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Hugh McDonald and books, Appointment in Dallas and L.B.J and the J.F.K. Conspiracy. *Books + my P.A. request*

McDonald, a former Los Angeles County sheriff who flashed praises bearing the signature of the founding FBI Director and claimed to have worked contracts for the CIA, co-authored these two fraudulent, libelous books both of which reflect badly on the FBI.

The caption of the attached record and its filing in 62-109060 in themselves make all information about these books relevant. (Serial 7440X) Their pretense that are are works of non-fiction and the extensive promotional activity by the original publisher, Zebra, together with extensive TV and other advertising for other works co-authored by McDonald in which he is represented as a federal agent, leave little doubt that there must be files <sup>s</sup> other than this single page, all I have seen to now in what the FBI has provided.

McDonald is a talented con man, despite the FBI's praises of him.

His is one of the two works allegedly on the JFK assassination that received most attention in recent years. His first is based on the claim to a confession by the alleged assassin, "Saul" not "Sol" in the first book and "Georgi Visko" in the second. (The other, by Edward J. Epstein, is no less disinformational but is of different cahraction.) McDonald and his books thus become historically important in the JFK case.

I have some first-hand knowledge coming from a consultancy. A well-known publisher whose counsel knew me was approached by an agent who had once represented me with a 60-page summary of the proposed first book. The money-making potential of a confession and a conspiracy book were attractive but the counsel was apprehensive. The original consultancy consisted of reading these 60 pages and giving a verbal opinion.

Because of the disinformational importance and the sheer daring of the fraud I did more work that had been asked of me. I wound up with three different versions of the allegedly single work of non-fiction and confession and had had McDonald interviewed by subterfuge (without any 7e claim). In the end I was asked to participate in a meeting between this publisher and his counsel and chief editor and McDonald and his agent and about three lawyers.

It was a fascinating challenge and I enjoyed it. It required that without blowing it I draw from this talented, amoral man who also taught the police art of interrogation identifications of the real characters he masked and other proofs of knowing fraud. (I had already traced some of the real characters who are not actually part of the assassination story and had a copy of the earlier version of the book in which, as now in the second, McDonald has President Johnson involved in the conspiracy to kill JFK. There was libel. One of the many may have contributed to a well-known suicide, that of George DeMohrenschildt.

The situation was made more delicate by my former association with the agent, John Starr.

Starr had to know he was merchandizing a fraud. (In his earlier life he was the successful author of mystery stories.)

Starr took over for another agent who was leaving the country in early 1967. With this he took over a deal for the reprinting of my second book and a deal for my third, which he managed not to get reduced to writing and from which the publisher then withdrew, while also not living up to the agreement for the second book. To this day I have not succeeded in getting the semi-annual accountings Starr should have obtained and provided. It was all very costly to me, as Starr well knew. He was, clearly, uneasy over my unexpected presence.

There came a time during that morning when I thought I'd like to leave for a while and I did. As I suspected, Starr expressed his surprise over and dislike of my presence but only in my short absence.

When I returned I went into what I said from my experience would be problems with the promotional activity for the work and especially on talk shows with probing questioners. It was in response to questions I suggested would be asked about credibility that McDonald produced the Hoover praise and similar records.

In the end the professor of interrogations was unaware that he had been interrogated in some depth. He and Starr both thanked me for my help at the end of the meeting.

The intended publisher, who had been anxious to do the book because he was certain it would be profitable, his counsel and I then lunched and discussed the matter. The publisher decided to offer a \$20,000 advance if the book would be done as fiction, which it clearly is. McDonald and Starr declined because McDonald insisted his bad fiction was non-fiction.

Zabra did the book as an original paperback. Walter Zacharias of Zebra told me that while the first book was still selling he had sent McDonald a check for \$400,000. Zabra covered itself against suit by creating the Hugh McDonald Publishing Co., at Zabra's Madison Avenue address, apparently in such haste that the book identifies both as publisher.

After consulting with me and after offering \$25,000 for the pre-publication rights a popular publication withdrew from that arrangement, having been satisfied that the book was a fraud.

Subject experts sometimes can prove negatives, despite the language to the contrary in the Warren Report.

I caught some of McDonald's personal promotions. He associated the FBI and the CIA with himself and his prior alleged career. That such a thing does not appear in FBI records does appear to be unusual. I assume it and other information of interest does but is filed other than under 62-109060. It nonetheless is relevant.

One living person who is libelled in both books is now an executive of Peoples Drug Stores, Len Davidov, formerly of Security Associates. He had been in charge of Barry Goldwater's security during that presidential campaign, assisted by McDonald and the since deceased Herman Kimsey, formerly CIA, fired, and a villain in both books. Davidov, who I've met, professes fondness for Kimsey but has been silent over the libels.

That there are other records relating to McDonald and his literary faking is indicated by a Not Recorded Serial, an airtel from SAC, Dallas to Director, of 1/6/76. It makes corrections in its airtel of 12/31/75, a record I do not recall seeing. It refers to the 12/31/75 airtel as "an analysis" of the first McDonald book.

This reminds me that a year or more ago I appealed the withholding of all the analyses of all the assassination books and all the Dallas records relating to the books and their authors. I also specified FBIHQ components where such records should be and where searches were not made.

With regard to my self and my writing I pointed out that I have not received any of the underlying work, only alleged comment on some of my writing, and that the underlying records exist and have not been provided.

That is a 1975 request, still not met and the appeal still not acted on. Meanwhile, the FBI has violated my rights under PA with regard to such records and the distribution and other misuses made of them. These more recent and hurtful uses extend to the Congress.