

Rt. 12, Frederick, Md. 21701  
2/25/75

Mr. Ben Bradlee, Editor  
The Washington Post  
1150 15 St., NW  
Washington, D.C. 20071

Dear Mr. Bradlee,

Your letter dated the 19th, postmarked yesterday, says:

- "1) Never did I give orders to Geoffrey Wolff to review all books but yours.
- "2) Never was I invited by Kenny O'Donnell or anyone else to be present at the autopsy of John Kennedy."

In 1966 Wolff told me not that you had specifically isolated my first book but that you had told him to review none. I told him that because you would be carrying reviews of those I knew were following by syndication this meant that you would be carrying reviews of all but mine.

The Post's record shows that it a) carried no review by him or assigned by him; and b) by syndication did review all subsequent books of that period.

Moreover, when the Sunday Times Book Review assigned my Frame-Up to a partisan, John Kaplan, who was simultaneously engaged in propaganda on a related subject for the USIA and a controversy developed, Wolff wrote the Times as I represent above. I also have my correspondence with him on your directive if you want it.

My source on what you deny, O'Donnell's invitation to you, was Dick Harwood. It was in May, 1966, when you decided to dispense with Dan Kurzman and gave Dick the impossible task of digesting my book and Epstein's, on which you jumped the release date. Dick, whether without these time pressures he would have, did not comprehend the autopsy and what I then had written about it. When we disagreed he cited this as evidence there was nothing really wrong with the autopsy, else why would you have been invited? Later, when I had learned more, I reported this to Larry Stern, who may or may not remember. When his was a cutting and irrelevant response I made no further efforts along that line. But I did tell him that the possibility of personal embarrassment for you was great in the future.

If the Post employs liars that is not my responsibility.

There is no memory hole here.

I have preserved every rough draft of all the work I have done so that in the future evaluations would be possible. I have carbons of all my letters. I know I have the Wolff correspondence because I remember sending him a copy after his letter to the Times and his letters to others. I am fairly confident I have a memo on my call to Larry.

Unless both Wolff and Harwood lied your memory would appear to be imperfect.

Regretfully,

Harold Weisberg

# The Washington Post

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February 19, 1976

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

I can't let your long letter of 2/14/76 pass without making two statements of fact.

1) Never did I give orders to Geoffrey Wolff to review all books but yours.

2) Never was I invited by Kenny O'Donnell or anyone else to be present at the autopsy of John Kennedy.

Those are facts.

Sincerely,

*Benjamin C. Bradlee*  
(dc)

Mr. Harold Weisberg  
Route 12  
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