

June 12, 1969

Mr. Aaron Asher
The Viking Press
625 Madison Ave.,
New York, N.Y. 10022

Dear Mr. Asher,

The concluding sentence of your letter of June 10 reads:

"As for me, I consider your offer of an opportunity to recapture my integrity a misplaced kindness."

With that rare quality so resplendent in the work you edit, you have found the one thing on which we agree.

As for the rest of your letter, where you are evasive, it requires not scholarship but a proper concern for truth and honesty, for the craft and obligations of the writer and the editor, to check quotations for accuracy, dates and things that do have substance. I did not address whether or not you should have published the book, for that is entirely your own affair. I did address your responsibility, particularly on a subject like this, to make at least a rudimentary inquiry, especially where it may be libellous, to ascertain the readily-available facts.

That you are so unwilling to do this when it is called to your attention is more than adequately explained in the concluding sentence of your letter.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg