

Paul Letat
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Dear Paul,

I'm a bit tired, as I always am after being driven to John Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore for checkups yesterday, and if I promised you anything other than the enclosed articles by Stone and Lardner please remind me.

For your understanding an explanation I ask you to keep confidential. I wasn't asked to but think I should.

After Lardner's story appears 5/19 Stone phoned the executive editor, Ben Bradlee, to complain. Bradlee told him to write a letter. It was full of the grossest errors some leaving it without question that he was using what he'd just gotten from Garrison, those were so unique I could spot them. I worked with Lardner on his memo he'd been asked to write about Stone's letter.

Then suddenly all the signals switched. Lardner had no explanation and I believe him. I know that Stone's lawyers had threatened the Post, as they had threatened me. But what I believe happened is not indicated in that lawyers' letter. I think that whatever was the reminder, the Post was concerned about the affirmed decision against The Nation magazine for using about 250 words of a Gerald Ford book before it was published. With Warners putting \$40 million into Stone's atrocity, it could be a very big and costly suit. So they let Stone correct his letter and expand it into this article. They they cut the hell out of what Lardner had written. Then they used some crappy letters all for Stone. The end.

I've ignored and will continue to ignore his lawyers' demand for the return of the copy of the script they have. With 84 partners listed on the letterhead they ain't no Shyster, Shyster, Shyster and Henlock but in their threat to me they are. I'm not a lawyer but I do know a copyright precedent I personally set and oddly with Time/Life involved. The thrust of that precedent is that copyright cannot be used to suppress scholarly research. Not only that, by the FBI was compelled to give me prints of the pictures to withhold which they had asserted the Time/Life copyright.

I'm not up to it but if there were someone who wanted to do a book and coauthor it I am loaded, enough on Stone and more than enough on Garrison. You are not old enough to remember the old radio show that had the repeated line, "Was you dere, Sharlie?" I was there, most of my time was spent on damage control saving Garrison (and the rest of us) from Garrison, I have records, and Stone and Garrison both know it. You can't begin to imagine how completely insane some of what he was up to really was. And Stone is, despite his pretended denials, basing a movie on him and what he did and wrote, the latter unconscionable lies. As I also wrote Stone, without response.

Best,

Harold