

Mr. Arthur Miller
Tophet Road
Roxbury, Conn. 06783

6/2/86

Dear Mr. Miller,

Your letter of 5/19 is a pleasant surprise and you are unique, as I'll explain.

I'd forgotten that I'd written you. I've had additional emergency surgery and, like all my other operations, it was a great success and was followed by new complications, this time another venous thrombosis. So, although what I wrote you about is very much in my mind, because I remain alone in this fight and have no reason to even dream that this will change, I'd completely forgotten about that and other letters.

So, any response was a surprise and good wishes, which I got from nobody else, makes it pleasant and unique.

Navasky did not have a secretary mail a card acknowledging receipt, he is that distant from caring ^{not} so much about the plight of a fellow/writer as about the most evil precedent that will bedevil others more than this ailing septagenarian. And I'm not suggesting that he is afraid. That great defender of the first amendment, Nat Hentoff, also couldn't take time for even an acknowledgement. He'll learn, as those who had no interest and those who had selective dedication to principle learned under Hitler.

It happens that I kept a copy of what I wrote you and I've read it. The two reporters I mentioned are at the New York Times, and the one reporter who found nothing wrong with government preparing dossiers, including even sex dossiers (which were distributed) about its critics, the one who saw nothing wrong with government preparing dossiers on the chief justice and assorted other eminences supposedly sitting in judgement and twice preparing dossiers on its staff, is with the Washington Post. Believe me, you can't begin to imagine, aside from principle, the days on end I've helped them all, including saving asses.

What calls itself The Reporters Committee on Freedom of the Press did manage to make some mention of this litigation. It didn't speak to me and it didn't go over the court records. It was content to paraphrase the perjury, fraud and misrepresentation that is entirely undenied in the case record and, naturally, to mislead all other reporters thereby. Our ^{readers} ~~readers~~ may be safer with our known enemies. I am old enough to remember their ilk in Hitler's time.

The bar association, which in those days took away the licenses of those who views it did not like, those who usually sought to help those most in need of help, is not a bit concerned about undenied perjury, fraud and misrepresentation by its current members. (I have copies of everything to date, both ~~sides~~ sides, not just mine.)

The authoritarianism to which I referred today is more obvious and there is not much of our national life to which it does not extend. With only rare exceptions, and most of them have some drama, the major media is silent or worse, in lusty collaboration. We have a President who, along with his closest advisers, can't even tell the truth by accident and their lies are reported as truth, in itself a subversion of representative society.

And we have a generation of young fogies who have forgotten the Donne they studied and don't hear the bells tolling for them, a generation that is entirely ignorant of Pastor Niemueller's lament that because he was silent when they hauled all the others away there was nobody left to lament his going.

The children of those of my generation who come from parents who fled the

pogroms don't even know the word.

The district judge, who has a long record of ~~imp~~ pimping for the FBI, has ignored all the evidence and ruled against me and I'm representing myself on appeal. I can't get to a law library even to check him out and the ACLU has just told me they haven't the time to send me copies. I now spend three hours a day in therapy and two lying flat on my back with my legs elevated but I will file an appeal and if I do nothing else, besides making the effort, I will leave a record for history, which I believe that all of us who can must serve.

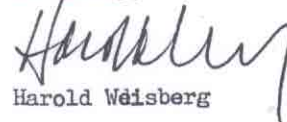
...In reading what I began more than a month ago (it is 7/13) I see it is more personal than I'd intended. Or think I did. I've been through and won fights much more difficult than yours before the UnAmericans. They got a law passed to put me in jail. It is still on the books. I fought and in the end their agent got a two-year sentence and the grand jury refused to indict me. I was one of 10 fired by the State Department (nine of us were Jews) without any kind of process and I organized the defense that got us all exonerated, even those whose tails have not returned to their normal positions yet. I'm not afraid of fighting and I've had some experience at fighting alone, as I am now. Of course I regret being alone and of course I regret that so few care or can see that I fight for them or bother to express any understanding or sympathy or comradship and no amount of prior experience can diminish this regret. The appeals court gave me a little more than a month and I've asked for more time, which I may not get. If as I anticipate I lose them I'll want to file a petition cert, if I am able, and try to get the issue of official criminality to frustrate freedom of information, really the first amendment, before the highest court. And if I fail there I'll still refuse to pay the judgement and defy the government to come out to Maryland and try to collect it in the local courts. I do assume that at some point our law requires a trial but maybe, today, it doesn't. And I'll postpone any decision on whether or not to go to jail instead of acknowledging this evil until I see the state of my now seriously impaired health at that time. Please do not misunderstand this. I'm not posing as a hero. I want only to meet the obligations so many in recent years care nothing about.

It is unfortunate that such potentially serious and evil precedent is supported by what once wasn't but today is so weak a reed.

But perhaps, in your figure, it is better that there be a single grain of sand on the right side of the scale than that there be none at all.

Again, my thanks and my appreciate of your letter and of so much more.

Sincerely,



Harold Weisberg

Arthur Miller

May 19, 1986

Mr. Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Rd.
Frederick, MD 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg,

I can't believe it's a year since your letter but I guess it is. In any case you were good enough not to ask me to do anything and so I haven't done it but I was very interested in reading about your problems with the FOIA and I can only hope that your action is one more grain of sand on the right side of the scale. I know a little bit about how this works and I salute you for your efforts.

Sincerely yours,

Arthur Miller

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Arthur Miller", written in dark ink. The signature is fluid and somewhat stylized, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.