

VI. Schiller Records History - Schiller's Way

I'd never heard of Schiller until Penn Jones phoned me in great excitement of over later what turned out to be the record industry's ~~first~~ major effort to give credence to the official assassination mythology. We'd met only once ^{but} and I knew ^{Penn's} his reputation as a respected, honored and courageous weekly newspaper editor. His paper was the Midlothian, Texas, Mirror as I recall the name. It had a circulation of less than a thousand a week. Midlothian ^{is} ~~was~~ about 30 miles from Dallas and Penn had stories on the assassination weekly.

Penn had by then been interviewed by Schiller for the record he was making for Capitol. Penn was impressed by the seriousness of Schiller's interest and the importance of having the record available in colleges, which he said Schiller told him was ^{a major} ~~one~~ objective, and for the people in general. Also, there was to be a cut ^{for} to the JFK library.

When Penn had so high an opinion of Schiller after spending some time with him I gave it no further thought ^{ed} and when asked ^{ed} to be interviewed.

After close to 30 years I cannot be sure of it by I think I was probably more inclined to accept Penn's judgement than ^{later} otherwise I might have been because he was as ^{He thought and said after that we all were} paranoid as can be imagined about the assassination and about all critics going to be killed.

I may also have trusted Penn's judgement more because he had a fine record in World War II, emerging as a colonel in one account and as a general in other.

I do not mean to suggest that without Penn's great satisfaction after being interviewed by Schiller I would not have agreed to be interviewed. Rather is it that because of Penn's endorsement I did not begin with skepticism or questions about Schiller. I have never declined an interview and never asked for anonymity. But with much else on my mind I did not even think of trying to learn more about Schiller.

In my ~~was~~ work on the assassination I decided early on that there would be less likelihood of doing much with ^{Ruby's} ~~lib's~~ killing of Oswald. With the great volume of the

published material I skipped most of what relates to Ruby to concentrate on the ~~assassination~~ assassination and before then, in the Commission's records at the Archives, ~~the~~ ^{records} of the official investigations of ~~is~~ ^{the assassination, if they can be called that.}

My clearest recollections after 30 years are that the interview ^{Schiller} ~~as~~ ^{was} in his Washington hotel room, that he used a Uher tape recorder, a rather good one, that he was ~~grossly~~ ^{Richard Warren Lewis was with him, perhaps also a woman.} fat, and that I found him to be neither pleasant nor agreeable.

I have a clearer recollection of his going to Washington to promote his record, but I have reasons to remember that day most of which ~~do~~ ^{do not} relate to him.

It was, as I now recall a ^{Friday} ~~Friday~~ in early ^{January} ~~February~~, 1967, ^{probably the week} I had agreed to go to Chicago for ^{filming} ~~a~~ the ~~filming~~, in those days before videotapes, of the John Madigan talk show on WBBM-TV. It was to be aired the coming Sunday. When I got to Chicago it was having a blizzard. I was concerned about whether the planes would be flying that evening,

after the midday taping, because I had agreed to confront Schiller on a Washington radio talk show in WWDC, live, and ^{I believe the host was Steve Allison} I'd looked forward to that.

Technical problems delayed the filming so ^{someone on Madigan's staff} ~~the station~~ ^{the station's} took me to its small ~~cafe~~ cafeteria to meet and chat with another of Madigan's guests, Elmer Gertz. Gertz, whose wife was with him, was one of Ruby ~~and~~ ^{one of} Ruby's lawyers. He and his wife had gone to the studio from Ruby's funeral, which was earlier that day.

Ruby died of a cancer of the brain. There ^{were already} ~~was~~ ~~was~~ ~~was~~ allegations that the CIA had inoculated him with cancer cells. I believed them ridiculous and impossible. I believed also that all such nonsense was counterproductive and diverted attention from what should really be getting attention, ^{facts} ~~the~~ ~~acts~~ of the assassination in the Commission's own evidence that refuted its conclusions.

I remember that Gertz volunteered his belief that there ~~was~~ ~~was~~ ~~was~~ were no dirty deeds involved in Ruby's death. He believed also that Ruby would have been hospitalized earlier if the sheriff himself had not been hospitalized then.

The show running late I also was when after the filming I grabbed a cab. I told the cabbie I was running late and asked if he could in that weather get me to O'Hare in time. He expressed doubt but said he'd do his best.

It took two hours or more because of the snow and the traffic congestion it caused. I rushed from the cab to the ticket window. There I was told that the plane had been delayed because only one runway could be used and it was jammed, with planes awaiting instructions to leave for the line of those waiting ^{on the field} to use that runway. The ticket office phoned to announce that the last ticketed passenger had just arrived and was rushing to the gate. I was barely seated when the plane moved onto the field for its turn to take off.

In addition I have several other reasons for remembering that flight.

The plane was a 707, then the largest of commercial airliners. I did get the last unoccupied seat. It was next to a young soldier just ^{rotated} back from Vietnam. When he started a conversation, and he was a deeply troubled young man, and learned I was a writer, he told me he wanted to write about his experiences in 'Nam.

What troubled him most of all was the behavior of some of his fellow soldiers under the great stresses ^{and pressures} they experienced in that war. Of what he told me, and I may have been more sensitive to it because I was one of the earlier protesters of that war, I have the most depressing recollection of barbarities I would never have imagined young Americans were capable of.

That was before Morley Safer showed our boys burning villages, setting the little huts afire with their cigarette lighters. Before Lieutenant Calley's callous murders.

That young soldier's account of what others in his outfit did ~~was~~ included sharpening the branches of ^a tree and impaling Viet men on them-alive.

That was something to remember.

And as I told my wife late that night ^{when} I got home with a broad stain on the front of the attractive red slipover sweater she had knitted me and I was wearing for the first time, that had been, until then, "the roughest plane ride I've ever had and the best Chicken Kiev." The roughness of the ride deposited a forkful on my sweater.

There was no blizzard in Washington and the cab ride from National Airport to K Street, northwest, between 16th and 17th Streets did not take long.

WDD's transmitter and main studios were in the Maryland suburbs, just over

the state line. It's format then was all or largely talk shows. To save its guests from the trips to the suburbs it had ~~sta~~^{cy} simple studios in either the Heurich or the Commonwealth buildings. They were next to each other in that block, on the ^rnoth side, separated by an alley.

I was ushered into a small room because Schiller did not want a face-to-face confrontation. The show, ~~was to be broadcast by Schiller~~ had begun. I listened to it on a monitor. When someone came and took me to the studio Schiller had left.

~~We met later and by accident, when I was in Los Angeles. I was walking on a main downtown street with an actor friend, Bill O'Connell, when we saw and chatted briefly with Schiller. He had~~ was still as fat and had not yet grown his beard.

Extra space

Typical of what was to follow, Schiller and Capitol Records obtained my agreement and that of the others of us who did ~~not perceive~~^{not perceive} what they were up to, who really were deliberately deceived and misled by them, by deliberate fraud.

To the best of my knowledge and recollection, Sylvia Meagher alone refused to speak to Schiller and Lewis.

In his December 2, 1966 letter to me, Alan W. Livingston, ~~the~~ president of Capitol Records ^{stated} that in ~~to~~ return ~~for~~ for my participating

in the production of this album, a contribution will be made to the John F. Kennedy Memorial Library Fund by Capitol in an amount equal to the standard artists' royalty of 5% computed in Capitol's standard manner.

The agreement itself ^{also} makes this contribution to the Kennedy Library a condition of my being taped and quoted. It says that "in consideration" of my "agreement"

" " an amount equal to an artist royalty of 5%, on a pro-rata basis, on that portion of the album containing material recorded by signatories to this release form or computed in the standard manner used by Capitol Records, Inc., shall be contributed to the John F. Kennedy Memorial Library Fund,

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without single space

Livingston described his project in his letter to me "as part of a Socio-Educational Series."

Consistent with this misrepresentation and with what he had ~~assured~~ assured Penn Jones, Schiller gave me a big and persuasive spiel that what he was up to was essentially for college. Unlike Sylvia Leagher, I believed him.

For special reasons I ^{she added that} said some of what I said on condition of confidentiality only. Schiller's agreement ^{ent} was worth no less than his word never was. It was worth nothing, ^{January 7} he did not keep it, and he did not respond when I wrote him chiding him for not keeping his word and worse, distorting what I'd said in confidence for his ~~own~~ understanding on.

I made this additional mistake of believing that when he asked a question it was because he was seeking information.

What I told him in confidence I would not have said under any other conditions.

Capitol Records' ethics were no better than Schiller's.

It

- ④ I had strong disagreements with most of the others. For example, I believed that Penn Jones' major interest of what he referred to as the "mysterious" deaths had neither relevance ^{my} validity. I did not believe many of the stories Mark Lane and others were spreading, of alleged ^e meetings between Ruby and Oswald among other things, had any credibility. I felt strongly that all such sensationalism distracted attention from where it should be focused and that it misinformed and misled the people. But I did not want still another public diversion coming from controversy over these disagreements. and beginning with Mark Lane's book there was overt cribbing. Richard Popkin, a college professor, got a book out of his commentary on those ^{by} of Lane, Epstein and me. He used in ~~it~~ it our work as his own. Thus I agreed to discuss them with Schiller only on his pledge of the confidentiality he neither intended nor practised. It was for his information only in his allegedly serious inquiry, his claim to be seeking truth and understanding of it.

76f

to the Kennedy Library now

Capitol Records neither made any such contribution ~~or~~ even arranged to.

When this provision of the agreement was made public in the controversy over that scurrilous prostitution of our ^ohost_{ry} for money the Kennedy Library announced that it ~~would have~~ have nothing to do with any such project and if the money were offered it would be ~~decl~~ declined.

With specific reference to the Ruby part of that record, Schiller having tape recorded Ruby shortly before he died, by stealth, ~~subterg~~subterfuge and deception, the Associated Press reported this ~~to~~ ^{the} for morning papers of January 4, 1967:

include enough space

"Capitol Records did offer as a donation to the John F. Kennedy ^{Corporation} Library a portion of the royalty ~~was~~ payable in connection with the Ruby album. (sic) The directors of the ~~the~~ Library Corporation do not accept contributions from commercial enterprises such as this." (Baltimore Sun, 1/4/67)

Not only did Capitol and Schiller deceive those of us who trusted them, they were also commercializing the JFK name and the respect in which that library was held.

What got most attention when the ~~record~~ ^{record} was released is the worthless and meaningless words spoken by Ruby. All were self-serving and none added anything new. Widely it got page one attention.

of this subplot of commercialization

include enough space

January 3 Post
The New York ~~Publications~~ made even more of a non-commercial project by ~~in~~ stating

"The profits from the sale if the ~~recr~~ record will go to the Kennedy Library in Cambridge., Mass., Gertz said."

As this story continues, referring to Gertz as its source, ~~it says~~ ^{also says} that

"The lawyer disclosed that a ~~the~~Capital (sic) representative approached Ruby's relatives two weeks ago with the idea of making the recording ~~was~~ as a contribution to history." (January 3, 1967)

[Handwritten box]

Using a Los Angeles Times story, the Washington Post reported that the recording was made "despite police security" when an ~~un~~ unwitting Dallas policeman was in the hospital room and two were ~~at~~ outside the door." (January 3, 1967)

The next day's New York Daily News reported that ~~the~~ tape recorder was hidden inside an attache case. " It adds,

In Paul Krassner's column in the May, 1967 Cavalier^{he} adds that when Gertz and Earl Ruby went into see Jack with the tape recorder Schiller had hidden in that attache case, Schiller sat outside in the car and that while the actual taping "lasted 14 minutes" Capitol edited ~~it~~ "down to only ~~3~~ 3 minutes ~~and~~ 55 seconds."

Krassner also wrote that he attended the Livingston press conference at which he

"...asserted that the original recording had been placed by him in a bank vault but would be available only to government officials upon request"

that would never be made, there being no value in it at all.

After that propaganda press conference Krassner spoke to Gertz, who "couldn't understand why Livingston was being so mysterious."

Gertz knew the law but he did not know the tricks of unscrupulous commercializers bent upon making something out of nothing- for money.

incident
single
file

What a genius Schiller ~~actually~~ ^{anyway!} is - according to Capitol Records - to have done all that, learned and retained all there was to know about the assassination, ^{in only} ~~within~~ three weeks.

If any of the media had any question about this claim or, based on it, the record itself, I am not aware of it.

In another Capitol release,

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"The record was allegedly made...with the knowledge of Ruby's family and their attorney, Elmer Gertz....The ruse to get the tape recorder into Ruby's hospital room was made with ~~the~~ ^{his} knowledge. Carried in by his brother, Earl, the ~~attache~~ ^{attache} case containing the recorder was placed on an air conditioner ~~near~~ ^{er} near Ruby's bed. Earl then told Ruby in Yiddish, 'Jack, in the brief ~~case~~ ^{case}/the tape recorder is hidden here. Talk into it.'"

75A here

In an undated Capitol Records press release on the record, titled "How it Was Made," It is said that when Schiller got the idea he spoke to one of Ruby's lawyers in Texas, Phil Burleson. Burleson ^{referred} him to "Gertz and to members of the Ruby family."

That same release, shamelessly as most commercial releases can be, refers to that hasty and trashy record as an "in-depth audio study of the assassination."
with records to be sold

Not ~~less~~ ^{less} concerned about truth, it also lies in saying that this was "the first time" that "critics and advocates of the Warren Report" were "face-to-face."

It is a lie to say that had never happened before and it is a lie to say it happened in the preparation of the record. *It did not.*

That highly hyped and advertised

How "in-depth" was it, could it have been? How much was it or could it have been ~~that~~ "in-depth" study "of the assassination"?

In the very next paragraph, boasting of the speed with which ~~the~~ ^P Schiller worked, Capitol says of that and of him, "He had three weeks in which to gather the needed material."

That was because of Capitol's scheduling of the record. *travel about 10,000 miles, conduct more interviews and*
~~Three weeks to go over an assimilate the 10,000,000 words the Commission published plus what was in its 200 ~~is~~ cubic feet of records in the Nation/Archives.~~

75B here

~~Capitol does include what Schiller did at the National Archives in those three weeks to had for gathering all his "information."~~

Preceding nine triple-space pages in large type and with wide margins Capitol had a "NOTE TO EDITORS" stapled. It states ^{of} that what follows it *that it is*

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"Completely transcribed ~~is~~ is the interview with Jack Ruby, Mrs. Carolyn Walthers, Father ~~Oscar~~ ^{Oscar} Huber, S.M Holland, Harold Weisberg, plus the

In any market ^{that was} ~~this is~~ a very considerable investment to recover from the sale
of ^{physical copies} ~~a records~~ that from the ad itself, was on sale in ~~only~~ a single store inside the
District of Columbia, two in nearby Maryland and one in nearby Virginia. (Of course the
record must have been on sale in other stores even though the ad does not indicate that).

But if this ad is a fair sample of national advertising, then Capitol invested a
fortune in them. *for that Schiller ditto.*

undoubtedly strange

the partial text of the interview with Mrs. ~~Barle~~ ^{Barle} Cabell. (wife of the Dalas city manager.)

~~None~~ of the Ruby transcript is attached.

That "complete transcribed" interview with me that lasted ~~all over~~ ^{and a half} an hour takes up ~~abp~~ about a third of page 5.

For Schiller and Capitol Records this is not the nadir-it is their high point.

As we ~~have~~ have seen because Capitol Records told us, Schiller is a rare genius of unprecedented powers of perception and retention of information and the less time he

has the more information he acquires. We have seen what Capitol said he was able to do *while travelling more than 10,000 miles* and learn in three weeks. It therefore is unfortunate that he did not have ^{men} less time because if he had ^{had} less time he'd have seen and learned more.

What he could and should have learned more about, given his exclusive interest in history in his project- no, not money- perish that thought! - is Jack Ruby. ^{This} is be-

cause of the question, how much good is Jack Ruby's word worth? From the ^a sampling we have seen from the newspapers, the real value, if any, of this major Capitol Records

project, is in ^{Schiller's} that clandestine tape of what Ruby said.

December 12, 1967

If we evaluate the ^{in this that} value Capitol believed it had by ~~xxxx~~ its advertising, in the

Washington Post alone ^{it} had an add ^{1 3/4} and a half inches high by five and a half inches wide. ^{76k 19} About a third of that ^{Post} adds of a sketch of the assassinated President made to look

as though it was the appearance of his face after ^{angushed} death. ~~Undescribed~~ ~~Capital~~ ~~described~~ ~~via~~

This sketch is copyrighted. Not by Capitol Records. The copyright is under the name in which Schiller did business, "ALSKOG, INC."

