

Mr. George Delaplaine
News-Post
Frederick, Md. 21701

4/7/87

Dear George,

What I had to say publicly about Meachum's column "Matter of libel" I did too hurriedly last night and while I did not do it as well as possible, that is my responsibility. I did not want to delay it and I had physical therapy and two medical appointments today and another out of town tomorrow.

I decided against including what I call to your attention, not because I care personally but because if it happens to someone else he might feel differently. It is this: you have an employee who uses your papers to issue threats against another and makes a thinly veiled attempt to intimidate.

Is it not that if a newspaper alleges libel it ought be satisfied that there is libel and not leave that to the opinion of a self-important hack?

Don't misunderstand. I'm not asking for anything and I could not care less what Meachum thinks or says about me. Of his unimportant stuff the only things I've ever read are what I regard as an evil influence in our community and that is all I have ever addressed.

And I'm not a lawyer. But I believe that because he is your employee he has you in the position of making the threat and effort to intimidate and that I think you ought not and do not want.

To mature, sophisticated people the papers look even worse because he did not even say what he and the supposed lawyer believe is libel.

Isn't that also both silly and immature?

Sincerely,



Harold Weisberg