

Dear Dave,

8/29/92

After you have finished with this issue of the CJR would you please send the story on Hill & Knowlton back to me? I want it for my Hankiewicz (Stone) file.

Where the article deals with the Post's carrying a Stone response to Lardner's piece the reporter was underinformed and underinformed as the Post would prefer.

The real reason the Post gave Stone the space, and more- allowed him to entirely re-write what he had submitted and correct some of the glaring factual errors in what he had submitted - is fear of an expensive lawsuit based on The Nation ^{decision} where The Nation lost the suit based on its unauthorized pre-publication of excerpts from Gerald Ford's book. *Or, Stone's Swift.*

Lardner had raised that question in advance and the Post's lawyer, Bo Jones, laughed it off.

While I feel ~~xxx~~ rather strongly that Stone and Warner's would not have filed such a suit or if they did would not have let it go to trial, the cost would have been enough to scare the Post- the cost of winning would be fantastic. *losing even more.*

Interesting that the article says that Bradlee was opposed to giving Stone the right to have his crap published because Bradlee was the editor then.

If the editor did what he opposed doing one of the more likely explanations is his fear of the cost of even a spurious lawsuit.

Best,

Harold