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July 30, 1971

Mr. Bernard Lacy
Coordinator, Corporate Information
National Broadcasting Company, Inc.
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10020

Dear Mr. Lacy:

Thank you for your July 27 effort to explain why, in your opinion, Today (and all other NBC shows, including news) has declined my FRAME-UP. Your letter is a generality and fairly states the problem of the show's producers. However, that was not the basis for the decision with regard to FRAME-UP and the Today show, nor has it been the basis of the decision with my earlier works where the message I received was candid. From my earlier news experience, including radio, I know the general problem very well. I also have a pretty good idea of what is and is not news, and if you have such a background, I suggest you merely skim the last chapter or the appendix of FRAME-UP and satisfy yourself that the basis of the decision was not newsworthiness or general interest.

There is a special frame of reference for that last chapter alone in the subsequent flap over the Pentagon Papers and, as a matter of fact, entirely separate from the book and in the context of freedom of information, the Freedom of Information law and the present plight of those who published the Pentagon Papers, there is what, by normal standards, is decent human interest in a relatively unknown writer without resources suing the powerful Department of Justice, getting a summary judgment against it in court forcing it to produce suppressed evidence of one of the major crimes in our history - certainly the costliest proving it had confiscated public court records of a public trial, and all sorts of other things.

Again I thank you for taking the time to write what I am sure you believe to be a responsive answer. However, until the major media overcome their hangups on the political assassinations and, in the case of some, open partisanship, they will be incapable of fulfilling their vital and traditional news function and the people as a consequence will remain uninformed on the relevant basic issues, such as the integrity of government and the basic institutions of our society to the end that representative society cannot function as it should.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg