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HAROLD WEISBERG

HE'S OLD AND WISE AND DEEPLY SAD... *"I ASK NOT WHAT MY COUNTRY CAN DO FOR ME, AND I SHUN NOT WHAT I CAN DO FOR MY COUNTRY."* MODERN AMERICA'S EMILE ZOLA... BUT WHO CAN HEAR WHEN HE DECLARES "J'ACCUSE"? STILL TELLING IT LIKE IT IS.

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Wouldn't you know it?

The first time we publish a picture that shows a female in leaves that exceed most modern bathing suits and a male in a leaf and a top hat we get inundated by phone calls... well, four calls to be exact...and six, count 'em, six letters about how sexist we are. And tragically, all letters and phone calls were from ladies.

Now tell me...is it just that men don't notice things like bare flesh while women do or is it that callous macho men take such things for granted and turn their eyes, not to the leaves but to the money tree in the background?

By the way, in case you miss the allusions, I'm talking about the cover on the last issue of *Options*. It was a Donato cartoon from the dust jacket of the Hon. Paul Hellyer's new book, *Funny Money*. The cartoon featured someone who might represent Eve and someone else who is clearly Adam because it says so on his top hat.

Well, anyway, we were trying to communicate the point that people, i.e. Eve, will ignore the money available from the tree and will act as if she can only get it from Adam. And also tied to the myth is Adam's comment, 'Of course you can have some, but first you will have to show me your collateral'.

That Adam presumes to require anything is the irony in the light of the wealth that grows so naturally. It is like the modern banking system which presumes to control money...the medium of exchange... and ignores the real wealth that is generated by society when they plough fields and mine nickel and paint houses.

There are myths of society that wont bear a careful study, but most people go on believing them as if they were true. And when *Options* renders a myth that kids it a bit there are a number of people who can't get below the surface...just like they can't or won't plumb the depths of our social myths.

My initial inclination was to treat the letters lightly, but my wife Cecile said 'Don't do that...show them what the myth comes from...in fact get Mary (a family name for Rita Marie Courtemanche) to write something about it.' Mary once taught art in high school but left after about ten years to marry and be a homemaker. The idea was, like most of Cecile's suggestions...but not all of them...quite interesting so at a family gathering I showed Rita Marie the cover and I said 'I think this is based upon a picture in the Vatican'. She replied 'Are you art literate or what, the painting in the Vatican...' but let her tell you in "On Myths and Misses and Maple Leaves."

I was driving through Maryland last spring when suddenly I saw the sign: 'Welcome to Frederick'. It occurred to me that this was the home of Harold Weisberg most of whose books I had read since they dealt with the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

I turned off the road at the next intersection and drove into the middle of the very pleasant and ancient town where at a Tourist Information booth I phoned Mr. Weisberg. I explained that I was just passing by and wanted to phone him with my best wishes...'Are you coming out?' he asked quickly. I explained that I didn't want to interrupt any...'Oh, nonsense' he broke in, 'if you want to come by we'd be delighted to have you. Let me tell you how to get here...' And, before I could find a way to suggest otherwise I was off across town to a wandering road into the country and nestled in a wooded valley was the Weisberg home, where Harold and his wife greeted me like kinfolk.

After some brief introductions, Harold pointed to a door to his basement. With a wonderful candor he said 'You can go on down to my files. My heart wont let me go up and down anymore, but anyone who wants to see my files is welcome to the run of the place.'

I went down the stairs where a large basement was filled with 60 or 70 or more filing cabinets. Each drawer was filled with carefully cross-referenced files that covered every significant word in the official 27 volumes of United States Government cover-up known as the *Warren Report*. For three or more hours I browsed through what must be one of the most comprehensive and impressive collections of evidence and analysis that exists outside of official hands. It was a very impressive monument to two great people, Harold and Mrs. Weisberg, who have supported each other in the long and thankless task of exposing the truth of what happened in Dallas on November 22, 1963. I am pleased to see that Paul Lalonde has linked Harold's *Selections From Whitewash* with two other important books: Charles Reich's *Opposing the System* and Donald Gibson's *Battling Wall Street*. If you don't know the truth of what's going on, it's not because there was nobody trying to tell you. It was just that you weren't looking hard enough.

I'm still enjoying my computer course and I want to state how thoroughly professional and efficient the International Correspondence Schools are. My computer, keyboard and CPU all arrived in good shape and I am continuing in my efforts to become computer literate. I am now on lesson ten (of 17 lessons) and find the study a delightful recreation as much as a study effort. By the way, if you are interested in taking a computer course which will provide you with all the hardware and software as well as lessons and exams, you might want to write to me. I have prepared a three page summary of study tips that have served me very well and, if you enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope I will send you a copy. At the same time, with your permission, I will send your name on to ICS in Montreal. Write to me with your S.S.A.E. at:

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