

Mr. John H. Davis
20 East 10 St.,
New York, N.Y. 10003

8/21/69

Dear Mr. Davis,

Your letter of the 17th is ambiguous and I fear inadequate. Among other things.

You say that you (pl) "are striking" my name from "the paragraph on page 414 alluding to your (my) correspondence with Mr. Wasserman." I take this to refer to the paragraph that begins six lines from the bottom of that page. If this is correct, that is part of what I'd asked for. The rest of that paragraph is a lie but if I am disassociated from your lies, good.

However, I made clear many times that I also ask you (pl) to remove my name from the paragraph before that one, for the reasons I've given, including that you cannot remove my name from the copies already printed and distributed. I see no reason consistent with honesty of purpose and not trading on my name for not removing it. It is not essential and you can merely refer to the existence of those disclosed files. If you are not still determined to trade on my name. Once again, with this done, I have no concern about the lies that remain. That they are lies is clear in what I've written you and that you know.

I would like your (pl) assurance that you will do this.

Now where in the hell do you get off calling me a liar, which is what you do in insisting all over again that "I am sure that you (I) must have the (Wasserman) correspondence in your (my) files." I have told you repeatedly that I looked for them and could not find those pages in either the proper file or any other of which I could think. I told you also that your researcher Amy Stevens might have misfiled them but if she did how in the world could I begin to make any additional search when there are about 60 files cabinets mostly overfilled? I did not say that she stole them for you, although the suspicion is obvious. All I've asked of you for many months is for copies. I did not ask their return, that you not keep them, did I?

You say that now you do not have the time. Of course, you are the only busy man in the world! I was not at all busy when I took all that unpaid time to try to help you even though we both knew I did not agree with what you planned to write. And I've not been busy, you being the only busy person, the only one who prizes his time, when I've had to ask this of you so many times over a period of so many months. You've been too busy all the time, haven't you - and you alone.

It is not easy to believe you on this when so much of your book hangs on these lies. Especially in the original form there is no other basis for the lie that Jack Wasserman was so "disturbed" ^{over} the HSCA report. You pin this on that correspondence, which not only does not say it - it doesn't even suggest it. So you didn't respond so many times for so many months and now are just too busy to look.

As you know, there is nothing I can do if you don't return copies of those letters. But in this you are characterizing yourself and reflecting your own concept of honor and integrity. To say nothing of common decency.

Sincerely,

cc. Wm F. Fairley, leg
NAL

Harold Weisberg

JOHN H. DAVIS
20 EAST TENTH STREET
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10003

(212) 475-0503

August 17, 1989

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

Dear Mr. Weisberg,

I have your letter of July 30, 1989 and have been apprised of your recent communications with Mr. Farley at McGraw-Hill.

Even though Mr. Farley and I do not consider the paragraph on page 414 alluding to your correspondence with Mr. Wasserman in any way defamatory, we are striking your name from the paragraph in all successive hardcover editions and in the forthcoming softcover edition because it appears, from the vehemence of your remonstrances, that you feel so very strongly about effecting its omission.

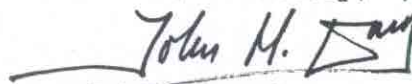
As for copies of your correspondence with Mr. Wasserman, I am sure you must have the correspondence in your files, for it has been my understanding that all I have are copies of your copies.

However, as soon as I get a chance, I will look through my files for the Weisberg - Wasserman correspondence and send you copies of the letters.

After completing MAFIA KINGFISH my files fell into disarray and I have not yet had the time to straighten them out. I am talking about thousands of pages of documents stored randomly in over two dozen cartons. Next month I am thinking of hiring a file clerk to order and index them.

At the moment, however, I simply do not have the time to hunt through the cartons of papers to find the letters you asked for. I am very occupied with matters pertaining to the promotion of the N.A.L. paperback and preparing a presentation of my next book for the Frankfurt Book Fair this coming October. I therefore doubt whether I can spend the time to find your correspondence with Mr. Wasserman until after Labor Day.

Yours Sincerely,



John H. Davis

cc William P. Farley Esq.