

5/18/70

Mr. Roy Fisher, Editor
Chicago Daily News
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Mr. Fisher,

I've had my own experiences with Skolnick and I've just gotten a copy of The Headliner Club News for May 1970, so I write you because it seems we may have overlapping interests.

I'm as much for cleaning up the courts where they need it as the next, certainly as much as Skolnick. Can one be less for this than for motherhood? But who brags about bastards? Or those who deliver them?

Behind that pretense of dedication to decency Skolnick shows - and how hard he tries to show - beats the heart of a crook. He is, in fact, just that: a crook. His defamation of so many people and the courts, his abuse of the law in his so-called Kennedy-assassination suit, which is a frivolity, where it has any contact with reality, is stolen from a book I have not been able to get printed. He got it by subterfuge and misrepresentation, knowing it was mine, from a young man who had helped me slightly. So that he could better do this, I gave him copies of my documents from the National Archives (some suppression!). I call Skolnick a crook in person. You can hear his total lack of objection any time you want.

Now it happens that, entirely aside from this total lack of legal competence embodied in a case that has to be thrown out of court, Skolnick was careless. While he could have duplicated my work (copyrighted, hence illegal here as well as under common law), he was too much in a hurry for those headlines. So he used copies of my documents, little dreaming that they had markings added for special purposes. I have my copies and his. Mine are all covered by letters, and the copyrights are, of course, dated.

My chief interest is dual: to shield the integrity of research in the field in which so many of us have labored so hard to develop truth and to protect the "Freedom of Information" law, under which I have just won a suit against the government. I fear very much that the vigor with which he will be denounced in court and the dispatch with which his case will be thrown out - he didn't even ask for what he claims is suppressed - will seriously impair the viability of this new law. To this end I am seeking to file a suit against him in the same court, but there are problems, as a letter from the clerk, who has the draft (where you may read it for specification, etc.) informs me. I am a non-resident without funds for either a lawyer or fare to Chicago. And the electronic media, which presents itself as brave on controversial issues, lives in terror of this irresponsible. Imagine, no TV show I can reach, including those I know have aired him, will air such documentary proof. I've asked. The radio stations that aired him initially do not even respond to letters.

I taped the conversation with Skolnick simply for my own protection, for there is no possible doubt he is a conscious crook. I taped several conversations with the young man from whom he got this material, with permission recorded on the tape and for purposes of making a record that could be used. As of 2/7/70 of this year, this now-fabled "researcher" into the JFK assassination knew so little he knew the names of but two of those who had written critically of the Warren Report. What more does it take with Chicago's electronic media to make a real, genuine, derring-do expert?

In my opinion, there is no void in my proofs, beginning with ignorance and intent and ending in fraud in court, the filing of a spurious lawsuit based on unabashed thievery. Plus, of course, the wildest imaginings.

Does this interest you?

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

**DAILY NEWS EDITOR ANSWERS ACCUSATION BY SKOLNICK;
NORTHERN ILL. SDX CHAPTER PROBES AWARD ISSUE**

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Roy Fisher, editor of the Daily News, has answered charges made by Chicago legal researcher Sherman Skolnick at an April 11 meeting of the Northern Illinois professional chapter of Sigma Delta Chi.

Skolnick challenged the SDX public service award given to the Daily News for its investigation regarding the resignation of Illinois Supreme Court Justice Roy J. Solisburg and Justice Ray I. Klingbiel for alleged conflict of interest.

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Because of Skolnick's talk, the SDX chapter asked National headquarters for information on the award procedures to find if the judging methods might be in need for revamping.

Fisher said that he hopes after the SDX chapter reviews all the facts surrounding the award, it will issue another statement removing any question of misrepresentation or injustice from the Daily News.

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SDX National office that the award was in proper order.

In his talk, Skolnick charged that the major investigation on the Solisburg-Klingbiel story was done by two reporters from the Alton Evening Telegraph. He said that because the Telegraph was publishing the story, the Daily News was forced into running it too.

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Fisher replied that the extent of the Telegraph's investigation was minimal compared to the Daily News had done. He said that the News had done a year-and-a-half of work before the story was finally broke.

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Daily News editors were not even aware that the Alton newspaper had the story, added Fisher.

Officers of the SDX chapter said information on the matter will be discussed by the Board and then submitted to the full chapter membership for a decision on what, if any, further procedures would be followed.

JUDGE REFUSES TO ISSUE SUBPENAS FOR NEWS NOTES

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Judge Saul Epton recently refused to issue subpoenas for newspaper, TV and radio reporters notes and copies of records from the County Criminal Court.

Attorneys for some of the defendants charged with disorderly conduct at a Sept. 24 demonstration at the Federal Building had sought the material.

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Judge Epton noted that the defense has a clear right to subpoena individuals with knowledge of relevant facts, but added: "If the press is to be free, they cannot be subpoenaed to produce material to report."

Handwritten note: Skolnick's charge news 5/70