

3/14/71

Mr. Eugene Eidenberg
Vice President, Administration
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minn. 55455

Dear Mr. Eidenberg,

Your two-sentence letter of March 10, only one of which says anything at all, is as unsatisfactory as it is brief. It is a resort to the kind of semantics in which I have become only too familiar in my long study, one by-product of which has been an undesigned study of the integrity of our society and its institutions.

It reminds me of a function under German totalitarianism that causes me pain every time I think of it, the Judenrat. It is also both deceptive and dishonest, as it is non-responsive.

That sentence reads: "I am sorry I can't be more helpful, but there simply is no record of the incident, or your visit to Minnesota."

The last part can't be truthful, for my nominal honorarium was paid by check. This means there is a record (which is not at all what I asked).

Not as you responsive when you say, "there simply is no record of the incident". I would presume that this had been adequately taken care of with the first publicity, as, I think, should have occurred to you. My letter of the 10th did not ask for "records". It asked that you make inquiry of your police and others so that you might learn and communicate to me what you might learn. If your police are not directly involved, which may easily be the case, this is not to say they had no knowledge, which is not easy to believe. Given the desire, you can learn more of this disgraceful incident which should shame any decent person connected with any respectable institution of learning.

It is not even truthful to say you can't be "helpful", for it would be "helpful" to undo the damage I sustained, the physical damage to my property, the ruin of a Val-a-Pak, and an expensive tape recorder and typewriter, both brand new.

The difference in the tone of your letters before Senator Ervin gave you the chance to seem to bathe yourself clean and after ~~xxxxxxxx~~ is clear. It and your report strongly suggest that you decided on another whitewash, to confess the very least you thought you could get away with so that you would all seem honest and genuinely repentant. Because Senator Ervin has expressed interest in some of the things that have happened to me, I am impelled to send him a copy of this letter for the completeness of his file. You (collectively) have used him to hide your own nakedness.

I know for a fact that you can get "information about the incident" at Minnesota today. I expect you to get it on your own. I think you should, as I think your integrity should compel you to want ~~to~~. You merely parry with me. Please stop the semantics and do what is right. I would not, in the future, want to write about this "incident" on the basis of the record you have made.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg