharged their responsibilities to any kind of decent, representative society will be enabled not only by Alan Jan Cohen, not in an honorable listing, I regard this as your preference, or clearly expressed. Within the rubric you point out apparently believe, arrangements have already been made for my files to be part of an archive in a major university. And, I preserve duplicates of everything out of my personal possession.

So there will be no business in this matter, I tell you that I have heard nothing from you or anyone else at the time, directly or indirectly, except for what this young man has told me, since before my May 2 letter was written, long before. You have not phoned me and I have no reason to believe you have written me. Your envelope has a printed return address. And the alleged letter from misdirected, is a month it should have been returned to you.

I look forward with some interest to the coming reflection of your honesty and integrity in the page of letters you say you will print. I have had experience with editors and editors in the past as I have with you. I'd appreciate the return of the original carbon of my first letter to Wolff and of Kaplan's CIA writing.

With sincere disappointment,

Harold Weisberg