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May 7, 1966

Mr. Irv Lichenstein
WWDC
Washington, D.C.

Dear Irv,

Maybe the craziest thing I have ever done is to go in debt for this book, but I don't think so, or I would not have done it. Vanity alone was not the motive, as I am sure you'll agree after a careful reading. Remember how long ago I spoke to you about this? I have learned much since then. Today the climate is changing. Two books which I believe may have a bad effect are due, maybe others of which I do not know. I want to do what I can to get this thing in the proper focus, on the Report and the staff rather than the Commission or its members. Especially do I not want that the chairman be made the goat.

Right now I have no distribution arranged, no cash, many debts but I'm like Foch if you remember the story. If not I'll tell you sometime. But I'm plugging, and I do hope to make a breakthrough in the zaniest form a book has ever had, to convert its freckles into beauty spots, to be able to exploit its unorthodox appearance and its incredible history, which is really understated in the Preface. Someday when none of the fine people will be hurt I'm going to write a book already outlined, called "Dick Daring in the Hellbox; or How I Got Rich in Six Months". Maybe sometime you'll get interested in this "freedom of the press". A modest success for this book will make a good editorial, won't it?

If there is anything you can do to help, I need it, and I'm immodest enough to really believe both the country and the democratic society do, too. There is always the possibility this can zoom. If it does, and you have any interest, let me know. Also, when it is all over, I think you'll be able to get a very interesting story on how fast a book can be published in Washington if some of the printers set themselves to it. I am scheduled to pick up the first 250 of the 5000 run noon Monday. The negatives were okayed noon Friday. The book will be stitched, the cover, not yet even shot then, pasted on, etc. I turned down a publishing offer Thursday because the publisher said November was the earliest publication date. What this printer is doing (I hope, because his predecessor quit under a self or externally imposed fear) is fantastic!

Please read it, let me know what you think, and thanks for anything you do or think of.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg