

Dear Sol,

1/29/90

After we spoke last night I thought again about the Schering drug story I wrote almost 50 years ago I got to thinking about that series again and something did come to mind that may interest you. It says, among other things, that even in those days when there was more of a willingness to be aware of and report matters of consequence, particularly about Hitler and the Nazis, there still was a limit on what could get published.

Aside from Schering, I was then working on other stories but I now don't recall which. The reason I didn't go on the Kingsholm trip with Lil is that I had so many stories to work on and was in debt. I do remember that in a two-month period I made enough, even though I was not well paid, having no agent and not much bargaining power, to pay my debt, buy a new car for cash and have a little left. (In those days the car cost me only about \$750, without heater or radio, both of which I put in at lower cost.)

CLICK was owned by Moe Annenberg, who was in jail, and it and his other properties, including the Philadelphia Inquirer and Triangle publications (which owned CLICK) and their radio stations were run by Walter Annenberg, his son, later the friend of so many presidents and other celebrities. CLICK had been officed in Philadelphia but at the time I was working on those stories it had moved to Fifth Avenue offices, just above 42, in NYC. I worked out of those offices on the Schering and other stories when I was in NYC. Thus I could and did get phone calls there.

While I was then in NYC I got a phone call from a woman reporter of whom I'd never heard. I recall her name as Hannah Baker. She was with Ralph Ingersoll's PM.

Here I digress for a moment to report that CLICK was then edited by M. Robert Rogers, who became a friend. After he and I were no longer with CLICK and after PM no longer existed, Rogers and ~~the~~ Ingersoll planned a new daily for NYC and Rogers told me that when it got started he wanted me to be the city editor. It never happened, of course.

Baker wanted to talk to me about a story I had already developed but had not written because I'd not been able to develop any interest in it, an aspect of the IG Farben-Standard Oil cartel in which the British partner was Imperial Chemicals. Because I then wondered how she knew about it I believe I had not mentioned it to any of the people I knew on PM. I told her the story, what my documentation was, and I never heard from her or from anyone on PM about it and I never wrote it. So, solid as the story was, it was too hot for PM. When I gave up on getting it published I gave it to both our Department of Justice and the British intelligence agents with whom I then worked. It was the period of the Nazi-Soviet pact, known as "the shibboleth period," as you may recall. In those pre-xeroxing days the only copies that could be made were photostats or photographic. Each was costly. and I had lots of photostats.

When I was working on the Rohm & Haas/ plexiglas story, which did create quite a stir when it was published, among other things I was tracing patent assignments in the Commerce Department Building, where the Patent Office was on the first floor. In going over the card files I stumbled onto a rather large number of references to Jasco, a U.S. corporation, and to IG. So, I decided to trace them and I did get photostats of each item in the card files. As I now recall, Jasco stood for Joint American Stock Co. It was a Louisiana corporation.

In summary, what this showed is that Standard Oil had agreed to hold and not use the Nazi patents on synthetic gas and synthetic rubber, both major items in that era and in that war. The Nazis could and did produce both by Esso saw to it that the US would not. It is my recollection that the same was true of Imperial Chemicals. and after Pearl Harbor, important as those products were, they got scarcer because none could come from Southeast Asia and getting the rubber from Brazil was more difficult and dangerous.

So, important as all of this was to the war effort, there was no interest in publishing the story which was solidly supported by all those photostats of all those deals.

I then was working with the Justice Anti-Trust Division, which Thurman Arnold then headed, but mostly, almost entirely, with those under him. Of those people most of my contact was with Joe Borkin. He was then an economist and going to law school. (As a lawyer he wrote the book you may remember, *The Crooked Judge*.) Of the lawyers the only one I remember was a Carolinian named Hodges. At some point Borkin suggested to me that the British could make use of me; we could not make of the intelligence I was developing. So, at his suggestion, I became an unregistered British agent. I did this in a very simple way. I'd seen the information officer at the British Embassy in connection with my other writing so I went to see her. She was Craig McTeach(e?)y and then had the highest rank of any women in their diplomatic service. She sent me to see a couple of men in a large brick house the British had south of Mass. and about 34 or 35 St. They were name Crowe and Westrupp, the latter a former reporter with Beaverbrook. They returned my photostats and I gave them to DJ. *She also sent me to Stephenson, below.*

Many years later, in telling a British reporter who became a good friend, Ian McDonald, about this, he laughed and identified this woman as his aunt. A few months ago, after David Ignatius, editor of the Post's Sunday Outlook section, had a story on the activities of "A Man Known As Interpid," the top British spy here then, Stephenson, I wrote Ignatius telling him there were "anti activities that were well-known then, if not to him because he was too young, and that what Stephenson did was no more than balance them. When he was interested and his interest included checking on other activities of which she could have had knowledge, I asked Ian if she were still alive and she is, still living in the US. She has to be at least 90. But Ignatius did not, to the best of my knowledge, get in touch with her.

