

Dear Raphaela,

7/28/94

Your letter of the 26th reminded me that I wrote you several weeks ago and mislaid that letter. Here is it.

I'm sorry that things are difficult for you and that getting the original ms contributes to them. I know the feeling of exhaustion only too well. I hope that it passes off with you as it cannot for me.

You do not have to tell me that Richard is a wonderful person. I've known it for years and have benefitted from it often and with sincere appreciation. If he has been that fine with me I assume it was not only with me.

But there are some things you do not understand and I do not say more because you ought not be in the middle of anything. Perhaps including that I have always had the highest opinion of him.

When I proposed NEVER AGAIN! to him in July, 1992 and he said he could be interested, I spoke to nobody else because I believed publishing it would be a credit to him and I wanted him to have that credit in a publishing field in which there are deplorably few. I also told him I wanted it published as fast as possible, made a few suggestions to go with that and I understood him to agree. It could have been published a year ago. He never told me that he would delay it or why. Finally he told me it would be published this September. He never told me it would not be. I tried to find these things out and could not. He fell silent, with no explanation.

When I told him about Case Open early on he spoke to Herman Graf and then phoned me. He had Herman's phone connected in. Richard did tell me he'd have to edit it. NOT ANY CARTE BLANCHE AND NO WHOLESALE AND UNEXPLAINED OR EVEN MENTIONED CUTTING. Only editing, which I wanted very much. I asked when it would be published. Herman said this past February and I agreed. I asked for three copies of the complete retyped ms., which I had offered to get done here and Richard said he'd have it done there. He agreed.

Although he had apparently decided early on to cut the hell out of it, he had me talk to Charlie Winton about additions Charlie wanted. I took the time to go over what I could do, not believing it was necessary or even a good idea. At that time I asked Richard when it would appear. He told me September, although the agreement was for February. Winton agreed that it should be out as close to February as possible because of an NBX-TV super-special on Posner due then and because of the conflict with NEVER AGAIN! But all I agreed to was normal editing and that was conditional upon February publication.

There was no editing and as published the book is a publishing disgrace, with all the mistakes I'd caught twice. It makes me look like hell. Not even a table of contents! Two different subtitles! And more I do not go into. It is very bad for my reputation, which has been a good one.

As Richard knows, my interest in this had not been money. It has been to make the best possible record for our history. I asked for no advance and did not even inquire into

what the royalties would be. In fact, I declined any advance. Or any contract. I told him ~~with~~ him I needed no contract. When he decided there should be two, I signed them both without any question at all.

Herman told me the book is doing nicely and I'm glad, of course. That without any advertising or promotion, too. Without any mention or review either. It is Herman who gave the assurance I'd not been able to get that the editing that Peter and I agreed to a year or so ago would not be touched in NEVER AGAIN! and that it will be published that way and with pictures next March.

I hope I'm here for it! The day after I wrote Richard I got the results of tests that say I do not have a single functioning artery in either leg. That is why I wrote seeking assurance that they would not be another what I regard as simple butchery in an important record for our history.

The reaction I'm getting to what I regard as butchered is fantastic. So I know very well how the full book would have been received. Which is separate from the importance of what was killed for the available record for our history, my major interest. Not a single criticism save from one of Posner's pals and it was so ridiculous I doubt he'll say a word again after what I wrote him. We never had as much praise in so short a period of time and some of it is embarrassing. So many tell me I am their hero. So many want to come. I decline most. The most recent was a sales executive of a major industrial oil corporation. The next one is an executive of a major-league ball club. Aside from many letters from Canada I've gotten about 10 phone calls from there. Can you imagine what could have been with any promotion of any kind? This is not a criticism. I asked for none in advance and I was promised none. And I know the media better than I want to.

But the appearance alone ^{of} discourages reviews.

I take this time because I do not want you to believe that I said anything that is not true or exaggerated. I have truly loved Richard and in all my many years have known very few ^{many} more deserving of love. And I trusted him implicitly. Fine and wonderful a person as he is, he did not keep his word to me, he has responded to nothing and he has explained nothing except with a few baseless accusations and insults. Not at all like him. Frankly, I'm baffled by the whole thing. I add that I did keep my word on what I said I would deliver to him. With the best possible peer reviews in a subject in which they are non-existent. I have been sorely troubled by all of this and that at a time when I have a full load of them. I've very, very sorry that you also are and that you also have more of them than you need. You have been wonderful and I do appreciate it very much,

Sincerely,



Harold Weisberg

July 26, 1994

Dear Mr. Weisberg,

Almost everyone I know is going through some more really difficult times, and for myself, it's balanacing the outer demands of life now -- life and death -- with a feeling of incredible exhaustion all the time. I will get as much typing done as I can in the next two weeks, make some more copies, and mail them on to you...plus the disc. Getting the entire original manuscript insertions, etc. into the computer, and trying to be sure not to miss any of your original changes, has been slow going for me.

I'm very grateful for your patience.

Despite your understandable and normal frustrations as an author I feel moved to say something with regard to your letter dated 7/19/94: Richard's respect for your brilliance and your work impelled him to get the book marketed for you as soon as possible. You did give him "carte blanche", and the fact is that because of Richard's immediate and intense work Case Open is in the bookstores! -- (As an American citizen and a fan of your work, I appreciate that your intent and effect is happening , and also that it must surely be more than a thorn to Posner)! And also, I hear from Herman that Case Open is selling nicely!

As a longtime witness to Richard and the responsibilities he has taken on in life, I know he is extraordinarily considerate and more than sympathetic to others (a great number of people) and situations that are constantly demanding of his energy. Knowing this truth, I feel hurt by your anger toward him, considering all that he is dealing with at this time.

There are times when it is out of our hands to be able to fulfill absolutely one's initial intentions. (Isn't there a John Lennon lyric that says something like "...Life is what happens while we're busy making plans...")?

I am sorry for (not just my own) but all of life's disappointments.

Please forgive me if I've said anything to offend you.

Sincerely,

Raphaela

