

Dear Richard and David,

2/6/91

Before bed I begin what I'll write you tomorrow about what I'll then send of "Personal Statement, a reminder to myself of an incident you might find interesting. Phil Hirschkop will remind me where to pick up. It relates to something in what I've just drafted in an unusual way.

Hirschkop was the most militant "cause" lawyer in the Washington area. He handled such cases for the ACLU and I think on his own. Officed in Alexandria and good at his principled efforts Virginia reactionaries made an effort to disbar him. They failed.

There came a time when I was so disappointed in the failures of the defense I had arranged for Ray in the hope of making the system work that I went to see Hirschkop. I also hoped he'd handle a civil case for me that I'd already won, the sole question being establishing the damages. He told me two things about the Ray business. First, and I did not question him about this after he told me the second, he had a conflict of interest. I presume this meant he regarded Ray as guilty and had been a friend of King's. Second, and I do wish I could recall his exact words, he had been practising poor-lawyer's law for years, had in effect spid his dues, had latched onto wealthy clients who could and would pay him better than he'd ever been paid, and was leaving for Texas the next morning on that case. It was the case of H.L.Hunt's sons. They'd been caught by the father's chief of security, a former FBI SA I knew, Paul Rothermel, in bugging and wiretapping. In the end ~~Hirschkop kept~~ ^{Hirschkop kept} both sons ~~stayed~~ out of jail and they were guilty as hell, caught redhanded by Rothermel.

One of the men used was a young man named Jon Kelly. His lawyer/cousin was Jerry Patchen, of Houston. He looked Jim Lesar and me up during the Ray evidentiary hearing because of his interest in Percy Foreman, the supposed Kelly defense counsel. It is he who told me about Kelly's theft of the proof of Foreman's duplicity and showed me the documents and gave me copies of them.

He also told me that Hirschkop was living it up all over the world with those wealthy native fascist sons of the founding fascist of the Hunt empire, that he even dressed as they did to be inconspicuous, I suppose, in going with them where they went for their good times...I still have the attache case Patchen gave me! Lil uses it.

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