

4/13/71

Dear Paul,

An irate reader of an ass-job by John Barkham has sent me a copy of the New York Post of 3/11/69. It has quotations from various people close to King. I enclose a copy. Their attitude is clear and all one way, the way I say. The Barkham scatology appeared in the NY Post of 4/7/71 and I have sent a response.

This reminds me of what I think we didn't get a chance to talk about, a rather hysterical Gerold Frank who came rushing up to me after the taping of the second Bandy show, when he suddenly realized that whether or not Doubleday makes a success of his book, it will be a personal disaster for him. He retreats the hiss/official fiction.

I think he presents two serious problems, aside from that of a sycophantic book, to the Kings, their associates and friends:

He has gotten what could come from only official sources, copies of the autopsy pictures. This is wrong and a considerable transgression against the rights of the family.

He says he has "proof" and he describes it as beyond question, that the family and closer associates approved that invidious deal. I think it not possible that he got such "proof" from them, and rather than he has an "interpretation" from officialdom. That officials want this serious error widespread should be obvious. If you read the Hann story you will not need independent proof they could not have agreed to the "deal".

When to this is added the advance endorsement of what Frank will say by Barkham, it is possible to ask other questions.

I presume you didn't phone me last Tuesday or Wednesday because it was not possible to find a free point in the Congressman's pre-Easter schedule. I will be in Washington this coming Friday, 4/16. Should you want to reach me, I have an 11:45 a.m. appointment with Dr. Oberman in the optical department of Group Health Association, 965-2000. Before then I'll probably be in touch with or with Bernard Fensterwald, 347-3919.

I also enclose Fred Ubbek's review of FRAME-UP in the Saturday Review.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg