

" FAILURES" of assassination critics and their writings *and of all institutions of society*

After the completion of the rough draft of the Prologue to The King Conspiracies I began to write what I intended as an introduction styled "Personal Statement" with the ~~concept~~^{concept} for context and understanding. This goes back in my thinking to about 1974-5 when i drafted the (still unread) beginning of this book that for various reason I felt I had to lay aside temporarily and then did not find it possible to resume as I wanted to resume that writing. What disappeared from the existing ms was such a personal statement, intended to make comprehensible to the read how largely revered agencies like the FBI could do as wrongly, make the kinds of mistakes, ~~that~~^{as} the book documents. It included some personal confessions of which I remembered and used as an example my having physically removed from a train, about to leave Union Station in Washington a wretched man named W.H.Gray, an effective and unscrupulous labor spy whose subpoena had been mistakenly withdrawn by the Senate committee chairman. ⁽¹⁹³⁶⁾ But as I continued with the new personal statement is before long became aparent that if used it would have ~~been~~ to be treated as a separate part. Several weeks ago it became ^{apparent} that this had grown much too much even for a separate part. I then decided, having begun some rewriting, to complete the section on Dr. Philip Melanson, and authentic scholar and a disreputable literary whore and his publisher, Praeger, because they epitomize the failures of the professional scholars and publishers. Melanson substitutes the most childish, immature and entirely impossible theories for fact, ~~of~~^{of} which he is profoundly ignorant. Praeger had rejected Whitewash in 1965-personally- after his then director of special projects had liked the ms he actually read it overnight and then told me he saw an initial print of 50,000 copies, rather good for hardbacks in those days. (Praeger's reason was that I was not a recognized scholar. It later was exposed that he was a CIA publisher. So Melanson's swill is publishable, viz The Murkin Conspiracy, and after Praeger's subsidiary, Greenwood Press, apparently rejected Spy Saga after the most devastating comments and analyses By Wisconsin History Professor Dave Wrone and me - mine in a separate box and details and close to the length of a small book, intended as a record for the future - Praeger still published it. I had intended to hastily revise and lay this and the rest aside because I believed that there

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is a legitimate book in it is expanded a bit more. My own circumstances and the time I devoted to arranging for what I regard as important, exposure of the indecency and obscenity of the Oliver Stone movie now in production, based on Jim Garrison's disgraceful On the Trail of the Assassins, prevented my resumption of the draft of the Personal Statement to finish up with elanson and lay it all aside.

However, this past Friday evening I experienced a frightening episode medical exploration of which will begin in the morning with a series of blood tests, after which, unless he believes that a cardiological appraisal also is required, the family doctor will decide whether or not a cat scan is indicated. (After finishing supper at a restaurant before friends who were with us I suddenly felt strange, a little light-headed and believed I should walk around a bit. Walking was close to impossible. I was uncertain, unsteady, and could take only tiny steps. When I decided to pay the check so we could

leave I found it impossible to manipulate my ~~wallet~~ wallet. This having been observed without my knowledge and before it was observed that I was shaking violently at the cash register, an ambulance had been called and with some difficulty I was placed on a gahir. As whatever this was started passing off I wanted to go to my car, get out in the air, and then drive home. (One of the friends with us said she never seen a face as white as mine had become.) I was asked to await the ambulance, which came rapidly, my blood pressure by then, if it had ever changed, was normal but heart irregularities had been detected so they wanted to take me to the local hospital. I refused, in part based on bad experiences there in the past, compromised with the pressure to go there by promising to phone the family doctor, and then drove home with no problem at all, followed by these friends, (The noted irregularities, skipped beats and extra one, are not new.))

So, I can no longer dally with what can be expanded into a book that I believe can be important and worthwhile, an important part of the history of the political assassinations that I believe did turn the country and the world around, and I write this to be filed with the material I have on paper that is somewhat confused because of the unread rewriting along with what I had written. Because I came to consider that such a book might be titled "Failures" + have it all in a file folder with this identification

on it. It will not be difficult for anyone at all familiar with the subject, like Wrone, to locate in my existing files other relevant information. It is filed under the names of critics and authors. In addition^l, in what I refer to as the "subject files" of duplicates of FBI records I have some files on these critics by name and also a general file titled "Critics."

There is a separate file drawer titled "Book" that includes the notes I was able to make about the nonpublishing history of Whitewash. I then intended my second book to be "Dick Daring in the Hell-box, or How I got Rich in Six months." (When I was young and worked in newspaper composing rooms the wooden boxes into which discarded type was thrown to be recast was known as a hell-box. The reference to riches is an exact quote of what I was told by a professional editor then semi-retired who I'd asked to read the ms and edit it after Ivan Ubolensky, a since deservedly defunct publisher, had rejected it shortly after forecasting a spectacular success for it with an advance sale, without any advertising, of 39,000.) I note that Whitewash, completed^{my} mid-February, 1965, was the first book on the Warren Commission, remains the basic book and despite personal publication was successful.

I had thought that the part-time student assistant had made copies of all the records I could anticipate needing for resumption of The King Conspiracies but she hadn't and I think recently did, at least until my missing notes on the essential FBI Memphis files are located. I also had to make space in my office for files I want her^l to retrieve from the basement relating to my personal investigations of the King case. This required moving two feet or more of relevant FBI records, its correspondence with the FBI about the King assassination. Congressional records being immune under FOIA, this file is of the FBI's end of that correspondence. I have completed the review of it, she has copied all of the records I indicated for copying, with some followups remaining, I now have this space, and when the other work she is doing permits she can start bringing the other necessary records up from the basement. There are also records of the evidentiary hearing to be retrieved and brought up, like what we obtained under discovery.

Meanwhile, tax season being over, my wife has begun retyping the Prologue and when she finishes that I'll read it and note the minimum citations to records required and will have this student start searching for them.

This at least is what I plan, subject to my physical limitations and the coming medical evaluations.

I want to add what should be added to my own confessions of personal failure that in retrospect are not inclusive or detailed enough, particularly with regard to Jim Garrison. Introspection was triggered by a question George Lardner had asked me when I told him that despite earlier misgivings I openly disassociated myself from his Clay Shaw prosecution, to which I'd paid little or no attention in the belief that was quite wrong, that he had the case he alleged. I dated this the Sunday evening before the empanelling of the jury began. Lardner wanted to know why that late, more or less this. In thinking about it, as I wrote him, I could not really explain it to myself or understand it.

However, further thinking was triggered by several phone calls from the most junior of Garrison's assistant DAs, Andrew "Noo" Scimabra, and then a recognition was dated by my hasty perusal of several files from which I believe Lardner will want to use some of the content on the planned book on the Oliver Stone movie.

Scimabra had told me that half or more of his and the time of others working for Garrison had been taken by "damage control." As soon as he used those words I realized that this also was true of me and what I was doing in New Orleans, if not to that extent.

The readily-available retrieved records, relating to the fake book, "Farewell America," by French intelligence - and why should it have gone to all that cost and trouble is a lingering if also suggestive question - date the beginning of my own "damage control" to not later than 2/68.

This may or may not explain what Lardner wanted to know but in any event it is part of my failure if it also was successful damage control.

Garrison and I were never close. I am inclined to attribute this to the fact that alone among the critics who went to New Orleans I worked independently of him (mostly

on learning more about Oswald) and in part because I also alone did not sit in awe at the feet of the master. And on occasion differed with him, once so strongly that I really had expected Scimabra, a former boxer, to jump me.

As soon as I started to read and correct this I became aware of misplaced and exaggerated emphasis. I was working of the critics' failures but the major and most significant failures ~~on~~ those times of great stress and ever since is by the basic institutions of our society. Beginning with the Warren Commission, the FBI, Secret Service, CIA. etc. If the greatest failures are theirs, as I believe, the media and the courts also failed. I do not now ~~go in to~~ go into these. Of the judicial failures, more than enough is in the files on the FOIA litigation. I think that this also is true of the files I kept on some of the media, the information is in them. And under them by name in my office files. Both also require treatment in The King Conspiracies. Some of this, relating to the commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the JFK assassination, ^{is} are in a separate and clearly identified box.

It is possible that some of the documentation for this part is not included in this FAILURES file. I am certain that some of the retrieved records relating to the first of the Whitewash series remains with the documents copied for use in The King Conspiracies because they may be used in it, as text or in notes. Most of the documentation was not retrieved and most of the necessary notes were not indicated, only a few that I thought of while drafting.

I should have included the Congress in the failed institutions. I have more than enough filed under the House Select Committee on Assassination. I'll also be addressing it in the text of The King Conspiracies.

When I have medical information I'll provide it.