

Harold Rosenberg
Rt 8, Frederick, Md. 21701
3/31/73

Dear Mr. Fraser,

In writing the letter that accompanied the books I remembered incorrectly which of my friends is a friend of yours. Afterward I remembered that it is Ian McDonald.

The opening of your letter of the 23rd carries me back many years. They seem much more distant than they are because of their intensity and because of the kind of years they have been. Because you deal with books and with young people, I'll explain why, as I see it, I did have trouble getting to the public through personal appearances.

It is not because there was no interest in the subject. All The Establishments were against any airing. Whitewash is probably the most rejected book in history. There was no single editorial rejection, no single serious editorial criticism. In every case the refusal to publish was a policy decision. In a remarkable percentage of the cases there was sufficient honesty for this to be explicit. The most common reason given me is that there was no interest in the subject. Nobody believed it. The reason was fear of the government, an instinctive fear. After I brought it out as an "underground" book, of which I believe it was the first, many of the publishers who had refused to publish it came up to me at the ABA convention and congratulated me for it. Some of them remain friendly. The others are resentful and a bit ashamed. I had no funds at all, so no means of advertising, no funds for public relations, and no lecture bureau. A colleague of Ian's introduced me to his lecture bureau and they would not book me. It was the subject, and this was made explicit. They feared reaction against their business. To this day I have never been invited to make a speech at any university by the regular machinery for such things. I have made a number of college appearances, but in every case it is the students who arranged it. To this day I have never had a bad audience. The few exceptions to the rule on invitations to speak were where individual professors arranged it. I recall two, both by history profs. If I had had a commercial publisher of any size, it would have been different, as it was with Mark Lane. There remains considerable interest in the subject from my mail. But the major media are still apprehensive and somewhat ashamed of their own record.

I do not take offense at what you accurately describe as an insignificant offering for speaking there. I am so broke I don't think I can convey it in any meaningful way. This is because I have been cheated out of large sums of money. I have no funds with which to hire a lawyer. Most of all I need one in New York. I have had one there for more than five years but he has done nothing. I am seeking one by mail now. When they have to take the case without retainer, this is no easy thing. So, that \$50.00 will pay most of the transportation costs and thus will help me get to New York. Once there I can stay with friends. However, this will require a certain amount of flexibility and perhaps some improvisation.

Can we do it this way: you select the latest date you think would be a good one and we have that in mind. In the mean time, if I find a lawyer who will talk to me, I'd like to know what minimum notice you would need so I can make the two things coincide. Then if I do locate a lawyer, perhaps we can arrange the appearance on fairly short notice.

This is an enormous subject. It would be good to know what aspect or aspects you would prefer me to address. In the past I have found audiences most receptive to a relatively short speech and a long period for questions. I have spent as long as 17 straight hours answering questions on a radio station and have often gone four hours without running out of questions. However, the last speech I made was a year ago. Infrequently, when there was a slowing of questions, it was no trouble to improvise. No dead air!

I have an idea where Morris county is. I was stationed at Hackensack and at Whippany during World War II. There used to be both bus and train from New York City.

You mention the McGraws and Nelson Doubleday. At both houses I never saw anyone. Both were pretty honest in rejecting the book. I'll never forget what I was told at Doubleday: Our decision was not editorial and not easy to arrive at. They had a top-brass session on it.

FAIRLEIGH DICKINSON UNIVERSITY

Friendship Library

MADISON, NEW JERSEY 07940 TELEPHONE: 201 377-4700

March 23, 1973

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Coq d'Or Press
Route 8
Frederick, MD. 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

I was very happy that we were able to acquire some of your books and in reading through them could not imagine that you had had such a difficult time getting to the public through personal appearance.

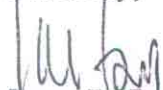
We would very much like to have you speak on our campus, perhaps even before the end of this school year, if that is possible, but I was initially hesitant to even suggest this thinking that your schedule would not permit it. One problem is the matter of an honorarium. We have virtually no money for honoraria this year and the most that we could come up with is almost too small to even offer, but I am wondering if you ever come up to the New York area on business? If you do, could we tempt you into coming to our campus by paying your expenses from New York, plus \$50.00?

Please don't be offended by this insignificant offering. It is simply that that is all there is left in our speaker's account (I have approximately \$200.00 a year on which to bring speakers to our library) and this means that I have to beg most of them to do it for good will.

We would, of course, provide publicity in this area. You might be interested to know that the community of Morris County is where many of the publishing magnates spend their evenings. The McGraws live down the road within a few minutes drive of the campus and Nelson Doubleday lives a little further on down. Publicity in the local papers about the problems you have had could bring some interesting repercussions and I am sure that we could have an interested audience.

With best regards.

Sincerely,



James H. Fraser
Director