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April 10, 1956

Mr. Alfred Friendly  
Associate Editor  
The Washington Post  
1315 L. St., NW  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Friendly,

When Miss Green told me you were too busy to keep your appointment last Tuesday or probably for at least the rest of the week and that you hadn't had time to phone any of the correspondents whose names I gave you I was disappointed.

If you are going to stay that busy for any length of time do you suppose any other executive of the Post could first assure himself that reading my book is not a waste of his time and then read it? As long as I have signed no book contract, I can do something about newspaper rights. It now seems possible that I may soon have an offer. I remain firm in my belief that there is something I have that is for your paper. I do not believe it is possible for you to understand this without having read the book and the document I offered you that is in a postscript I have written.

As there was no Canute for seas, so is there none for feet. What I have in my book is inevitable, for it is true. What I have done, none of the others working in this field have done or will, to the best of my knowledge, do. You and the Post will find all the others, two of which now have their publication arranged, less pleasant. The content of these books I do know something about, and I have read the Post for more than 50 years.

I am well aware that I face an unwilling and unreceptive audience, yet I am willing, for I do not believe I face one that is not open-minded or at least fair-minded. If you will but think for a moment, you will see that I run a certain risk, with other books available, in not seeking a more receptive audience. My reason is simple and demonstrably so. I believe it serves everybody's best long-range interest, especially those for whom I have as high a regard as I believe you do.

At least one day this coming week I shall be in Washington, I shall then phone Miss Green again in the hope that you or another executive may be free for at least those few moments I believe will be sufficient for me to make the demonstration I have offered.

Sincerely yours,

Harold Weisberg

4/5/66 Post

Last week I saw Friendly briefly and we arranged that, when I was in DC today, I'd call Miss Green and she'd make an appointment for me sometime other than 3 o'clock. When I got her this morning she seemed a bit concerned and I offered to call back. She said no, to wait, and I did. She apparently spoke to him and came back to say that he said he should never have told me today, that he is too busy and will not have time. I said I could make it any time this week until Friday morning. She said she doubted that he could do it this week because he is working on a book that he must get done now. They will call me.

Later Steve Barber told me Anthony Howard had told him that Bradlee was afraid of me. When I told Steve I had never met Bradlee, didn't know him, that we had not even spoke over the phone and he meant Friendly, he said no, whether or not I knew him, it was Bradlee.

Still later when I saw Mac he asked how Friendly and I made out. I told him of the Stern experience and the recent exchange of letter and today and he smiled and said he and Friendly has spoken several times. I didn't ask Mac for particulars, believing if he felt I should know what they talked about he'd tell me.