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August 28, 1966

Mr. Geoffrey Wolff  
Book Editor  
The Washington POST  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Wolff:

When I spoke to Mr. Wiggins in May, I told him the one thing I have a right to expect of the Washington POST is fairness. When I spoke to you a month ago and you told me the policy was to review none of the books, I told you this meant you would review all but mine, through BOOK WEEK.

Today you do, indeed, have the second of two lengthy reviews on the only two other books that are out. I knew this would happen because I knew BOOK WEEK's plans. I can show you my June letter to Mr. Solotaroff asking only that I be allowed to stand on my own feet.

There are here several strange ironies, having nothing to do with the news value of what I have done or what I regard as my accomplishment in having, a year and a half earlier, without the investment of a commission of British historians or a crew of superb editors, completed a book that includes everything the current ones together have and again as much that they combined do not have.

The doctrine of these books has not been examined with care. Mine is the one that is consistent with the policies of your paper, the one that does not seek to show the members of the Commission were personally the cause of this terrible thing.

And mine is the one that, while they totally ignore it, meets the objections of the reviewers to those they do honor.

NEWSWEEK articulates its fiction. People who read my book phoned to ask why, when it was first, WHITEWASH got no mention and the others inordinate news play. The answer was that, to NEWSWEEK, a private printing does not exist. At that time, despite its handicaps, WHITEWASH had sold almost 9,000 copies in two months!

I am talking of news media. Do you know of any private printing in our history that in such a short life performed as well?

Sincerely yours,

Harold Weisberg