

10/7/71

Dear Ron,

You misunderstood me or I didn't make myself clear.

Each of the things you say are true, more true than you say. I have no doubt you are sorry you couldn't place my book (and although you never gave me any of the reasons, I imagine I can guess some). I have no doubt that you tried hard. Here I'd go further and say what I thought I did, you with it all you were kind and considerate, which makes you sui generis among your peers in my experience.

I'll go even further than this and say that I believe if you had handled it or some of my earlier work, I'd not have been gyped out of as much as I have been (currently, something over \$4000 of this book).

If you read any kind of complaint, personal or professional, into my letter, I did not intend it and sincerely hope it wasn't there. And I assure you there is no basis for any secret, unexpressed complaint. You always treated me fine, better than anyone else ever did. You extended me courtesies no one else did or even thought of.

So, as explicitly as I can, I want you to know that there is no basis I feel and none I intended to articulate that can in any way be interpreted, no matter how subtly, as a complaint against you.

My feelings are the opposite. And I regard you as a friend.

And my letter had no such purposes as your response seems to indicate.

But the return to one of the things, one of the meanings of the letter I got: if you were asking did I want what I gave you returned, if you have no use for it, yes. If you'd like it as any kind of souvenir because of your earlier relationship with Dr. King or for any other reason, please keep it. And if you would like to have it, if the secretary will send me nothing but the last page number, if I later added anything to it, as I think I did, I'll send a copy of that.

If you don't have a copy of the abbreviated, printed form, titled FRANK-UP, and would like it, I've bought some and I'll send you one, if I haven't.

And if you have a continuing relationship, with members of his family or his associates (against who I do have an unexpressed resentment because of silence I consider unmanly), for what it is worth I believe the forthcoming book by Gerold Frank holds the probability of considerable hurt and anguish for all of them. With the stake Doubleday and Frank have in it, beginning with an advance of \$100,000, this holds every prospect of being magnified and very publicly. If I can help them in any way, I will. If they want it.

Thanks for everything,

Harold Weisberg



Ronald Hobbs  
Literary Agency



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October 4th, 1971

Mr. Harold Weisberg  
Route 8  
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Dear Harold,

Thank you for your letter of October 1.

I'm really sorry that I've been unable to produce for you  
but I tried very hard. Very hard.

Sincerely,

  
Ronald Hobbs

RH.jw