

4/3/76

Mr. Leonard Rubin, Counsel
Playboy Magazine
919 North Michigan Ave.,
Chicago, Ill. 60611.

Dear Mr. Rubin,

At this point I can write you only for the record. I feel, I do hope wrongly, that my willingness to trust you was imposed upon and I am left in a position that makes it impossible for me to do anything to protect myself.

Much more than a month after Playboy's articles editor told me he had consulted a Playboy lawyer and after three added letters went long unanswered your phoned me. You also told me you would call me back. You did not.

Instead, waiting until he could say he had to flee, that he was busy and late, Larry Gonzalez phoned me this past Monday, just as I was leaving for a medical appointment. He said he could not call me back, that he was leaving and I could not call him back, but not to worry, everything was taken care of.

I did have to rush. But as I was driving to that appointment I grew uneasy. There seemed to be too many of what can be taken as verbal finger-crossings in Larry's formulations. And when I asked him to be sure, taking at faith your statement that deadline was not that close, to send me proofs, he said that was impossible because it was all being locked up in 20 minutes. But not to worry, all was taken care of.

That turns out to have been untrue. The next day Mary Zion phoned Jim Lesar with a question that should have been addressed to me and prior to going into galley. She did not call Jim Lesar alone. She also phoned Wayne Chastain, who is now a lawyer. I had to go to Memphis and Chastain told me. He also told me of his sense of shock that she argued with him that Ray has to be guilty solely because he entered what he claims and the record shows was a coerced guilty plea. The language of the sixth circuit on this was exceptionally strong. The papers these days are full of notorious cases of involuntary pleas. And this is the reflection of "impartial" research? In an "impartial" story also presented as original?

As it turns out neither could give a certain answer and I was not called.

It is obvious that if this long after Larry assured me everything was locked up the most basic questions of fact were still being asked I was lied to. It is also obvious that there can be a motive in this lying, an excuse to keep from giving me proofs so that I would be in the position of having to take your word and Larry's. I am still in that position and by now there has been more than enough time to send me a set of proof. So, herewith I'm asking you for them. If Playboy has not pulled a con job you should have no reluctance.

Of course I realize that Larry could have been truthful about the changes. This is why I can't now do anything and it is one of the things that makes me suspicious about the lying about locking up and the failure to send me proofs. It is also, in retrospect, suspicious that nobody called me to check the changes with me. Except as I told you for the 23rd and the morning of the 26 I was available here.

If I was deceived I strongly encourage you to let me know and do what can be done to rectify it now. The alternative may well be much worse, whatever this would now involve. You spoke to me on the 24th. Mary Zion spoke to Lesar a week later. There was time. There thus will be no excuse on this basis alone. Less from my earlier letters.

Sincerely,
Harold Weisberg