

9/10/68

Mr. Alan Helseth
Louisiana Civil Liberties Union
606 Common St.,
New Orleans, La.

Dear Alan,

Enclosed are copies of two letters I have written the editor of the "Times-Picayune" and one to Richard Sobel. I write you with no less bitterness and with no apology, for as I do not kiss J. Edgar Hoover's ass, so also do I not yours or Richard's.

My bitterness is not restricted to the present, nor to New Orleans and the ACLU there. As you now know, and as I then tried to tell you, the first defamation of me, in New Orleans, the first well-publicized interference with my work with unjust reflections on my character and integrity, was yours. That was not the first abdication by the ACLU in this case. It began in Dallas, where their failures can fairly be said to be the cause of all the ensuing tragedies. When I had publishing problems in New York, I was sent to one of your publishing eminences, who promised to help in a number of ways and thereafter would not answer the phone or return a call. And now you sit by, all of you, content with the currently safe issues, and find a variety of comforting evasions and fail to assume the most elemental responsibilities of manhood and citizenship while fascism marches on.

The responsibilities of lawyers are greater, as are their abdications; and most of all offenders against society are those who make other pretensions.

I sit here, today in a rainstorm under a leaky roof I cannot afford to have repaired while the water gradually rots the house, worrying about the interest due on my \$35,000 indebtedness when I do not have it; unable to quit because there is no one else doing what I am; unable to publish three manuscripts I now have; and unable even to get help in the attempt at preserving my rights, which are, as you know, not mine alone and not my denial alone.

My most recent book, unpublishable because it is mine and because of its content, is one very much to the interest of your black clients, for it, aside from what it brings to light about the assassination of the President and that investigation, contains the untold story of the Birmingham church bombing and the official protection of the culprits, the story of the recent (anti-Semitic) bombings in your blighted part of this blighted land, and is a thorough and so far as I know the first expose of the so-called National States Rights Party. When you read it, as, perhaps, eventually you might, you will understand that in writing it when there is so much other work I could do I am subjecting myself and my wife to an additional, a clear physical hazard, over and above those with which we have for so long lived.

Foolishly, I had hoped that somewhere there might be someone with the guts and the principle to be of at least a little help.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg