

Harold Weisberg Rt. 8, Frederick, Md. 21701
4/1/74

Mr. Les Whitten
c/o Jack Anderson
1612 K St., NW
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Whitten,

There is quite a World War II story on Rohm & Haas (not Hass) and its then subsidiary, Resinous Products & Chemicals Co. and patents.

After I exposed them (and other Nazi corporations) they were taken over by the government. In the case of R & H as I now recall it, their clandestine royalty payments to the Nazis permitted computation of our military aviation production by simple arithmetic. They controlled Plexiglas and had engineered restrictive agreements with Dupont over lucite.

What I dug up in the course of a long a definitive series that related to synthetic oil and synthetic rubber was so hot nobody would touch it. Topical today, though.

The work I then did was so definitive I had photostats of all patent assignments.

But should going any farther with this Rohm & Haas past interest you, I'll not take the time to search my old files because of the experiences I have had with your office in the past. To say nothing of the policy hangup on me.

However, because of the probable national significance of your short column item, I will give you a couple of suggestions.

If Joe Borkin, then not a lawyer, was not Thurman Arnold's right-hand man bureaucratically, he was, I am pretty sure, in fact. Joe was then in anti-trust and he is the one to whom I gave what my work produced. I may, in fact, have given him or the British Ministry of Economic Warfare my stats after the story appeared.

There is what I would regard as one hell of a story on Hugh Scott in this. He was then a Congressman on the House Patents Committee. If he did not arrange it he was the honcho at a secret session to which they called me in which he actually undertook to defend this Nazis. There was no question about the corporation being a Nazi corporation nor was there ever a question about my documented expose. Scott undertook to go after me, not the Nazis. But the transcript was such that he and Kramer, then committee chairman and as I recall a Silver Shirts, dared not print it. So a simple solution to the Rohm & Haas problem was evolved: the committee, meaning someone on it, gave them carefully selected excerpts from such things as Scott's loaded questions and the corporation reprinted them and circulated them in pretended answer to my expose.

If Borkin doesn't remember this, if John Coffee, then a Congressman and a friend of Drew's, may remember. John was also a friend of mine. It was no trick to anticipate the purpose of this secret hearing and I asked John to be sure to be there. He was and he finally broke it up with the charge that the committee was acting as counsel for Nazis.

I doubt he would tell you about it if he is still alive and around but Walter Gallagher was at the hearing officially representing the corporation, rather an odd arrangement for a secret session. I knew Walter well from his Department of Justice days, when I worked for the Senate. Brien McMahon was Chief of the Criminal Division and Walter was a young assistant. In their prosecution of the Harlan coal operators and their deputized thugs I lived and worked with them for about four months. When Brien opened his own office, Walter joined his firm.

Even in those days, when patents were its major resource, this relatively young corporation had a lot of political clout. Much more than with Scott, Charlie Kramer and the House Patents Committee.

Anderson should remember the investigating committee that made Harry Truman famous.

I took the story to Truman, personally, before publication. His committee declined to even look into on the ground that the corporation secretary, an American, denied it!

Staunton Chauncey Kelton was, indeed, the Yankee secretary, but the documentation was irrefutable and the corporation was vested soon after my story appeared. I also had a full confession from a member of the board who was known to me from my newspapering days.

Although I regard what Scott did as thoroughly reprehensible on several grounds, in fairness to him and to illuminate how far back this influence with patents goes, I also tell you the Truman story.

Monopolistic misuse of patents was then more important than national defense and American and Allied lives and in its extreme form, the outcome of the war. This more than illicit royalties through Swiss fronts was the Nazi interest.

Should you desire to go into the deal that restricted U.S. development of the synthetics, oil and rubber, as I recall also involving coal, I have a sufficient recollection to give you the leads that should get you well started. In fact, if the Patent Office files are intact, it should all still be there. However, if Justice lets you see what they have, if no more than from me, you should have enough with no further work. It is my recollection that Justice did nothing with this, not publicly at least.

The patent story stunk then and virtually throughout American industry, which was untroubled by Nazi taint. Among the stories I recall are those on drugs and stainless steel. In time, as I recall through America First banks in Chicago, the cartel interests reached Walter Annenberg, today Nixon's pal and then managing the properties for his father Moe, then in jail. This series then ended and there was a major change in the policy of the magazine, with the anti-Nazi exposes, including several involving the State Department, ended.

There is another kind of topicality in one of the exposes of that day, one FDR used in his famous fireside chat on Latin America. My part in it was getting the documentation out of Chile, then under considerable Nazi influence. The inheritors of those interests seem to have taken the country back.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg