

CENTER *for* JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.

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December 6, 1995

Nancy Blair, Local Editor
Gannett Suburban Newspapers
1 Gannett Drive
White Plains, New York 10604

Dear Ms. Blair:

This is to confirm your peremptory telephone conversation with me a short time ago. As I informed you, I telephoned you because Mr. Hoffman had called me this morning. He told me that he knew nothing about Mr. Liebson's having been instructed not to speak with me--as more fully recited in my yesterday's letter. He also told me that you were Mr. Liebson's editor.

You acknowledged to me that when you met my mother and myself at "Sea Star" last Thursday you were very interested in what we had to say about the Center and its activities--as was Mr. Liebson. You then stated that that was before you and he learned the "background" and "history". You did not elaborate, except to say to me that we were "in litigation" with Gannett.

When I tried to protest that we were not "in litigation" with Gannett, you backed off and said that well, we had sued Gannett.

You were totally disinterested in the basis upon which that suit had been brought, to wit, Gannett's deliberately false, defamatory, and sensationalized reportage over a period of years, combined with its knowing suppression of the important public interest activities in which we were involved. And you refused to afford us any opportunity to be heard as to the so-called "background" and "history" on which you were shutting us out.

As far as you were concerned, it was a closed matter, there was nothing to talk about, and you hung up on me.

It would appear that it was you--as Mr. Liebson's editor--who instructed him not to speak with me. Inasmuch as Mr. Hoffman has disclaimed knowledge of same, the question is whether your action to "black-ball" us has been made on your own initiative, without consultation with your superiors at Gannett. We expressly request your answer.

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Should the foregoing recitation--as it relates to you--not comport with your recollection, please specify the respects in which it does not.

For your information, following your appalling treatment of me, I called Mr. Paulson's office, apologizing for having to burden Mr. Paulson--but making known to his secretary that you had left us no choice but to pursue this matter with him directly.

Yours for a quality judiciary,



ELENA RUTH SASSOWER, Coordinator
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc.

cc: Kenneth Paulson, Vice President and Executive Editor
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