

Dear Mike Powell,

1/17/87

What a remarkable coincidence! During my yesterday's walking therapy at the Fredericktowne mall ~~yesterday~~ (It begins early, when the mall is empty and is my thinking time) I thought of asking you to consider what I've since written following Meachum's "Hogwash" piece as a guest column. When I got home and saw the paper that is what you'd done with my previous letter.

Your judgement was good and it was better treatment and I do thank you.

Unfortunately I have to do too much in haste these days. I hope it is not too conspicuous. But while I was writing this it occurred to me that I might, without any reference to Meachum or his columns, do another that might be informative to your readers with a little on Jewish history and anti-Semitism and the present situation in the middle east and what led up to it.

I'm not by any means a real expert on these matters but I believe what I'll be able to say is reasonably dependable and accurate.

The unfortunate controversy suggests to me that what I'd thought most educated people know they do not, for the most part, ~~actually know~~ actually know.

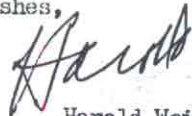
If this might interest you, and I'm not asking you to agree in advance to publish anything, let me know and I'll think about it more. If you'd like, perhaps with a few reminiscences, it could make a couple of pieces.

One of the advantages of being a third as old as the country is what your memory may still hold.

I emphasize without reference to Meachum above because I also regret I saw no way of avoiding the personalization. However, where it was possible I have avoided it. For example, he recently spoke at a civic group meeting, I think the Civitans. I was asked to be their dinner guest at the same time and I declined. I'm not afraid of him or of debate with him. I just did not want any further personalization.

and I'm not anti-Arab. I have a number of close and cherished Arab friends, including the artist who designed my books, showed me how to replace him on all but the covers, which he did, and my step-brother married a Lebanese Arab. One of the things I have in mind is showing that both Arabs and Jews have legitimate claims. I think that if there is no anti-Semitism involved to ^{begin} with this can be informative. It also, I think, will be possible for me to get a check on historical accuracy from a dear friend of my youth with whom I'm in regular correspondence, an unretired rabbi who is an authentic history expert. I could send him what I write and ask him to check it. Rather than Rabbi Kosman, who I think ^{would} prefer not to be involved. Otherwise you'd have heard from him.

Best wishes,



Harold Weisberg