

Jim, Paul, Tom, Lucas

October 3, 1968

Mr. George W. Healy, Jr.
Executive Editor
The Times-Picayune
3800 Howard Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana 70114

Dear Mr. Healy:

The first sentence of your letter of October 1 is so reminiscent of the Warren Report I can better understand the news policies of the papers you edit.

Insofar as it relates to me, I affirm I have no recollection of ever having seen you or that we have met. With that immateriality disposed of, I repeat that your paper, the clear import of my letter of September 27, did, in fact, call me a liar. The date of issue is September 24. You used the words you attribute to Bringuier, a man of such irrationality and irresponsibility no one without intending the result would quote him in defamation.

It happens that on the very point on which he was quoted, I had already and more than adequately informed you. It is in the futile effort to inform you that I took the time required by the letters, not one word of which you, Bringuier, or anyone else, has, in the language of your inappropriate and not impartial headline, "refuted". The facts are as I represent them.

I further affirm your opinion that I do not "hold the monopoly on truth and virtue". I will go further and admit I am not infallible. However, what distinguishes me from others with whom the circumstances of life and my work sometimes associate me is that I do try to be truthful and do want to be virtuous.

If there is a note of regret in your statement that you have "never seen or spoken to" me, we can eliminate it in about a month, when I expect to be in New Orleans. For so auspicious an occasion, I could even leave at home the second head your paper attributes to me.

Meanwhile, I look forward to an honest effort on your part to diminish the damage your paper has compounded.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

The Times-Picayune Publishing Corporation

3800 HOWARD AVENUE, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA, 70140 TELEPHONE 821-1411

The Times-Picayune
MORNING AND SUNDAY

October 1, 1968

NEW ORLEANS
STATES-ITEM
EVENING

GEORGE W. HEALY, JR.
Vice-President
The Times-Picayune Publishing Corp.
Executive Editor
The Times-Picayune
and New Orleans States-Item

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Route 8
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

Your letter of September 27.

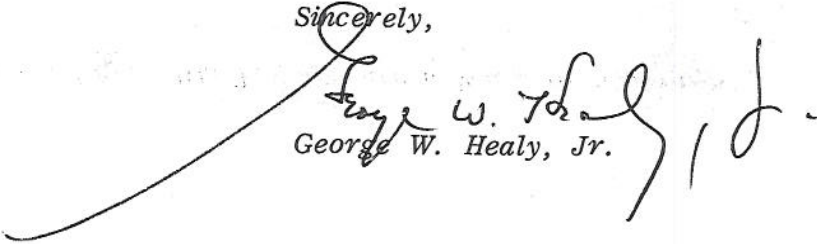
To the best of my knowledge, I never have seen or spoken to either you or Carlos Bringuier. Your statement that "you call me a liar when you fully know better" is incorrect. You have questioned Mr. Bringuier's reliability, and he has questioned yours. Unfortunately, your dispute became a public controversy which we considered it our duty to report.

The Times-Picayune never has called you a liar, and I personally never have called you a liar. Whether you are a knave or a paragon of virtue I have no way of knowing of my own personal knowledge.

All I know about you--provided signatures on letters which I have received are bona fide--is that you write long letters to reply to brief references and that you are not averse to name calling. Frankly, I don't think I ever had heard of you before you started berating me in your communications.

As a matter of personal opinion, I do not believe that you hold the monopoly on truth and virtue which you seem to think that you hold.

Sincerely,


George W. Healy, Jr.

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