

"OSS"-Nicholas Deak

HW 11/29/73

At about 10 a.m. today I got a phone call from a woman who asked for me by name, then asked me to wait a moment, and then asked me if I would care to "join the OSS". She said she had been given my name by Nicholas Deak, who said I would like to "join."

I did not know Nicholas Deak, but the name seemed familiar. The only Deak I could think of is the foreign-exchange dealer, Deak & Co. At about 14 and NY Ave., NW, D.C. We had had no dealings ever and I am sure we have not to my knowledge met.

I asked her who Deak is and got no answer.

I asked what kind of gag it is because to my knowledge OSS officially ended long ago. She said not so, still active, etc. It took a little time to learn that she was not talking about OSS but about an association of former OSSers. It is not listed under any of the obvious names in the DC phone book I have.

In answer to the question would I like to join I asked for details and then its literature. (I would have thought that there would have been a mailing on its organization.) She was indefinite on dues, as I recall, saying that they were about \$15 a year. She referred to an annual dinner meeting, etc.

I asked her to send me the literature. We'll see.

In speaking to Lesar I asked him if the name meant anything to him. He associated it immediately with another of that name and an associate named Frewin who had approached CTIA some time ago. He also said that Deak has a dubious reputation for Asia dealings and this reputation includes long-time intelligence work. Apparently a connection with illicit transactions for profit, like black market.

At first I assumed this might be a pretext call of some kind, such as am I the right Harold Weisberg. It may have been. It may even be that there is such a group, that Deak is a member, and that he heard I had been with OSS.

I believe I said this in the remarks I made at the CTIA/Georgetown meeting Saturday, which would make it interesting that there was so fast a reaction if from that. I also learned from Lesar that the entire (disasterous!) proceedings were said to have been broadcast by Pacifica. I have reason to believe that all Pacifica broadcasts are taped for the federals. Perhaps if I did not say this then, the lead came from Martin Waldron's 11/22 piece, for I got a letter from a Washington woman named Caplan, a stranger, with "formerly" with the OSS or the name spelled out on the envelope. I would presume that if this is the immediate inspiration, then there was not ~~much less speed~~ much less speed, for that appeared just a week ago today, on a holiday.

Frewin's associate is a nut named or using the name Amos Heathcock or Heacock, from the upper northwest. He intruded heavily into the Saturday meeting, to make a speech in the guise of a question. John Henry Faulk could not stop him.

Lesar has a file on these people.