In the course of trying to get all the government's records on or about me, when I got no record of my activities during that period, I took it up with Quinlan J. Shea, then head of DJ appeals.

Before he and I met, which happened when Judge June Green asked me to work with him in my King records request, he wondered what kind of persistent nut or pest I was. He told me what I'm telling you. Now it happened that he was a friend of Borkin's and lunched with him often. (He is much younger than Borkin was or I am.) Once when they were talking about Quin's work he mentioned me and Joe told him he knew me and that if I seemed like "a paint toucher" I was for real. That did make a difference and Shea stopped at least overt opposition, became friendly and often was of some help. There also was much he did not dare do in the face of FBI opposition and the FBI finally forced him out by getting him kicked upstairs. He has since retired and works part-time with Scott Armstrong's National Security Archive which, I think, is housed with Crookings, whether or not connected with it.

So, Quin tried to locate those records for me. He finally told me that he was satisfied they were not in the department. He also told me that he suspected that when he left Justice Borkin had taken them and other records that he used in his really fine book, "IG." He had a copy, loaned it to me, and Joe has the Jasco story in it. By then he'd gotten much to add to it.

Some of this is reflected in my appeals but I suspect that after a certain period of time Justice and the FBI destroy those kinds of records. If I am correct there will be no official record of my efforts to help the war effort with the economic intelligence I developed in working on that cartel series. These appeals would have been the only record, in any event, unless Shea's office made notes and wrote letters internally.

Infrequently and incompletely I from time to time get a few CLICK records from the FBI. To date they do not include most of our anti-Nazi work, particularly in Latin America. (I did get from the CIA records that do establish that I gave Jimmy Roosevelt some of this that FDR used in a fireside chat, roughly, Nazi plans for a putsch in Chile.) Our friend Al was involved in that, I now do not recall clearly how, but he worked there. If you are still in touch with them please remember me to them.

There never was any overt trouble with CLICK, Annenberg or his lawyers about those stories. I was able to satisfy the lawyers when they had any questions. But there came a time when they made trouble for Annenberg, as Rogers told me the story. First, he and his wife wanted to break into Main Line society, which looked down its long nose at such stories. Then, too, the Chicago America First banks held their debt and those people also did not like the stories. So, ~~Ann~~ Annenberg shook the staff up, fired Rogers, which ended my connection, and those he put in charge ran the successful magazine into the ground. Paper then was scarce so he folded CLICK to get that paper for, as I now recall, Seventeen. Whatever the magazine, he gave it an advertising staff, which CLICK did not have, and it made more money. CLICK was unusual in that it made money without advertising.

We mention Kathryn C. Blackburn last night, "Casey" as she was known. She then was Lowell Mellett's assistant in what I think then was known as The Office of Government Reports. It was an information agency and she later succeeded him. She used me as a sort of recruiter and probably did other young men in whom she had a sort of motherly interest. Rogers is one of those who helped the war effort in jobs in which she placed them. I got him to come to Washington, he stayed with us on H Street until he was contacted, and he wound up owning a controlling interest, after the war, in WQQW, which he renamed WGMS, and after I was fired by State I worked for it as its news and special events editor. Among the others was a friend, Sidney Kaufman, who married James P. Warburg's daughter, Andrea. Sidney was in movies, was very bright and a fine businessman, had been an assistant to Walter Wanger, one of Hollywood's top people, but didn't like Hollywood. Much later he produced the Macbeth that won an Emmy for NBC and a KKK movie in which he used klansman and made in Louisiana - and lived through it. He and Andrea lived in Forest Hills and were of great help to me when I was trying to get my first book published. When I was in NYC I stayed with them. After Rogers sold his interest in WGMS to RKO he started Eggheads for Eisenhower. Ed and I had won all the honors in poultry of which you probably do not know so, to attract farm and rural votes, he arranged for us to visit and be photographed with Eisenhower. We'd have had no objection to that but we could not have had anything, no matter how indirect, to do with Nixon, so we both declined.

I left WQQW when an investigator for the House Un-Americans appeared and started asking questions about me. She had the name of a girl who was in my high school class. I didn't see her there and she made no effort to see me so I don't know if they are the same Eleanor Matson. The last reporting I did there was the Truman election. coop

Ike did want some ducks I bred for his Gettysburg farm and we delivered a ~~batch~~ of them. He also liked Al's recipes and wrote her about them.

It was through Casey that I made the White House connection for Paul Richman of which I told you.

Rogers and I were twice in the same OSS component. I was sent to the Military District of Washington personnel office from Walter Reed Hospital and it assigned me, as a soldier, to the Presentation Branch. Rogers was there and then was shifted to the Latin American Division. After I was given a medical discharge I was hired as a civilian by the Latin American Division because of my investigative experience and work on Nazi cartels.

One thing reminds of another, with so much to remember!

Best,

