

May 14, 1971

Editor  
The New York Times  
229 West 43rd St. N  
New York, N.Y. 10036

Dear Sir:

It was not until today that I saw John Kaplan's "review" of Harold Weisberg's Frame-Up (Times Book Review section, May 2, 1971).

It is an affront to every principle of decency and honest journalism.

Mr. Kaplan says Frame-Up tells us nothing "significant" about the King assassination. I suppose, then, that it is insignificant that the evidence proves James Earl Ray did not shoot Dr. King, that Ray was framed by his lawyer in a deal with the judge which prevented the working of justice, that our government illegally withheld evidence exculpating Ray. Never does Kaplan mention that Weisberg, whose "grasp of the law," he thinks, "is somewhat shaky," won an almost unprecedented summary judgment against the Justice Department to have the suppressed evidence released. He asserts that "we do not know" if "Ray was pressured by others into his plea of guilty," despite the fact that Frame-Up proves Ray was forced into the plea. He says we likewise do not know if there was a conspiracy, even though Frame-Up proves that as well (not to mention that Ray admits conspiracy). To refute Weisberg's charge of perjury against a government ballistics expert, Kaplan asks his readers to believe that an entire bullet and a small fragment of bullet are the same thing and that a man trained to know the difference did not in this case.

In short, there is no aspect of the book that is accurately reflected in Mr. Kaplan's "review," there is no case in which what is said about the book is not overtly false or misrepresented, and there are many principle parts of the doctrine of Frame-Up never mentioned at all.

A book reviewer is not obliged to like every book he reviews. But he is obliged to faithfully represent the content and doctrine of what he reviews. This Mr. Kaplan has shamefully failed to do.

I believe it is your responsibility as an editor to prevent such rapes of scholarship as Mr. Kaplan's. Thus, I sincerely hope you will see fit to rectify this gross injustice to Mr. Weisberg, his book, and your readers.

Yours truly,

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