

Jodie Allen, editor
Outlook
The Washington Post
1150 15 St., NW
Washington, DC 20071

4/16/93

Dear Jodie Allen,

Your letter of the 13th is not acceptable as a response to what I took the time to write you about. It also misses the point and just is not true.

The question was not in any sense whether I was "displeased by Robert ^{Andrews'} Andrews' article."

You say you made "prudent efforts to verify the credibility of the article."

If you made any, which I doubt, any that could be called reasonable, leave alone prudent, you would have asked your in-house assassinations expert and he could have told you where and how you could learn.

The question I was raising is of the Post's meeting its responsibilities instead of indulging itself with a little fun.

As an editor you should have had all the ~~at~~ red flags flying with Andrews' assumption of Ray's guilt. Your own morgue would have told you that his guilt is at least questionable. Paul Valentine covered the two weeks of evidentiary hearing. I was Ray's investigator for the habeas corpus and for the hearing, which was to determine whether the sole accused in a crime of that magnitude would get the trial he never had. Without going into the details it fell to me to address whether he had had the effective ^N assistance of counsel when his ~~own~~ counsel was the country's most famous criminal lawyer of the day, the late Percy Foreman. How could we prove he had not rendered effective assistance of counsel with ^{Foreman's} his rep? I decided to try the case and prove he hadn't given Ray any defense at all. I located and prepared the witnesses and Jim Lesar, whom you could not possibly have missed in anything that can be called even a rudimentary inquiry, presented them to the court. After some time the judge handed down his decision: that guilt or innocence were immaterial ~~to~~ to what he said ^{by} as before him.

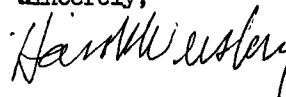
Lardner would, I am sure, have told you that Lesar was his lawyer and I ~~was~~ was his investigator and I'm sure Lesar did not tell you that piece was responsible. I regard it as simply dishonest, an exploitation to ^{promote} a coming book.

And that was one really indecent way to ^{mark} make such an anniversary!

I'm sorry you compounded your abdication of editorial responsibility with the first excuse that popped into your mind.

We should be able to expect more of the Post and the Post should be able to expect more out of you than the article and your response reflect.

Sincerely,



Harold Weisberg

The Washington Post

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JODIE T. ALLEN
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April 13, 1993

Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Rd.
Frederick, Md. 21702

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

I'm sorry you were displeased by Robert Andrews's article on the possibility of additional perpetrators in the Martin Luther King killing.

Although we do not have the resources to conduct full-scale investigations ourselves, we do, however, make prudent efforts to verify the credibility of the articles we run.

I will, however, pass on a copy of your letter to Mr. Andrews and to George Lardner, who is one of our favorite authors, as well.

Sincerely,



Jodie T. Allen
Editor
Outlook

JTA:prm