

George Herman
CBS News
2020 M St., NW
Washington, D.C. 20036

7/18/86

Dear George,

The Baltimore Sun did not headline the number of CBS RIFs. It headlined you, so I send it and you can make your own evaluation. I think it is obvious and as fine a compliment as that editor could pay.

I've got seven years on you. They are significant because I was more or less mature when the world was a much different place. Even reporting was different. And in many respects I think better, although the reporters were less educated. Maybe because they were? Ben Hecht's accounts of the drinking were not exaggerated. And often it helped.

The world of today is less interested in excellence and those who to a very large degree control what the people may know (in a representative society that can function properly only if the people are well and honestly informed) also seem to have less concern for excellence. Among other once-prized qualities. Or, for that matter, in ~~performing~~ ^{meeting} what were once basic obligations.

Reminds me: I took your advice and wrote "red" Graham and sent him copies of the pleadings of both sides in my FOIA lawsuit in which the FBI and DJ have not even bothered to make pro forma denial (no other form of denial is possible, the documentation is that thorough and irrefutable) of my charges of perjury, fraud and misrepresentation. Fred, for whom I've taken time in the past, didn't bother to acknowledge and with CBS paying the tolls didn't phone. Such is the quality of his and CBS' legal reporting. However, I feel better about those many who didn't acknowledge because the two who did tried to tell me there is no news in official felonies and judicial corruption.

Not the world into which I was born or the journalism beginning about 57 years ago, when I was in high school.

But as Frost said, I have promises to keep. They were made for me when I was the first member of my family born here. I wish I could believe with Frost that I have miles to go before I sleep because that would give me more time to keep those promises. (Three hours of early-morning therapy and two, divided, flat on my back, with the legs elevated, take a big hunk out of every day.) However, as best I can, I am working away on an appeal in which, if I am able to do nothing else, I hope to serve at least history. Without attention, I believe that to a very large degree and in some respects uniquely I have served history already.

I write to wish you well, to express my respect and to hope that the coming years are as fruitful and happy as they can be.

All the best, Harold Weisberg

Harold