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12/4/94

Dear Gary,

I think I see how you and the others who protested the Lundberg propaganda in JAMA can do much good. With a simple, direct protest those of you who then protested agree on and send. But not until after JAMA's eating of crow is public.

If you do not yet know, it settled the Crenshaw/Shaw suit out of court. I helped their lawyer so he wrote and informed me. As is true in such arrangements, the specific terms are secret. He ~~is~~ told me there will be rectification in the Dallas Morning News and I in JAMA. JAMA had three months in which ~~to~~ ^{to} publish it.

Because I think most AMA members and JAMA readers are quite sensitive to money I believe that should be one basis of your protest and I suggest demand. I'll offer a rough draft off the top of the head.

IN _____, 1992, we the undersigned members of the AMA strongly protested the radical departure from the kind of articles the reading of which can serve to make ^{members} AMA better physicians because it was a radical departure from the kind of articles we believe belong in JAMA; because it was unwise for the uninformed to become partisans in an intense and essentially political and non-medical controversy; because JAMA's editor and his writer were and remained subject-matter ignoramuses, which is not a fit basis for trying to inform ~~doctors~~ doctors about anything; because the content of those ^{unprofessional,} articles was untrue and virulently prejudicial; because ~~it~~ ^{they} went out of ~~its~~ ^{their} way to defame people; and because ~~it was~~ ^{they were} seriously misleading and unfactual.

To that we can now add that it was ~~very~~ costly to the AMA.

It was undoubtedly wise for there to be an out-of-court settlement of the suit brought by Dr. Charles Crenshaw, who participated in the emergency efforts to try and save the President's life and that of Lee ^{Harvey} Oswald, and by his ~~associated~~ ^{Dr. Crenshaw} co-author of a personal book in which ~~he~~ recounted his personal experiences and observations. Moreover, including Dr. Crenshaw was not really necessary in the stories that JAMA published. In this Dr. George Lundberg made JAMA his personal organ rather than the ^{AMA's}

We note that if we had not been ignored the cost to the AMA might have been significantly less. (Or, Gary, if the attack on Crenshaw was after the first article.) We note that if we had been listened to the AMA would have been spared this cost and this disgrace.

As is customary in such settlements, the precise terms are not disclosed. However, there is nothing to prevent the AMA from calculating all the costs, not merely of the settlement and of the lawyers' fees, but all the other attendant costs, and report that to us, its members. We think we are entitled to know how our money is spent, in this case worse than wasted.

And, as honest confession is good for the soul, honest admission of error is healthy for organizations and their members, *editors and writers*.

We believe also that the terribly bad, really both ~~is~~ partisan propagandist bad judgement that is so costly to the reputation of our JAMA and to the AMA, the lack of judgement and proper perspective and the politicizing of his responsibilities to us as our editor in which he ~~can~~ sought to convert our JAMA into an instrument for his unthinking, ~~unknowing~~ ^{really} ignorant vehicle for his personal ^{effort to} defense of a personal friend renders Editor George Lundberg unfit to continue as JAMA's editor. He, along with the writer who under Lundberg's direction became a propagandist and was so willing to abandon all the principles of responsible writing, Dennis Breo, should be fired.

They were both extraordinarily irresponsible. They ~~back~~ ^{both displayed the lack of} lacked the judgement required for their responsible positions on JAMA. They both disgraced JAMA and the AMA. And they in this they also cost the AMA the amount of money we ~~ask~~ ^{and with that benefit of the fact that JAMA} ask that you make public, ⁱⁿ *reputations*. ^{what they did} ~~this kind of thing~~ should never happen in the United States or ~~on~~ the publications of responsible, professional organizations.

So we call upon the AMA to follow the course of honor, of self-respect and of common decency, ~~fore~~ these two who so disgraced us all and make public the total financial cost to us all. *for which they alone are responsible*

I think this kind of thing can with luck get some attention and can be a lesson to all the JAMAs and all the AMAs.

Besides being a mighty blow against the assassination propagandists.

It should also give credibility to responsible criticism of the official mythology and to those who make responsible criticisms.

It may even serve to tell the literary whores of the major media that they should learn and begin to change their attitudes.

and with any attention I think it should have a good effect on the people and on how responsible criticism is regarded.

And, if you can find time to get ^{la}round to it, I'd still like the citation for ~~Frank's~~ saying more autopsy pictures were taken than he was shown.

Best,

Healy