Under it Capitol proclaims, in large, black type, "THE MOST CONTROVERSIAL ALBUM EVER RECORDED!" Few authentic students of the assassination would dispute that. Then, announcing this this most controversial of all recordings was "available", Capital lists as first and ^{of} most important ⁽ on it is "The astonishing death-bed testimony (sic) of

Jack Ruby, recorded secretly at Parkland Hospital in Dallas just days before his death."

"Testimony" of course it was not.
So, what was Ruby's word worth?

It was worth as much as the word of any other insane man.

Because Ruby was insane. *That a figure of speech, of he really was crazy,*

That was the opinion of the court's psychiatrist.

Not crazy like a fox. He was insane.

As the available official records, ^{court case Schiller} he had too much time to get state with explicitness.

While my copies do not come from it, the records I quote are in the case file ^{and in the court file of them.} of the Ruby prosecution for killing ~~James~~ Oswald. My friend William "Beichter, Louisville, Kentucky lawyer, obtained the copies I have from the archive of former Warren Commission member John Sherman Cooper at the University of Kentucky at Lexington, Kentucky. With Cooper having a copy, copies should be in the Commission's files at the National Archives, that deposit Schiller exhausted during his three weeks of becoming the subject-matter expert that he is ^{before he} and ^{ed} that prepares ^{through up} this record for "history" required. There is more but what I cite should be enough.

The judge on that case was Joe B. Brown. He had asked the Dallas psychiatrist, Dr. R.L. Stubblefield, to examine Ruby. On May ~~14~~ 15, 1964, Stubblefield wrote Brown

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"It is my medical and psychiatric opinion that Mr. Jack Ruby has had and has now an acute psychiatric illness, with paranoid and depressive features."

The defense psychiatrist was Dr. Louis Jolyon (right) West, head of the department of ~~psychat~~ psychiatry at the University of Oklahoma Medical Center in Oklahoma City. His report of the April 27, 1964 is in the form of an affidavit.

It concludes with all that the ^h Scillers and Capitol Records who are so dedicated to preserving and serving our history require to present Ruby as the best and most dependable of sources:

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"Jack Ruby is technically insane at this time. He is not now capable of cooperating intelligently in his own defense."

In sending his ^{five-page} report ~~of~~ to then Dallas district attorney ^{West} Henry Wade ~~he~~ expressed the hope that it might be possible for Ruby "to be put in a mental hospital soon."

A few other selections from West's "REPORT ON PSYCHIATRIC EXAMINATION OF JACK RUBY" give us additional ^{confirmation} validation of Schiller's and Capitol's ~~ded~~ dedication to history only and of the quality of their judgement in their major production for it.

After reporting Ruby's ~~strange~~ strange behavior in his presence and his suffering "hallucinations" both auditory and visual and his "unpredictable outbursts of psychotic

behavior, and fluctuating degrees of contact with reality hour by hour," West recommended again that Ruby should be in a psychiatric hospital for observation, study, and treatment...."

On page 3 West states,

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"...Ruby is obviously psychotic. He is completely preoccupied with delusions of persecution of Jews on his account. ... His emotions are abnormal feeling of anxiety, depression, guilt, suspiciousness and despair" along with his auditory and visual hallucinations."

West's diagnosis was "Acute psychotic reaction; paranoid state."

His prognosis (on page 4) was "fair" only for Ruby's "acute psychotic ^{reaction}" and then only "if proper treatment is instituted." *Which it never was.*

Henry Wade believed, genuinely, that Ruby was malingering. West states he considered that "carefully" and ^{He said} "in my opinion this is not true." One of his reasons is that ^{no} ^{could} ~~no~~ one so completely and accurately "play the role of a paranoid delusional psychotic person with such accuracy, consistency and atypical detail."

West also ^{gave} ~~gave~~ several other reasons.

So, Ruby not getting the recommended hospitalization ^{when} ^{already} he was crazy two and a half years ^{before} ~~before~~ Schiller connived his tape for "History," that tape Capitol's Livingston believed was so ultra-valuable he put it in a bank ~~valu~~ ~~valu~~ vault with total denial of access to it other than to government officials - none on whom ^{begin} gave a damn about it.

Crazy to ~~begin~~ ^{begin} with, Ruby was getting more that way all the time.

