Dear Editor:

Jeff Coplon's "In Search of a Soviet Holocaust" [January 2] contains so much error and absurdity that I waive him — let us say, I waive the amount of my life and writings. But he speaks of my scholarly reputation as moribund because of my recent "The Harvest of Sorrows," which was reviewed gratifyingly well by academics and laymen, and it scraped up some exceptions. Five of these are hardly the admitted Sovietologists he claims, and appears in their sympathizers and hilarity elsewhere. These anti-anti-Stalinists have been given to me do not happen. Moshe Lewin is another matter. He is a distinguished, if eccentric, anti-Stalinist because he didn't happen that as I shouldn't write about him for a reason. That Stalin's moves included a special assault on the Ukraine has been doubted by those who have not seen the evidence. Reviewing my book, Peter Wiles, professor of Russian Social and Economic Studies at the London School of Economics, and Geoffrey Hosking, head of the London School of Slavonic Studies both say they had been skeptical.

Reprinted below is the full text of a letter written by John P. Hewko of Arlington, Va., to Max Frankel, executive editor of The New York Times, regarding the newspaper's treatment of the Great Famine of 1932-33. Below Mr. Hewko's letter is a photoreproduction of Mr. Frankel's letter, with his note: "Thank you for your opinion."

For the Record: N.Y. Times response

Dear Mr. Frankel:

I was shocked and dismayed to read in The Ukrainian Weekly (December 20, 1987) a letter from John P. Hewko of Arlington, Va., to Max Frankel, executive editor of The New York Times, regarding the newspaper's treatment of the Great Famine of 1932-33. Below Mr. Hewko's letter is a photoreproduction of Mr. Frankel's letter, with his note: "Thank you for your opinion."

Mr. Hewko expressed his concern about a New York Times article on the Great Famine of 1932-33. He criticized the newspaper for not mentioning the 1932-33 Ukrainian famine and the deaths of millions of Ukrainians. He also accused the newspaper of being biased in its coverage.

Mr. Frankel, the executive editor of The New York Times, responded to Mr. Hewko's letter. He acknowledged the importance of the Ukrainian famine and its impact on the Ukraine. He also noted that the newspaper had covered the famine in previous articles. However, he explained that the article in question was not focused on the famine itself, but rather on recent events in the Ukraine.

Mr. Frankel's letter was addressed to Mr. Hewko, and he invited him to contact him by phone; but then, what is the big deal about veracity when one is in the hunt for much bigger game — exposing the great Ukrainian menace?

I have furthermore, never in my life been a "point man" for "Ukrainian nationalism" or anyone else. Nor am I, in contrast to what Coplon thinks of many Ukrainian-Americans, an "emissary" or the son of a former member of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists, as my parents have happen to be members of the OUN. But perhaps not even that is quite as much as when he floats the scurrilous allegation that any of those of us who tried to break any manifestation of political and cultural self-assessment.

The reason there is controversy on the issue of how many people Stalin killed is because in 1937 Stalin had his census officials shot for not finding enough people. Last year, Coplon accuses of the Reagans of exploiting the famine by backing the creation of the OUN Commission on the Ukrainian Famine. Asking the Children, introduced by two New Jersey Democrats, Senator Bill Bradley and Con-gressman Jim Florio, and the adminis-tration initially opposed it.

Dear Editor:

Lest the quote attributed to me by Jeff Coplon in "In Search of a Soviet Holocaust" be misunderstood, I suggest that any correspondence with any of your readers, please permit me to state for the record my own personal facts. The fact of traipsing a magnate took place in the Ukraine during the early 1930s cannot seriously be doubted. But I have no doubt that it took an enormous toll in innocent human life or that the regime of Josef Stalin must bear the lion's share of the blame.

Eli M. Rosenbaum
Washington