

1/2/76

Dear Henry,

My answer to your 12/30 will be shorter than you might like. Our lives change this time of the year. Our only regular income is my wife's as manager of a local H & R Block office. It began today, runs to 4/16, and for this period I'll also have to do part of what she does here. Today this means making up about a dozen orders and responding to that many or more letters, with the late start from having to drive her to the office and the interruption of going for her.

I'm making an exception today and taking care of the correspondence first partly because I'll have to stay up for the CBS show (I'm trying to rest more to recovery more fully and faster) and perhaps can get the packaging done then. Otherwise, this will be the one occasion on which today's orders are not in tomorrow's mail. We'll do them over the weekend and mail them Monday. But in addition to the considerable amount of other work I try to do, of which you know a little, I have had to undertake still new responsibilities simply because there is no choice. I'll be even busier in the time I can work.

The date of issue of Acquarian tends to limit the possibilities. It is remotely possible that at some prior time after appearance of Post Mortem I did a radio show by phone in which the question came up, but the detail eliminates that as a possibility.

I had two commissions as a consultant on the McDonald book. I have to regard both as confidential. In meeting these I did supply considerable detail. But not under any other circumstances or in any detail to anyone else. So, my best guess is that the author is connected with one of those for whom I did work. I regret I have to keep the content of the work confidential. I asked for a release and was refused it. This does not keep me from telling you a few of the things I learned, but I'd like you to keep them confidential because I have asked DJ to institute a fraud/mail fraud investigation. In several weeks no response. If I were in NY I'd go to the NY County DA. It is a gross and deliberate fraud, completely made up and out of nothing. It has all the characteristics of a spook black book. There are three different versions and I have all three. FYI only, they contradict each other. They have different times and places, different sponsorship of the job, etc. Different accounts of how he saw Saul's picture. (Saul is next to Raul.)

There is, in, short, nothing in the whole book that stacks. Aside from the fraud.

I understand so vast a sum is being spent in promotion that its high place on the sales list does not really mean the book is in the black yet. This means that someone was running a considerable financial risk. While there are business people who take long shots on profit, this one seems far out. I've heard someone named Geller in Conn. is the angel.

If you hear anything on this I'd like to know simply because there is the possibility that it is a spook job, to destroy all credibility and to build sympathy.

While I've not had time to read it, there are aspects of Anson's that fit this. His formula for one thing. It is a major ripoff, too. So, I have similar interests in his and what he says, etc., on the chance and for archival purposes.

If the lecture bureau could have booked me in L.A. it would have. The major problem is the competition from the commercializers who rip the mind off with the pocket. They have corrupted a fair percentage of current collegiate minds with the wildest stuff. But I have challenged Salwson to arrange a debate, leaving the format up to him.

Thanks and excuse the typos.

Have a good year,

74
10/10/10

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SPEED MESSAGE

TO Harold Weisberg

FROM Henry Durkin

SUBJECT _____

DATE 12/30/75 19__

Dear Harold:

Thought I would respond to yours of 12/26 before the rates go up. Enclosed is a copy of the item on you vs McDonald, from the Aquarian. Seeing it in context may help you trace back the source of the statement. I don't subscribe to the paper, just happened to pick up a copy on the newsstand because it had a headline on the cover about assassinations.

I don't have anything on the Anson book---have seen no reviews of it. If I run across anything on him or McDonald, I'll let you know. Meantime, this past Sunday's New York Times Book Review announced that McDonald's was number 9 on the paperback best seller list and that more than 700,000 copies were in print.

Can't your lecture burea arrange for UCLA appearances by contacting the student government? How about a radio debate with Slawson---on one of those call in shows?

How did you get a pre-1972 copy of McDonald's book? The existence of that completely throws out his charge that he got Saul's confession in 1972. I'd love to read it. Matter of fact, I'd be willing to make you a xerox copy of it if you'd let me read it and make a copy for myself. I can get copying done at 6¢ a page.

All the best,

SIGNED _____