Is there any wonder Capitol ^l spent all that money in advertising it and ~~promoting~~ Ruby's ^{secret} ~~secret~~ hailed ~~it~~ as "the" astonishing death-bed testimony

"Testimony" it is not. ^{was more} "Astonishing" it is."

There ~~were~~ things in Ruby's ~~history~~ ^{history} the psychiatrists did not learn from him.

They are not psychotic, delusional or anything like that. They reflected the real Jack Ruby that, decent man that he is, Henry Wade never used or leaked.

~~After Ruby was dead Henry, who is my friend, a man I like as a human being and respect as a district attorney who like all district attorneys took the oath to enforce~~

It also is "astonishin^ghing" until one gets to know who and what Schiller really is that he would make ~~such~~ the claim he did to be serving our history through a crazy man ~~he did not even like~~ and be party to the coast-to-coast publicity for what he said after he had been certified insane.

Henry Wade is my friend. I like him as a person and respect him as a district attorney. Like all district attorneys he took an oath to ~~defn~~ defend ^{the} laws, whether or not he liked them. I was with him when I saw him/observe the canons of the bar that say the primary obligation of the prosecutor is to see to it that justice is done, not to get convictions. I remember and I respect that. It is not the undeviating practise of all prosecutors.

Once when I was in Dallas ^{after Ruby died and} without the time required for careful examination of his Ruby file, Henry gave me access to it and I skimmed through it.

The first thing I observed is that both the Warren Commission and the FBI kept from him records both had and I had gotten. I sent him copies of them for his file. Then there were reports of what I would not have expected to see other than in Kraft Kraft-Ebbing and other authorities on ~~the~~ abnormal behavior.

The Warren Commission evidence deals with Ruby's having ~~to~~ dogs as pets. It reflects that Ruby's favorite was a dachshund ~~to~~ named "Sheba". He is know to have referred to her as his wife. Henry's file ^{held} a letter from the ^{Dallas branch of} Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals reporting that it had been informed that Ruby was treating Sheba as his wife.

There ^{also} were reports on Ruby's ^{abnormal} behavior in public ^{places} of which I remember ^{These} what he ^{did at} a fair. He ~~was~~ went up to girls ~~just~~ entering puberty and fondled their just-emerging breasts. When criticized for that he reponded blandly that he was just breaking them in to work for him as strippers.

79A The word in that Capitol ~~add~~ is appropriate to "Ruby." "Astonishing!" But even with the built-in self-serving nature of ^{every} ^{was asked and} anything Ruby said ^{qualification} if he had been rational, ^{Schiller} and its ~~undependability~~ ^{required for} is he had not been is the special talent Schiller took ^{qualification} to his questions to be asked of Ruby for this unprecedented record for our history. That Schiller speciality is ignorance of the established fact. So, ~~and~~ aside from getting Ruby to say he had never met Oswald, leave alone conspired with him, and that he had conspired with ~~nobody~~ nobody when he killed Oswald, from the Paul ~~Grassner~~ column previously quoted

column ^{from} Cavalier previously quoted we get this verbatim ^{Schiller's} from that record. Schiller was careful to include the answer ^{he wanted} in the question asked, "Normally, you ~~carried~~ always carried a gun, didn't you, Jack."

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"Answer: Yes, I did. I always carried a gun because of various altercations I had in my club. And I carried pretty large sums of money at times."

But as the Warren Commission evidence shows, that day, the day he killed Oswald, Ruddy did not ^{carry} have his gun on his person. He had it and ~~the money~~ his money, which was a fairly large sum, in the trunk of his ^{car} car. ^{Before leaving his} He returned to the ^{Ruby} car, got his gun, and he had it with him when he went to Western Union and thence to the garage of the building that held police quarters, where he killed Oswald.

Schiller, historian that he is, had Ruby say what was not true, that he ^{always} had his gun ^{on} in his ^{possession} possession all the time when he did not.

There was no little touch that was too little for Schiller in his devotion to our history to the exclusion of all else.

(The ^{time of} official timing on Ruby's ^{sending} sent the money to his stripper who had asked for it established by ^{of that Western Union money order} of that Western Union money order two decades ago by is confirmed in the carbon copy of the original I have. It was given to me by the man ^{who was then} who was then ^{that Western Union's} that Western Union's ^{branch's assistant manager} branch's assistant manager and operations manager, A.I. English. ^{and} Along with it he also ^{sent me} sent me pictures ^{of the New York Times' correspondent} of the New York Times' correspondent taken from her back, of ^{the communist} the communist Bob Considine taken in the empty courtroom with ^{typewriters} typewriters around him and the phone in his hand and of himself ^{with that branch office's senior} with that branch office's senior operator. The Time stamped on this carbon copy, in capital letters, is "1963 Nov 24 AM 11 17.")

We are only at the beginning of ^{understanding} Schiller's qualifications to be Mailer's "associate" in any work of nonfiction.

After all it is not just any Tom, Dick or Harry who can provide for a ^{of Schiller's} ~~single~~ of Schiller's Mailer and multiple-Pulitzered and accomplished writer whatever services ~~he~~ believed he needed ^(or perhaps would not) (or perhaps would not) ~~believed~~ ^{himself} believed he could not do for himself. We have had a glimmer, too, of what Mailer ^{was capable of} (was capable of. So we seek the answer in ^{going} going farther ^{with} with Schiller's ^{accomplishments} accomplishments, ^{next into} next into ^{other} other ^{assassination} assassinations ~~first on the JFK assassination~~ and his book on it.

ETIOLOGY

Not fully determined. The stress of the patient's recent life situation is undoubtedly an important factor. Other contributing factors, including organic brain disease chronic or acute, should be explored.

PROGNOSIS

For the present acute psychotic reaction, fair, if proper treatment is promptly instituted.

RECOMMENDATION

Immediate psychiatric hospitalization, study, and treatment. Close observation. Suicidal precautions.

DISCUSSION

The possibility that the patient is malingering, or feigning mental illness was carefully considered. In my opinion this is not true of this individual at this time. First, I doubt that someone unfamiliar with technical psychiatry could play the part of a paranoid delusional psychotic person with such accuracy consistency, and typical detail. Second, it places Mr. Ruby at cross purposes with his attorneys, who have repeatedly encouraged him to believe that he has an excellent chance for successful appeal and that at a new trial he would not only be saved from the death penalty but that a much more sympathetic understanding of him would emerge. Third, I don't believe he wants to go to a mental hospital at all, despite his attorneys' belief that he should; he actually prefers the jail, where he says "they know me"; that this is inconsistent with his fears of murderous police is itself characteristic of his delusional state. Finally, he violently rejects the idea that he is mentally ill now, or that he is suffering from abnormal thoughts and feelings; the true malingerer usually grasps eagerly at such an explanation.

The unexpected discovery that this individual has developed an acute psychotic reaction naturally requires me to postpone consideration of the special

Attempts to discuss additional psychiatric examinations, or the pertinent hearings, or his prospective appeal, or a new trial, were fruitless. He felt that talk of a new trial was just a mockery "After what happened last night," and that he would be rotten and despicable to want to survive or be saved after having caused "a great people with a history of four thousand years to be wiped out." I persuaded the patient to let me invite Mr. David Candish, one of his attorneys, to step into the room, and then watched the two talk at cross purposes for a while. As the lawyer continued to discuss plans for the appeal, Mr. Ruby became increasingly agitated and clearly paranoid as it dawned on him that Mr. Candish, whom he had trusted, was now "pretending not to know what had happened last night."

Attempts to carry out many of the more formal aspects of a mental status examination were impossible. The patient was oriented in place and person, but perhaps not for time; he was non-responsive to many inquiries. Concentration was poor. Associations and continuity of thought were disrupted. Some material pertinent to his shooting of Oswald was elicited, but is not included in this report.

At this time Mr. Ruby is obviously psychotic. He is completely pre-occupied with his delusions of persecution of the Jews on his account. He feels hopeless, worthless, and guilty because he is to blame for the mass-murders of his own people. The experiences of last night, are not only grossly delusory but include auditory and visual hallucinations as well. His emotions are abnormal. Feelings of anxiety, depression, guilt, suspiciousness and despair are expressed in various proportions. Often the affect is inappropriate to the ideas accompanying them.

DIAGNOSTIC IMPRESSION

Acute psychotic reaction; paranoid state. Manifested by delusions, visual and auditory hallucinations, suspiciousness, agitation, inappropriate affect, unshakable fixed preoccupations, depression, suicidal impulses, and impairment of reasoning, judgment, concentration, and progression of thought.

Mr. Howard Goodman, newsroom
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Frederick, MD 21702

Dear Mr. Goodman,

When I was given a copy of your March 9 article on ^{Mr.}Norman Mailer at Penn one of the quotes gave me the formula for the book I'd decided to do with the working title Mailer's Whitewash: Of the JFK Assassination. (Please forgive my typing. I'm 82, unwell and limited in what I can do. It cannot be any better.)

I would like your permission to use a few short quotes, what he said about history and novels being alike, both fiction and history being lies.

Your story does not say how Mailer came to spend four days at Penn. Of course he was promoting his book Oswald's Tale but I wonder how he came to incur the extra trouble and costs of doing it at Penn where there are so many universities where he lives. If you know and can tell me.

What gave me the formula for the book is his saying that the JFK assassination evidence, which he does not use, is "impenetrable." That is what I'll build to.

I am alone among those writing on the assassination is not pretending to solve the case with theories and in restricting myself to the official evidence. What is anything but "impenetrable" is the official evidence I'll use. I enclose a copy of the catalogue page on my eighth book due this month.

By a long series of FOIA lawsuits some of which were precedential and one of which led to the 1974 amending of the Act's investigatory files exemption I obtained about a third of a million once-withheld pages. Some years ago when Mailer indicated an interest in the assassination I offered him access to all I had. That was not exceptional. I believe the Act makes all who use it surrogate for the people and I have always made it all available, along with our copier, to all writing in the files. Most of whom I know will write what I do not agree with. It is all decided to a fine small local college where along with all my work it will be a free public archive. Not only do I not believe that theorizing is an acceptable substitute for fact, I began doing no theorizing in my first book, which was the first on the Warren Report and the assassination. It dates to 1965. Besides, with this documentary treasure, who needs theories? Other than the Mailers who will not do the work required to learn what the official evidence is and means.

In thinking of writing you earlier today I was reminded of my own childhood in Philadelphia and how different a city it was in so different a world. I wonder if the Inquirer has ever done such a story

I contributed a little to it in the early 1930s when I was on the Wilmington Morning News. The old Ledger, probably well before your time, had a Sunday feature section which also printed features I wrote then. Last time I was in your building ^{with} when I was the Washington correspondent for Click, which the Annenbergs owned.

A few of the things that came to mind on how different ~~it~~ then was are the gas street lamps, the enormous outhouse in the first school I went to, on Susquehanna Ave. between 20 and ~~21~~ 21 Sts., that when I was eight my mother considered it safe enough for me to walk alone about a mile to the public library on as I recall Berks slightly to the west of Broad, and shagging flies that went over the Broad Street wall of old Baker Field and bounced down into the P & R north Philly terminal across Broad from ~~the~~ it. A boy who handed a ball in at any ticket window got in free, even batting-practise balls.

The [^]noth side of Baker Field was Lehigh Avenue. It was also the south side of where the old as then played, old Shibe Park. I think its western side was 22 Street.

In those days when there were no night games and few autos, the trolleys used to line up on Lehigh pointing both ways (it was double-tracked) beginning about the time ^{the} ended. These lines extended for blocks and blocks and what a mess it became if a game went into overtime!

I was born three blocks south of Shibe Park. That was a half of a block north of The "omens" Homeopathic Hospital.

In those days ambulances were horse-drawn and ~~except for~~ the ones I remember, from Tankenau, all were black and close to identical with the wagons from which bread, ice and milk were delivered daily. With in most instances the horses knowing when to start and when to stop.

Our closest firehouse was an altered corner house at 22 and York. "y what I sight to see the sparks flying from their hooves as they charged drawing the pumpers in which steam was generated by ~~fiets~~ ^{fiets}. And how the steam from the top of their tanks used to get close to horizontal when they really sped.

The most exciting sight in those days before even radio was a runaway horse.

I ramble but if it has not been done I think it could be fun doing it and fun reading it.

I'll appreciate permission and anything you can think of that I might use.

By the way, there is much about Arlen Specter in NEVER AGAIN! I've not been told ~~the~~ the pub date and have no ~~idea~~ what copies, if any, the publisher will distribute.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg
Harold Weisberg