

Mr. Jonathan Kwitny
WRNYC-TV
One Centre St.,
New York, N.Y. 10007

7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, Md. 21701
12/3/88

Dear Mr. Kwitny,

I never laid eyes on Bob Ranftel before your people brought him here and they should remember that he then introduced himself to me.

There is no way that they, as you report, had knowledge of any long-standing relationship with Ranftel because they had never seen or spoken to me earlier and never discussed this with me.

In short there was not, as you say, any long-standing relationship or one of trust between Ranftel and me.

Perhaps Kevin Walsh assumed this but he cannot have knowledge of it because it just is not so.

I'd heard of Ranftel from others. I'd heard that he was working in the FBI's reading room and later that he was working for John H. Davis but I had no personal knowledge of this or for that matter, of him. Other than what I say above I have no reason to believe now that I ever knew anything else about him.

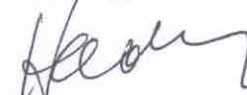
I have no doubt that your people did not know he had a record of such behavior, as I also did not until after this business. I also did not suspect your people, your staffers, that is. Moreover, they displayed no interest in those photos when I showed them. That I did, thinking they might be of interest to you, is the only way Ranftel knew about them and where they were.

Perhaps Tom and Chris did not see him take them but they were all in the same place at the same time.

And he was represented to me as working for you.

I'd appreciate some effort on your part to recover these pictures for me. I've never even heard where he lives and I'm sure he'd ignore any letter I wrote him. I do not expect him to admit this but if you speak to him with some firmness it might accomplish something. I assure you that between the time Tom and Chris were here and the time I discovered the theft nobody else was here. Meaning to use those files.

Sincerely,



Harold Weisberg



AM 83 FM 94 TV 31
Mary Perot Nichols
Director, WNYC

One Centre Street
New York, NY 10007
212 669-7800

November 29, 1988

Mr. Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg,

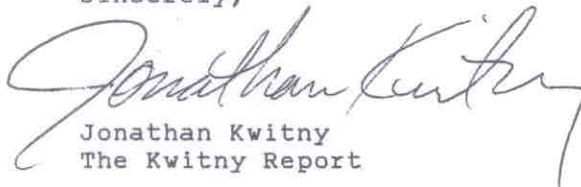
I regret taking so long to reply to your disturbing letter, but I wanted to talk to everyone involved, including Kevin Walsh, before writing.

I do not believe that either of our staff members who visited you took anything unauthorized. My producer Tom Naughton and reporter Chris Bryson took only photocopies of documents for which Tom paid you, and took no photographs of any kind. They and Kevin Walsh all say that if there was misbehavior, Bob Ranftel is the suspect.

Since Tom did pay Ranftel for research work, we might have born some responsibility for his actions--except that my staff and Walsh all say that you knew and trusted Ranftel long before we ever met him. In fact, his longstanding access to your files was a factor in Tom's decision to hire him; his affiliation with our show was not what led you to admit him to your files. Tom and Chris both say they are unaware that he did anything wrong, and have had no further contact with him. Certainly nothing he may have taken was used for our program.

Although I do not believe we are responsible for any loss you incurred, I nonetheless sympathize with your feeling of betrayal, and am distressed that your experience with The Kwitny Report is associated in your mind with your apparent problem with Ranftel. I hope we will have some opportunity to redress that in the future. I do appreciate your kind comments about Endless Enemies, and hope this episode hasn't cost you the respect you express for my integrity or that of my staff. And I wish you a speedy and painless recovery from your medical problems.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Kwitny
The Kwitny Report

WNYC FOUNDATION