

N.Y. ADDRESS: Rt. 7, Frederick, Md. 21701:::301/473-8186

1/4/67

Mr. Harrison Salisbury
Managing Editor
The New York Times
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Salisbury,

While the newspaper against which I have least complaint is the New York Times, for it has reported my books honestly and fairly in its news columns, I am appalled to complain ^{often} and constant, uncritical repetition of the unending slanders, particularly when I have been interviewed by phone, provided an answering quotation would be included in the same story, or nothing like it happens.

When the Times ran Anthony Lewis' article on Mr. Sparrow's latest apology for his own dubious record and that of the government, your Mr. Michael Koussron did phone my home. I was in New Orleans and returned his call. I made a pro forma denial of Mr. Sparrow's defamation and challenged him to a confrontation on fact. The Times did not quote me. Instead of doing this, it spread the same defamatory material through its news service.

Now Mr. Lewis sends you the latest part of this campaign, a day ahead of its publication by The London Times Literary Supplement. Here I find that the New York Times finds it is a legitimate news handling to call me "paranoid".

If there is anything obvious in all of this it is that your paper is allowing itself to be converted into an arm of official governmental propaganda. It is quite obvious that Mr. Roche is possessed of neither fact nor logic and that what he actually seeks is the assassination, at least political, of Senator Robert Kennedy. When he is advisor to the President, may I suggest that there may be "news" in the fact of his letter, in addition to its brazen and quite false contents?

In any event, as you know, I have long sought a genuine dialogue on this subject. Our own Sunday Magazine has regularly seen fit to make adverse comment on me and my work by those who are singularly uninformed and unqualified and has steadfastly refused to let me speak for myself, in either writing or by quotation. I would like to think better of the New York Times than this consistent record warrants.

I enclosed copies of some of my recent letters on this subject. Should you so desire, you may excerpt and use them as you see fit.

In advance of the anniversary of the assassination, UPI asked me to write a by-line piece "from the other side". A vice president went over and approved it. UPI put it on the wire. If a single paper used or even referred to it (and almost without exception, all made prominent use of the year before's libels by Herriman Smith), I am not aware of it—and UPI isn't either. Free press!

Corrected: I completed the first part of the letter on 1/4/67.