

Mr. David Ignatius  
Editor, Outlook  
Washington Post  
1150 15 St., NW  
Washington, D.C. 20071

11/29/89

Dear Mr. Ignatius,

When I read the first sentence of your note of the 27, saying that I didn't like the assassination piece, I was at first surprised. But it is true. I didn't like it. However, that is not why I took the time at this juncture in my life to write you about it. and I also didn't, I'm now frank to tell you, say all that was in my mind. I did not intend either any degree of personal criticism or any selfish purpose, I know I didn't even suggest that I write anything from the other side and my state of mind then and now is such that I can't think of writing anything for publication. I then had arterial catheterization pending, and it is more dangerous for me than for most, and I now am awaiting being told when to report for heart bypass when I have no veins in my legs they can use as arteries.

First, please don't feel compelled to make even a brief response, unless there is something you want to say. It really isn't necessary. I am an older man, have had experiences and knowledge you don't have, and I'm sure I was trying to inform you and I am also sure that such a situation may face you in the future. If you stop to think you'll realize, I believe, that I had no personal or selfish purpose.

I'm sure I told you my view of the subject matter itself, that it was in effect the greatest subversion of my lifetime - which now a bit more than a third of the country's. and that the press, in general, had failed to meet what I regard as its obligations to itself and to the nation.

I don't know and I'm not asking to know how a piece with that content came to you at that particular time. That is none of my business and there is no question about your right to consider it and to publish it.

There was, of course, an obvious connection with the anniversary of the JFK assassination. But in the context of the day it was also an inflammatory piece because of the situation in Latin America, particularly Central America. I'm not suggesting that this was in your mind. But it has such timing, even if not intended by you or anyone else.

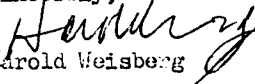
I have no reason to believe that you know anything about the subject and you've probably been too busy to take an interest in it. If this is true, you are fortunate because most of what is readily available would mislead and misinform you. But the author had to know he was not saying a thing that was in any degree new, either as fact or as opinion. Aside from how much he really knew, whether or not it was factual and whether or not there was even a reasonable basis for the opinions.

The timing may be entirely coincidental but I've seen too many such timings that had sponsorship and special motivation and purposes, particularly when the FBI or CIA had an interest. As both do on both the subject matter and the Central America situation.

A point I did not want to articulate and I hoped you'd perceive is the possibility that someone intended to use, really misuse, you and the Post.

I can be, as you say, a "rough audience" on the subject in general but as I assure you I did not intend personal criticism I also assure you that most of the time I spend helping other, without charge, and providing records, is spent helping those I know will say what I will not agree with.

Sincerely,

  
Harold Weisberg

# The Washington Post

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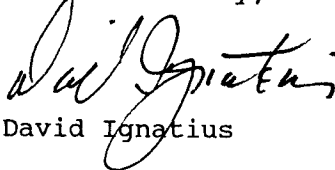
November 27, 1989

Harold Weisberg  
7627 Old Receiver Rd.  
Frederick, MD. 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

Sorry you didn't like the assassination piece. But then, I suspect you're a tough audience on this subject.

Yours sincerely,



David Ignatius

DI:prm