

December 15, 1974

Mr. Marty Peretz
The New Republic
19th & N Sts. NW
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. Peretz:

As the country's smallest publisher I'd like to dare a heavier pitch to the newest of prestige. But instead, may I make a modest proposal?

In 1966, when it ignored the first book on the Warren Commission, I wrote to ask if the NR would give it an ad on a commission basis. There was no response. Later it bought them commercially and sold them, at a smaller return and with work it need not have done.

We offer a clear 25% over list and mail under the supplied labels of others. If you run an ad, the purchaser pays you \$6.25, you send us \$4.75 and the label, and we mail it.

I'm sorry NR had no interest in the news attention to this book that I think is and will remain a unique document. In addition to the Post story enclosed, AP and UPI gave it major attention. Individual papers (such as the Sacramento Bee, more than 40 column inches on the front page) often played it strongly.

But then I was also sorry almost a decade ago when I took the manuscript of what became a best seller to NR's then publisher, who was also a book publisher, and he had no interest. Later I learned of complication in his professional life - CIA subsidy.

We are doing this on a very thin shoestring. My associate borrowed the money to pay the printer. So I can't pay for any ad.

I'm sorry Richard Lee could neither understand nor feel what it is to stem from Bar Kochba and the Chassidim, from the Maccabees and Moses. I, too, am a nonpracticing Jew. The older I get (61) the more I realize that at least in part this heritage is what impels me to do a thankless work nobody else did responsibly. Probably those who have not been so intensively involved can't begin to appreciate my belief that it goes to the integrity of society and its basic institutions. Most liberals get hung up on Warren, without realizing that he, too, is a victim.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

P.S. As a kid in the late 20's I won first prize for the State of Delaware for collections for the JNF. Today I see what I regard as a serious omission in Israeli informational efforts if it interests you and we can ever get together when you are in Washington.

cc: Enclosed copy for Walter Pincus