

M E M O R A N D U M

TO All Concerned
FROM Carisa Brunetto

DATE January 18, 1993

SUBJECT POWER, PRIVILEGE AND THE POST

POWER, PRIVILEGE AND THE POST gets reviewed in the February issue of Cosmopolitan magazine. Cosmo. says, "the author's research was extensive enough to provide a look at a remarkable life...rousing inside tale."

■ POWER, PRIVILEGE,
AND THE POST:
THE KATHARINE GRAHAM STORY

by Carol Felsenthal

When she was called "the most powerful woman in the world," as she often was, the owner and former publisher of the *Washington Post* protested—"It makes me feel like a lady weight lifter." The quote is second-hand. Graham, who is writing her own memoirs, did not cooperate with her biographer.

Still, other people did, and the author's research was extensive enough to provide a look at a remarkable life. Graham authorized publication of the Pentagon Papers, which helped turn public opinion against the Vietnam War, and approved pursuit of the Watergate story, which led to Richard Nixon's resignation.

Born into a wealthy Jewish family, largely ignored by an alcoholic mother who numbered Thomas Mann among her intimates, Kay Meyer married a brilliant Harvard lawyer named Philip Graham. He became publisher of her family's paper; she remained in the background. But charismatic Philip Graham suffered from intense manic depression—the depiction of his breakdown is truly harrowing—and blew his brains out in 1963. Most people believe Kay Graham was born the day she

took her husband's place at the *Post*. The best of this rousing inside tale chronicles Graham's increasing confidence and how she learned to manage a profoundly male operation—mastering not only the news business but also the art of making money. Before she retired, shy Kay Graham was the only woman head of a Fortune 500 company. (*Putnam, \$29.95*)