

COPY

BALL, HUNT AND HART
120 Linden Avenue
Long Beach, California 90802
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January 19, 1967

MR. HAROLD WEISBERG
Hyattstown
Maryland 20734

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

I see no reason why you and I should treat each other as enemies. I will respect your reasoning if you will respect mine. I may think that you are mistaken or I may come to the conclusion that you do not clearly reason, but I have never stated nor do I believe you are a dishonest fraud.

In my speech to Town Hall in Los Angeles, I did refer to "scurrilous journalists. . . who lie, cheat and drew conclusions unfounded on evidence". But I particularly excepted you from this pernicious group of writers. I said, "Weisberg, a chicken farmer, isn't really dishonest." I was not exactly complimentary to you but I did exclude you from the ranks of dishonest critics.

I did not use the term "scandal mongers", and unfortunately the term "literary scavengers" cannot be attributed to me. The remark was first used by Governor Connolly of Texas to describe the work of Mark Lane, and others.

Very truly yours,

signed

JOSEPH A. BALL

JAP:jw