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Cable: VIKPRESS Telephone: (212) PLAZA 5-4330

June 10, 1969

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Coq d'Or Press
Route 8
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

Only a scholar of what is by now almost an academic discipline could begin to evaluate your comments on Edward Jay Epstein's book COUNTERPLOT. I am not such a scholar, nor have I ever pretended to be. As publishers of books on a variety of subjects we restrict ourselves, in making judgments, to a set of general criteria which Mr. Epstein's work is clearly in accord with. For the rest, those aspects of his book which may be open to debate should more suitably and perhaps fruitfully be discussed in public.

As for me, I consider your offer of an opportunity to recapture my integrity a misplaced kindness.

Sincerely,

Aaron Asher
Senior Editor

AA/htl

June 12, 1969

Mr. Aaron Asher
The Viking Press
635 Madison Ave.,
New York, N.Y. 10022

Dear Mr. Asher,

The concluding sentence of your letter of June 10 reads:

"As for me, I consider your offer of an opportunity to recapture my integrity a misplaced kindness."

With that rare quality so resplendent in the work you edit, you have found the one thing on which we agree.

As for the rest of your letter, where you are evasive, it requires not scholarship but a proper concern for truth and honor, for the craft and obligations of the writer and the editor, to check quotations for accuracy, dates and things that do have relevance. I did not address whether or not you should have published the book, for that is entirely your own affair. I did address your responsibility, particularly on a subject like this, to make at least a rudimentary inquiry, especially where it may be libellous, to ascertain the readily-available fact.

That you are so unwilling to do this when it is called to your attention is more than adequately explained in the concluding sentence of your letter.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg