

noon 3/27/72

Of the two earlier pages of this memo I had made few copies, intending no distribution among what I can hardly again call "the critical community". On finishing it I had begun to read what has, from the short part of it I did read, remarkable appropriateness, the almost-complete text of Alexander Solzhenitsyn's undelivered "before acceptance speech, "The Truth of Art". It is in today's News Post. I had hardly passed his quotation of Vladimir Solovoy, to which I subscribe, when the phone rang. That quote is,

Even in chains we must ourselves be just complete
That circle which the gods have mapped out for us.

I spare you the obvious, a lecture on who has helped forge the chains.

The phone call was from one of the correspondents with whom I had consulted on the expectable, to test my own estimate of so long ago, Ian McDonald of The Times Of London. He has the weekend trick today. He read me Graham's entire story, noting as he did each of those forecasts I had accurately made to him so long ago.

We spent more than an hour on the phone, discussing the story and quote of Wecht as we went, the stupidities of the arrogant ignorant so clear in this story and in those areas worse than I had anticipated, worse than the ambitions who have abdicated yet presume to estimate can, I think, see -the added danger in his demands are now honored. I can only hope they are not. They may be the norms of forensic pathology, as I presume, but they are new and even less needed disaster.

Were I the kind of man so many of you have deceived yourself into believing me to be, thereby deceiving yourselves about yourselves, I would delight in chapter and verse on how I told you so, as indeed I did. I am instead sick to have been right, and sickened more that such fine minds could be so closed, such bright eyes so clouded for so long. Instead I restrict myself to two comments. One is that despite my opposition to all of what I anticipated, I went out of my way WITH GRAHAM to accredit Cyril, when Howard happened by accident to be here. In doing that I gave Graham each of Cyril's phone of which I know to be sure contacting him would be easy. AND THIS WAS BEFORE LATTIMER SAID ANYTHING. If any of you doubts this, Howard heard my end of that conversation and I invite your asking him. This should tell you as much about yourselves as about me, those of you I address. Secondly, I indulge a writer's ego and quote myself (from WWII, a chapter title), there are none so blind as those who will not see.

Those of you who clearly wanted to let more Kennedy blood, rejoice! You have done it! Taste it and enjoy it, for that, if not the only, is the immediate reward of your labors. Savor its richness, for you have nothing else. Nothing you want, anyway.

You do have what you don't want, an exculpation of all the guilty.

So enjoy what little you can.

You also have the incrimination of the innocent, and that, consciously or otherwise, you did want and you did get. If you do not on your own understand this, I will explain separately to those worth the time and any longer worthy of my trust. The others, well, just don't believe me and be happier for it.

Christ! If you but understood it, Lattimer did us some good!

But console yourself: the soul (had he one) of the departed Hoover is in your debt.

Be content: Specter ought now like you more than Walter Granite and CBS.

Be proud of your accomplishments: you have buried truth deeper than Hoover and his collaborators, and this is no mean accomplishment. So, be proud!

Health! You did what you set out to do. Perhaps all of it is not yet accomplished, but the only thing you can add is hurt of me, and that also many of you, consciously or otherwise, lusted for. The tragedy is that by this your lust will not be satisfied. Nor will it be when Cyril writes whatever he does for whatever journal he elects or has elected.

Or do you consider that you have at last been party to bringing the truth to light, that the Kennedy family is responsible for all the suppressions of the vital evidence. The brain, of course, is the vital evidence. And Robert Kennedy did do something with it, did he not? Believe it Marion Johnson, not me, for that is less uncomfortable. The brain! Ah, that is the answer to all, as it is Cyril's only original testimony (in an entirely different context) in Judge Hallock's court, where there was entirely different significance.

Do join him in the fight for the missing slides of tissue samples! Do. Don't worry

if you prove scorching on the read-tissue slide, for that is what the Commission said.

Worry less about the non-existent slides that can't be produced because they never did exist. Just force the production of what will be accepted as proof of the infamy you pretend to abhor and deplore but by your actions support.

You keep pressing with Cyril for the production of that thing he said could be a bullet (for elephants if not for Presidents, but without the power ~~box~~ or pumpuffs), that "structure" as few of you understood when it was in the panel report. Don't let it trouble you in the slightest that there is no reason to believe it shows in the original X-rays, as a bullet would have. It can't, of course, be Davidson's ice bullet. Nor can it be Garrison's (and CIA's/Rob Smith's) fragile bullet. So, let it be a plastic bullet? Do plastics show in X-rays? Be untroubled about the improbability of any bullet, ice, plastic or lead, deforming itself into a perfect rectangle. Give it that old college try? Hoover will appreciate. Spector, Selin, Ball, Liebler - the dead Dulles - they will appreciate it, too. Let nothing impede your quest for untainted truth! Truth alone is your ally, isn't it? And naturally, Cyril's, too.

Indulge an aging and tiring man's unhidden ego as he again, in paraphrase, quotes himself (again WWII): Truth had such friends she had no need of enemies.

You've just gotta be right. Didn't HBU just have a two-hour special pinning all the blame for Vietnam on JFK? Can you be in better blood-letting company?

You have the apology I owe you. I do not have the Eisen in front of me. I am indeed, as some have alleged, secretly both wealthy and a miser, and thus I will not spend the cost of the paper or add another 10 miles to the more than 100,000 on my car to get it. If I did have it before me, being more eye-minded than ear-minded, I might find a few more of the encodings you so richly deserve. Eventually I'll get it. If you yearn for it, ask it. I'll find the time. Never were such panegyrics so warranted. This is the least I can do for you. Most of all do I consider that I owe this obligation to those who, in not helping bring out ~~FOUR MONTHS~~ when you could without real hurt, laid a basis of credibility for Burke Marshall's updating of Marc Antony's oration.

If I have not, in these fewer words than you have earned, satisfied you, indulge again the prerogative I assert as I am about to begin my 70th decade and reread parts of the Epilogue to WWII. Those of you who find any reference to the Kennedy name substitute for JFK simply "truth". And enjoy!

At the end of our conversation I asked Ian to summarize his impressions of the "Waken piece. I told him my purpose was to include them in a memo to others and I wouldn't mention his name. He said by all means to use it, so I do. These are:

There is nothing all that new (the flap in the skull left rear is all that is).

It bears out my warnings of long standing that the Kennedys would be shafted (his word).

It exculpates all but the Kennedys.

and it is not straight treatment by Graham. This came only when I asked him a leading question. The others he volunteered. I did not expect straight treatment. I had ample reason not to expect straight treatment, even by the standards of a by-lined piece.

It is, as must be clear, my intent to bring you comfort. So let me add to that. Ian was undecided whether he would file a short piece on this. If he did, what would I say on the record. I said this added nothing significant to what was known, fell far short of what was known, and falsely pinned responsibility for suppression of the essential evidence on those not responsible, exculpating the guilty and incriminating those not guilty. Thus, for those of you who would cast me in the role of villain, I have done it for you and confess it.

I have an added word of comfort for those who profess dedication to the Oswald cause, where some have been pretty explicit. Cyril held an added press conference in Pittsburgh, apparently yesterday. He said Oswald alone could not have fired all the shots, according to AP. Everyman's translation: Oswald did fire ~~gone~~ Oswald and upward with TRUTH!

Your convenient villain,

Harold Weisberg