

10/31/91

Dear David,

In its enclosed coverage of yesterday's Madrid "peace" meetings the Washington Post omitted the largest of Bush's very public lies, that the US is impartial and does not seek to impose what will be agreed to in any way.

You will find this edited out of the text of his speech, replaced bys.

It was, of course, all over TV and in the same speech he did dictate a condition, that Israel must give up land.

This partisanship extended to PBS on which Hunter-Gault interviewed the Arab spokeswoman first and then Shamir. She led the Arab spokesperson through a series of questions the answers to which had to ~~be~~ be and were anti-Israeli and avoided asking Shamir the same questions of asking him to address or respond to them.

So much, once again for our free and independent press in time of crisis!

On an unrelated matter for which I think I can take credit, in its ~~xxx~~ "Personalities" column the Post reports ^{today} that Stone hired Hill & Knowlton "in an extraordinary campaign to woo the national media" because "He's worried about being perceived as some crackpot who's totally irresponsible with history," these words those of a "spulful" unnamed "associate," perhaps a H & K flack. "Reduced to the simplest level, of political maneuvering, damage control." (Probably Frank Manthawitz, Bobby Kennedy's former aide, now at H&K.)

I look up and see what I believe is an inaccurate quotation of Andy Jackson given to me 20 or more years ago by a young woman fan then an undergraduate, "One man with courage makes a majority."

although I may have done it in the past, on the chance I didn't I'll try before I forget to put on paper how I almost got fired for exposing Hill & Knowlton in the late Spring of 1936 for its invention of a new anti-labor technique. "One man with courage" talked the Senator out of it.

While I believe that George Lardner was not one of "the/senior reporters or bureau chiefs" of the major papers and TV nets H & K "focused on" I'll phone Lardner after he is up or perhaps at the office. Did. He says that the reporter for the Post went up to Stone- who abandoned his rush editing to fly to Washington - and said, "I hear you are a friend of George Lardner." Stone sputtered in rage and was incoherent for a while and showed his emotion for some time thereafter.

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THE WASHINGTON POST

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1991 C3

Personalities

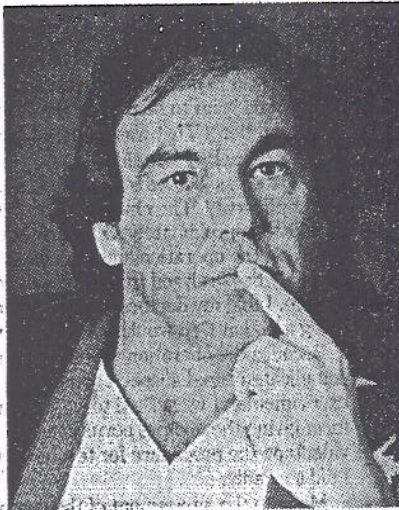
The man has directed or written no fewer than 10 movies, has won three Oscars and is believed to have an ego the size of Wall Street. Still, Oliver Stone apparently needs to be loved in Washington. Under the direction of high price door-openers Hill & Knowlton, Stone has engaged in an extraordinary campaign to woo the national media nearly two months in advance of the release of his already controversial film on the John F. Kennedy assassination. In it, Stone puts forth former New Orleans prosecutor James Garrison's highly criticized conspiracy theories of the late '60s, among others.

While directors tend to play exclusively to the critics and film community when their movies are released, Stone's efforts are unusual in that they have been focused on high-powered political reporters. In just 36 hours this week, the creator of such films as "Platoon" and "Born on the Fourth of July" took all of his meals with either senior reporters or bureau chiefs of the Wall Street Journal, the New York Times, the Los Angeles Times, CBS, People, the Boston Globe, the New Republic, PBS and The Washington Post.

"More people believe that Elvis is alive than believe the Warren Commission findings," Stone told many of his guests.

Explains a Stone associate soulfully, "He's worried about being perceived as some crackpot who's totally irresponsible with history. He wants to be accepted—he wants approval from serious journalists."

Reduced to the simplest level of political maneuvering: damage control.



OLIVER STONE