

4/8/72

Dear Larry,

Thanks for the last instalments of Bob's inadequate pieces and your indignation. I have lived for so long with dishonesty in all the media, theft by my "friends" and defamations without end that what you, with the application of decent and honorable journalistic standards are ashamed of in your paper I regard as the best thing yet done by any paper, which is a sufficient indictment of the entire press.

Were I not so weary, I might follow your suggestion and bitch to the national editor. However, can I honestly do that when for all its vacuity what Bob has done is so much more than anyone else?

You should be ashamed about the gutlessness of your paper. But that is because you work there and have principle. I compare it with the others, like the Wash Post and the Star, and your's thereby becomes "claris, journalistically speaking and on the subject.

What Bob used of mine uncredited + gave him permission to use. The one thing he did that I didn't want him to I couldn't stop because Bud blabbed, as he always does. + had been keeping my two lives separate. After Bud told him I could only ask, not insist.

Strange thing, crappy and insufficient as this miserable stuff is, I expect it to be helpful in some areas. We are that desperate for any non-finky attention.

Bob is lazy, has no balls, works for Lisager, and likes his job. Given these circumstances, could he, especially with the time pressures and the curse on me, have really done better and had it published?

When I read the last parts, I'll know better. I may see a legit opening then. Meanwhile, if you re-open diplomatic or undiplomatic relations with the national desk, feel them out on my offer or a joint interview with Frank in which we both waive all rights and give the paper power to edit in any faithful way it elects. If he turns it down they have a story, if I also doubt they'll use it.

Frank is the most skillful and polished commercializer of the assassinations yet. Give him and/or his editor credit for that. If you hear of any radio appearance he is to make in Chicago, I'd be happy to help them with the FCC by phone subject to two conditions (not that they really care about the FCC): fair division of time and they keep hick on the subject, without candering into assorted harmes, Portugese hotels, Mexican whorehouses-staying right in Memphis.

Thanks and best,

April 4.

Dear Harold,

I get tired of apologizing for this newspaper, so I won't. I think we can kiss Gruenberg off as being useful at all. He did a rushed job th at didn't advance anything.

I've given the national editor a somewhat irate memo on the mistakes in this installment. Not that it will accomplish much.

If you have the time you might also send them a bitch letter on the errors. I'm tired of trying.

I was at contract negotiations and couldn't get any changes.


finley