

Rt. 12, Frederick, Md. 21701  
9/10/75

Mr. James Fraley  
2014 Geddes  
Ann Arbor, Mich. 48104

Dear Mr. Fraley,

I did read your paper, think that under the circumstances you did very well, and particularly approve your willingness to take a position. You'd not get away with this on most newspapers but that is the country's loss.

We need writers who do more than follow official lines.

I'm more tired than usual. I've been pushing to prepare a new book. It deals with conspiracy not as theory but in terms of tangible evidence I've obtained. So I can't respond at the length I might.

I do have two suggestions.

If you write for more than classroom purposes you should seek permission to quote at the length you do. I have no objections and I don't think that Cowles would, but in the event teaching does not include this you should know that where work is copyrighted approval of use in advance and other than as a review is required.

A toothbrush, too worn for the mouth is good enough, is great ~~for~~ cleaning typewriter keys. I can't really be sure of your street.

Of course I'm glad for any airing of any part of the Black Journal show. However, with your justified criticism of the Times, you ought also know that after agreeing to let the audience know how to reach me because Frame-Up is available no other way the show refused to. Without this I would not have made the trip to New York that because they didn't even keep their schedule required three days. Naturally, without pay. When I learned that they had double-crossed me on this I asked that they send my name and address with the tapes of the show so listeners who called could learn. They also refused this. Yet all these stations plug those who have a commercial imprint on their books and those who make contributions to these stations. I have no reason to believe this was done by Tony Brown, who struck me as a fine fellow. If think it was a policy decision that is a rough equivalent of newspaper censorship for the electronic media. Whatever one may think of this there is no reasonable doubt that it was a frustration for those who wanted the book and after the show had neither any idea of how to get it or how to learn how to get it.

My point in telling you this is to prepare you for the possibility that after graduation you may be disappointed at having less freedom of expression than you'd like. It depends on where you work. I do hope that you wind up where there is the proper reportorial freedom. At the same time, be prepared for policy decisions on news. It will be described as editorial judgement.

It is not as uncommon as I'd like with black leadership, either. I received no single response from any of those who were Dr. King's friends. Yet there was none of whom I know who was not anxious to be included in the fink books, particularly Gerold Frank's, where they expected wide attention and had to know they would be used to appear to support the official mythology.

This is not to discourage you and it should not. But you should know.

Best wishes,

Harold Weisberg