

Mr. Roy Heacham
Frederick News-Post
Frederick, Md. 21701

11/16/85

Dear Mr. Heacham,

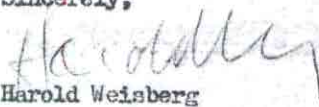
Although I presume that such outbursts of ignorance, bigotry and hatred are not outside your experience, I send you this anti-semitic display of it in my today's mail. And I am not suggesting that you tailor your columns. These people exist and they will exist and they are not, by normal standards, rational. But I do suggest that they thrive on misinformation and that those of us who write for popular consumption ought not forget that we can feed them. We can be entirely accurate and they will distort what we write. But when we are not accurate or not fair they don't even have to corrupt what we write.

I know the pressures of deadlines and I've published books faster than magazines are published. And about 15,000 strangers have written me in the past almost 20 years. While this is not the first anti-semitic response to my infrequent letters to the editor, I've never received one in response to either my books or my public appearances. And I have been much more critical of the government than most people would be willing to believe. Right now I have the FBI and the Department of Justice charged in federal district court with felonies, in addition to my critical writing, which they've never been able to fault on accuracy. As my own lawyer and myself subject to the penalties of perjury I've alleged fraud, perjury and misrepresentation. So, perhaps more than you, I live with the urgent need to be more than merely accurate.

Maybe as a result I'm more sensitive to inaccuracy and unfairness in intensely controversial areas. But if I am, that does not in any way diminish the responsibility to be both accurate and fair all of us who take information to the people assume.

Believe me, I do not hold you responsible for this disgusting business. The last time it happened I had suggested that governments, like their citizens, ought live within the law. To some, today, that is subversion.

Sincerely,


Harold Weisberg