4/18/70

Mr. Mirron Alexandroff, President
Columbia College
540 N. Lake Shore Drive
Chicago, Ill. 60611

Dear Mr. Alexandroff,

Thank you for your letter of April 15.

With the considerable attention the recent activities of Sherman Skolnick, the subject of my letter of April 8, received in the electronic and printed press, I assumed you would know of them. In some papers of which I have clippings, there was front-page, banner-headline attention.

He may or may not have involved your college and his also in a suit, spurious in character and irresponsible beyond my capacity to describe, filed in federal court. He most certainly did in a broadcast on WBBV, Skokie, about 3/20. I regret I cannot supply you with a tape of this broadcast because the station has not responded to my letters. If you get a tape and can supply me with a dub, I would appreciate it.

In both cases and in other ways Mr. Skolnick plagiarized my materials, from a book. He knew what he was doing, knew this was from a book, obtained them by subterfuge.

My concern is for the damage done me by this plagiarism and more, for the enormous damage done the cause of truth and the search for it by this publicity-seeking fraud he has pulled. Of the too-many evil things done in this field by self-seekers, I think none can begin to compare with the evil of this one. It is so bad, so permeated by the most egregious error, so fantastically separated from reality, I really cannot begin to describe it to you in terms that can adequately reflect it. The potential for harm remaining in this so-called "suit" is also very serious and very great, especially if there is the opportunity for official response to it and that is followed by the kind of adverse publicity that should be anticipated. From this Skolnick may emerge in the simulated role of martyr, but those doing serious work on that work will be irreparably damaged. If he were a paid agent of corrupt government, he could not better have performed in such capacity.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg