

Dr. Phil Melanson  
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4/1/89

Dear Phil,

Thanks for the book, which came today.

Good title!

Why didn't you tell me you were working on a book? I might have been of some help.

Good luck with it.

I'm glad it is not a large book because, as you may recall, I have walking (actually mostly sitting) therapy every morning and I prefer carrying a book that is not large and heavy.

As soon as I finish Remembering America I look forward to remembering Murkin.

Best Wishes,

*Heard*

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Dave- the dust jacket and the brief acknowledgement that I've only skimmed tell me that Phil, too, wants it believed that he discovered sex and invented the wheel. Frankly, I'm surprised that he could be comfortable with so skimpy a book when there was such an abundance of pristine materials freely available to him. I think it is more than merely conspicuous that he makes no mention of them or how they became available in his acknowledgements. The dust jacket suggests that it was by means of his FOIA labors: "(t)hrough extensive interviews, research, and Freedom of Information Act requests, Melanson analyzes the official investigations, the evidence, the performance of law enforcement officials..." If the book doesn't represent that he did it all, this blurb sure does. So, what else is new?

HW 4/1/89

Dear Paul,

12/6/90

Although it is not necessary with regard to much of what I'll say, I don't want to get involved in any ~~new~~ controversies because I'm not now up to them, so please regard this as confidential Reur 12/1, 11/22/90, from the top.

Is there anything of any value in The Ruby Affair and Who Killed JFK?

You describe Melanson's The Murkin Conspiracy as "fascinating." The only way in which it is you were only partly in a position to detect, perhaps more but I recall one Jules Kimble. And only someone not intellectually capable of digesting a decent spy mystery could possibly accept what he based on Kimble. The critics, in general, are re-writing new spook mythologies, without regard to any realities or how they work. It is also a very bad and a very dishonest work. By a man who continues to stake his claim to owning the political assassinations in an even worse book, The Spy Saga. I don't want to go into all of it now, and there is really very much, but if you have any doubt at all, please ask Dave Wrone.

Now it happens that Greenwood Press, not Praeger, which owns it, asked Dave and me to read and comment on the Spy Saga ms. When I got into it, with as clear a recollection of I have of the crookedness, the rampant dishonesty, the utter irrationality of <sup>the terrible & wild</sup> The Murkin Conspiracy (of which I have a long analysis for archival purpose, not for circulation), I decided to do much more than is usually done and to be explicit and to skip very little. I sent them more than 80 of these pages, single spaced. It is that wrong, that very bad. Dave has a copy and can give you his evaluation of the ms and of what I did. I heard nothing from Greenwood and I <sup>didn't</sup> answer their question, might they show it to the author, by saying not only that they could but that I'd respond to anything he had to say in writing. I've heard nothing from him. Then Dave picked a copy up in a book store and phoned me. He simply could not believe that anyone would publish any book as bad as <sup>that</sup> ~~he~~, independently, before he saw what I'd written, found that to be. I got a copy at a local store, just to have to answer any questions, and I made only a spot check in the index. He had built a major part of this rot on that same Kimble! I had sent Greenwood, because that was so important in the ms, documentary proof that it was all lousy fiction, not in any sense true. So I checked the index under Kimble - and he isn't there. I'm not bothering to check anything else. I add only that there was extensive cribbing in the ms. Some of which I noted. I don't know why Greenwood would not put its name on the book. It is Praeger's. Perhaps it is Greenwood's claim to publish only the scholarly.

Anyone who can believe any part of the Ricky White story would buy the Brooklyn Bridge. ANY part. And anyone who would believe that any intelligence agency would put such stuff on paper is entirely ignorant of intelligence agencies. Anywhere, not just here.

You say that someone should check the Texas AG files on the DPD. I gave <sup>him</sup> but a set of prints from microfilm of it. So why didn't he check, if he didn't, and why don't you

ask him to? and when the story is so palpably impossible, why check to find whether Rocky and LHO ever met each other or were photographed together? Nothing better to do than prove the world is flat?

AARC has held itself back only for public consumption. Bud is still hot on it. I had a visit several weeks ago from Hemming and "oy Hargraves. They said they were working for Bud on this.

On Clay Shaw I'll have a copy of an article that appeared in England for you. I'd forgotten until he phoned me yesterday but some months ago I helped a ~~xxx~~ writer who did the story. This fellow checked out all the British addresses Shaw had posted, going back in particular to the 1940s. There were extensive connections just one man removed from the Cambridge circle of spies for the USSR, of whom Philby is the most famous. He also had one deep love and other such connections there.

I've read Moore's monstrous Conspiracy of One, with the modest subtitle, my emphasis, The Definitive Book on the Kennedy Assassination. He didn't mean Bobby. I also don't want to get involved in any controversy about it, but I can't recall a more dishonest and in all other ways as bad a book, except possibly for Melanson's, which may be worse because he boasts of his academic credentials, and status as one of us critics. Unless you collect garbage or horror stories you have no use for it. There isn't a single fact relating to the assassination in it save for a few of the things he plagiarized. and most if not all that he stole he also misused. At the very end he admitted that his purpose was to clobber the critics and that we needed clobbering. So don't mention any of this for a different reason. As a high-school egomaniac he was in touch with me. He quotes letters I do not have. I've written him to ask him for copies and I'd like to get them. Not that I think he'll be sure to do if he hears nothing of my reading his swill. Not, it isn't even that good. That is eaten by pigs.

You mention Tony Summers. His Hoover book should be about done. Heard anything?

Hope you are all well and happy,

*Harold*

Who Killed Martin Luther King, Otwood/BBC-TV, cassette

10/25/89

I looked at this today and saw nothing both new and truthful in it.

They weave <sup>(in)</sup> without credit, much of what I did ~~in~~ through others, like Bill Pepper, and the records I got by suing the CIA through Melanson, who later got only some of them, perhaps from me, and based on a few facts and the work of others they develop the Melanson/Jules Ricco Kimble conspiracy fairy tale. They give the incredible Kimble credibility by having Jim Garrison say he never lied, then modified to except when the CIA planted the lies in Kimble's mind. *Don't believe in what the CIA, except Garrison, to whom who believe?*

There is more that is not really worth any time but I begin this way to raise questions of the responsibility and integrity of the producers, who no doubt consider themselves fair and honest. (They ~~was~~ never did send me the copy of the transcripts they promised and I've sent a couple of reminders. But after seeing the show I doubt there is any value in the transcripts.)

They begin with a guy whose name I didn't get claiming he was the only one looking through a peephole - maybe Richmond, the cop? - and saw King shot from the front. *White man?*

They use Fletch Prouty to describe almost anything as a conspiracy, government.

They use a small fragment of what they filmed of me to introduce their section Was the Bundle Planted, and then then reconstruct the finding of the package with Sheriff Dep. Dollahite running through an alleged reconstruction that does not duplicate what he did when at the time he used and stopped and got out of his vehicle. He and they are so confused they have him saying the package was not outside Canipe's when he went into Jim's Grill and was there when he emerged - he saw it when he turned to his right. It was to his left.

They use Melanson from time to time in fictions he has dreamed up, like a Tact unit had been provided for security and was removed at the King party's request. He debunks that. It was not a Tact unit and after repeated complaints it was removed. *Top level police brass.*

They use Ed Redditt as credible and to claim that the Secret Service was part of the conspiracy because they had him pulled off the spying detail. In fact it was, as is well known, an investigator for the Senate Internal Security Committee, not the Secret Service, Manuel, and even if he had lied (the story supposedly came to him from sources inside Mississippi) there had been many and repeated protests from blacks about Redditt's presence spying on King and blacks had threatened him. *He was a spy and not security.*

They use Bill Pepper on such things that I had brought to light as Marrell McCullough being first at the King corpse, not that I care, but they knew the truth, and they do the same with the CIA records I got with Melanson, and they here, too, knew the source. Melanson protests that the records he got from the FBI, which are some of those I got in CA 75-996, withhold the name of McCullough, and he makes a big sort of conspiratorial deal out of that but it is only that the FBI screwed him because I made them produce more than the McCullough name in that lawsuit. This is also to say that Melanson can't even duplicate competently and he could have gotten the same records and more here. Only he was hiding from me what he was up to. (As Bill Pepper still is.) I also gave Pepper whatever he asked for and got a student to do the searching for him. *Jarnie Hart.*

If the name I couldn't catch is Myron Billett, who is used to say that the CIA and FBI offered the mafia contracts to kill King, Billett also is entirely incredible.

They take the Melanson silliness that Kimble was Raoul to Ray, which Ray denied, and film Kimble in jail alleging that it was all a CIA-FBI plot. He says he flew Ray to Canada, which is false, and that he flew two snipers to Memphis the week before, which is worse that false-it is silly because it was not known the week before that King would return.

It may well be interesting to those who know nothing but it is not any kind of contribution to public understanding, here or in England. Somehow they managed to omit the most ridiculous of Melanson's fictions while taking some of what he did on the Galt alias and to make that seem credible omit the middle name of "Starvo" that Ray included. But there is nothing new and accurate on what Melanson did that is in any way relevant to Ray's use of that name or any significance it could have had. *10/25/89* where I criticize them, as with Dollahite, they knew better. I gave them the FBI records.

Dear Dave,

Re: Murkin conspiracy!

4/27/89

Night before last - kept dozing as I was correcting what I've written, rather  
logg, and early this morning I reread the last part, and I had been dozing! It needs much  
more but it won't get it because there is no need for more than a record. Convoluted  
sometimes, too many thoughts in a sentence and other such faults, many, but I'm satisfi-  
fied it is accurate and not unfair.

Because I say some pretty serious things I decided that instead of reading to-  
night, when I'm tired, I'd make a quick check of my Melanson file. In brief, my  
hunches and my recollections were correct. I've made copies of a few of these and perhaps  
tomorrow I'll straighten them out - the file is not in chron order - and I'll write  
further.

Among the records I did not copy are a number thanking me for my time and so many  
documents he did get a lot from me and I even did searching for him. (Came a time I told  
him he ought not be asking questions when the answers are in Fraemup. His copy was stolen  
and I sent him another.)

I don't care about credit per se but what and how an author writes and credits  
does address his personal and professional standards - as well as what he does not  
credit, what he credits to the wrong sources and what he takes and presents as his own.  
You find such things in what I've written and will copy and send after I finish this,  
which I'll also add to it.

The few things I've copied will show that he knew that what he took credit for  
came out in my litigation, that he knew the records he got from CIA are only some of  
those that I'd gotten by suing them, that there was no secret of the Fat Man's name and  
he got it and the report he (mis)uses from me.

In all I answered my question, gave much solicited advice, including on how to  
reach and deal with Ray and many strange notions he had.

He refers to his research and teaching only as the basis for his interest. as I  
told you, he never once even hinted that he was doing a book

I don't and if I wanted to, as I don't, I could not keep records of what I give  
people. So, for the most part, - don't know what I gave him. The file does reflect his  
thanks and appreciation and perhaps more.

It also reflects his ignorance about the FBI and what caught my eye is my having  
to tell him what an FBI FD302 is! after all those published by the Warren Commission.

I just wanted, so I would not forget, <sup>to</sup> note a few of these things. Not all but  
some of what will not be reflected in the copies I've made and will ~~send~~ send.

Best,



with her husband and children. But readers may not get far past the threshold of understanding the "bone house," as the author regards her body. Mairs (*Plaintext; In All the Rooms of the Yellow House*) is a person of accomplishments, coping with multiple sclerosis and recovering from suicide attempts and other ills to succeed as a college teacher as well as a writer. Yet her book loses much of its zest because of her incessant repetition, in eventually wearisome detail, of her sexual adventures with many men and her brief affair with a woman. Though Mairs believes these experiences were necessary to create erotic poetry—the linchpin of her life—the lurid effects drown her poet's voice and seem more exploitative than revelatory. (Apr.)

**THE DANCE OF INTIMACY:**

**A Woman's Guide to Courageous Acts of Change in Key Relationships**  
*Harriet Goldhor Lerner*. Harper & Row, \$17.95 ISBN 0-06-016067-5

This sensible self-help book draws on family-systems therapy in recommending thoughtful "self-focus" for women stuck in difficult relationships with either mates or families. Emphasizing that "a truly intimate relationship is one in which we can be who we are, which means being open about ourselves," Lerner (*The Dance of Anger; Women in Therapy*) highlights the importance of women defining themselves, their needs and limits, rather than reacting to anxiety unthinkingly—either by emotionally distancing themselves from problems or by overreacting. A staff psychologist and psychotherapist at the Menninger Clinic, Lerner illustrates her points with case studies from her family as well as her practice. To explore what unhelpful patterns of behavior may be passed down from past generations, she advises creating a genogram, or family diagram, going back to a person's grandparents or earlier. Lerner's book presumes at least an acquaintance with professional jargon but should be accessible to most readers of pop psychology. (Apr.)

**GLENN GOULD: A Life and Variations**  
*Otto Friedrich*. Random, \$22.50 ISBN 0-394-57771-X

A senior writer for *Time*, whose biographies and cultural histories (*Decline and Fall; Before the Deluge; City of Nets*) have been well received, has written an unorthodox, authorized biography of his hero of 33 years, the extraordinary Canadian pianist and eccentric. Like the music world generally, Friedrich was overwhelmed by Gould's first commercial recording, of Bach's *Goldberg Variations*, and this and the later recording of the *Varia-*

*tions* in 1981, serve as the guideposts and summation of an amazing career. Organized thematically (the composer, the TV star, the conductor, the private life, etc.) rather than chronologically, and incorporating 80 interviews, printed material and documents from the vast Gould archive in Ottawa, this absorbing adulatory work goes well beyond previous books on Gould and presents more detail and speculation than anyone but a Gould enthusiast would require. However, we are told that more than 60,000 of Gould's record albums are sold every year, so booksellers can expect a considerable demand for the biography as well. More than 100 pages list Gould's concerts, recordings, TV and radio shows and published writings. Photos. (Apr.)

**\*THE MURKIN CONSPIRACY:**

**An Investigation of the Assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.**

*Philip H. Melanson*. Praeger, \$21.95 ISBN 0-275-93029-7

Melanson, assassination expert and political science professor at South-eastern Massachusetts University, has done an exhaustively thorough job on the still-mysterious King assassination. After following Melanson's meticulous pursuit of seemingly every lead in the case—including interviews with the men whose names were used as aliases for alleged killer James Earl Ray—there can be little doubt in the reader's mind that neither of the two official versions of what happened could have been the whole truth. The first was the ever-popular notion of the lone killer: Ray. The second, propounded by a clearly inept congressional investigation a decade after the 1968 shooting, was that an ill-defined racist conspiracy was behind the assassination. What seems unarguable is that Ray, a petty criminal, could not have killed King unaided. There are too many improbabilities—the source of his carefully chosen Canadian aliases, the identity of the "fat man" who brought him a "letter" in Toronto during his escape, the odd setup at the rooming house from which the shot was fired. It is Melanson's thesis that there was high-level intelligence involvement, probably by the CIA, which was violently alarmed by King's anti-Vietnam stance. (Apr.)

**PROGRESS OF THE SEASONS:**

**Forty Years of Baseball in Our Town**  
*George V. Higgins*. Holt, \$18.95 ISBN 0-8050-0913-2

Higgins (*Wonderful Years, Wonderful Years; The Friends of Eddie Coyle*, etc.) grew up in Boston, and in this history of the Red Sox, he weaves the events of his life into the hometown backdrop of athletic non-achievement at the shrine of Fenway Park. Indoc-

# MACMILLAN PUBLISHING COMPANY announces its new discount schedule

The Macmillan Publishing Company is pleased to announce a new discount schedule effective January 1, 1989. This new policy is designed to increase bookstore profit margins overall with particular emphasis on the smaller seasonal orders and/or reorders. All trade books (paperback and hardcover, new and backlist titles) for all imprints and distributed lines combine.

## Macmillan Retail Trade Book Discount Schedule 1989

Combined Shipment Quantity:

1-9	20%
10-24	40%
25-49	43%
50-199	44%
200-999	45%
1000-2499	46%
2500 & over	47%

NOTE: Effective September 1, 1989. FPT will be discontinued on all Macmillan and Free Press titles.

Dear Dave,

4/18/89

I've finished reading Melanson's book but I'm far from finished typing my notes on it. It is getting quite lengthy and I've been quite detailed. There may be some repetition, in fact I think this is inevitable because I've not read and corrected as I type and I've filled 20 pages of this single-spaced typing and the heaviest annotations lie ahead. I may be a little while finishing up because I've had some interruptions, have some both pleasant and possibly unpleasant and really unpleasant coming. However, my instant analysis from reading the dust jacket and his acknowledgements was completely accurate. Aside from being a cheap egotrip, it is a lousy job, adding nothing to what is known where he is factual and a disinformation where he isn't. It is even lousy scholarship. He is ignorant of what is known and reflects this in several ways, by omission and by saying that what is known is not known. He has nothing but his theory that the CIA, read American intelligence network in the book, did it, and he lacks even a single tiny fact in support of his notion.

I've no intention of writing him more than I did when I got the book and I've no intention of engaging in any controversy about it. I also won't run away from any I do not seek but I don't want this to happen. I'll give you and Jerry copies, Roger if he wants one and Gerry Ginocchio if he does. One of the things I have to catch up on is responding to a recent note from him. He plans to take his family to Washington this summer and I'll see them then.

Today is Lil's birthday. I'd already planned to take her to supper and had invited the McKnights to be with us. First they accepted and then Barbara decided she wants to give Lil a second birthday, so we are going there for supper tomorrow night. Later this morning I see the local cardiologist who has been checking me annually and for the first time has some heart concern. He detected a murmur, sent me for echo and Doppler tests, and he tells me the results. The technician indicated that the most common cause is a leaky valve. I presume that absent some dire and pressing emergency he'll not recommend surgery but I'll know in six hours plus.

The fine kid who has done my mowing for several years ought not and this gives me an unpleasant problem. He reacts, allergies, and gets sinus infections, but he is really macho and, having overcome some really serious problems wants not to give in on this, a means by which he feels independent in making his own money. Not necessary because his family owns a quite successful local business. So, I've got to get a new tractor mower and plan on doing the mowing that can be done with it 10-15 minutes at a time, as I was able to do for a period several years ago, I can't trust this old faithful. I was given a decade ago and has survived some pretty wild-driving boys. I'll give it to a security guard at the mall who's just retired, he'll do my hand mowing and make a little in the city with this riding mower to supplement his retirement. We worked this out Sunday when he came to visit and found me on my back culling brambles from under the large dogwoods. He finished that up, did the same thing behind the house where they were coming up in a different flowerbed, and I was better off for it! I've been looking at replacement tractors and have to get one that is completely assembled and delivered.

Before I forget, BBC has a crew working on a King assassination special. They spent some time here months ago, have asked a few questions since and, I was surprised to learn in a two-hour consultation last night, are still in Memphis after a couple of months. From what they asked they've come up with nothing of any substance and more than a little crap. Two rather nice guys. They're returning to England for a few days and then say they want to come here again. What took this time yesterday was not unreasonable for them to check on but also isn't so. Not one bit of it. Of course I do not know what they have that they had no questions about. ...I've not heard from Chip Selby for some time so I think he is concentrating on completing his master's as fast as he can. Best to you!xxx all,

Had