

2/18/72

Dear Ed,

No time and thumb strain preclude long answers re Farewell America. However, I would appreciate anything you can learn of entire operation, including esp. Lamarre/Hepburn. My book came from him, by the way, so I return your copies pages herewith. If I can't be sure of all ~~the~~ the reasons for the fraud, I am certain one was to kill respectability of any adverse to official writing on subject. Without mass market, such disreputables as Skolnick are the best they can do. At the least Sk. makes money on it, not less than the bookstore commission or margin. I do not remember my source of Sk's distribution. The willingness of those of the description you apply to your friend to believe such stuff after what is even less believable, an uncritical reading, confirms the thought behind the work. It failed because of its libel. Without that there would have been a better prospect of mass sales. If I said I blew the book, that was an exaggeration. I merely helped, did a bit more with/against the movie. But make no mistake. This was the most sophisticated operation, well-planned, well, very well financed, with at least some CIA figures involved, and the analysis of Garrison and his probable reaction, how to reach and tantalize him, was so perfect I suspect the operation of intelligence shrinks, who are numerous and competent. They played him perfectly, understood him completely. He had doubts he would not face, as when he first asked me to read the critical (3rd) chapter immediately and then saw to it that I didn't get it until plane time. I read it on the plane, wrote immediately with a total destruction of it, and he just ignored it, threw himself into it and bankrupted himself and diverted all his attention in so doing. I read only in ms and I gave my copy of the ms to one who could (and because of it did) help me in other ways and has become a good friend because of it. Because of the form, I would be willing to believe that Garrison even edited. He told me he gave it its ultimate name! Please believe me, the entire operation was upper-professional in most aspects, all up to publication and all to the end of production with the movie. It is, in fact, one of the persuasive non-proofs of ~~the~~ the nature of Shaw's connections. Why so elaborate, so expensive an operation? How appropriate Skolnick's present connection with it when they have already scrapped the barrel!

As you might suspect, I am skeptical of the lady connected with The Great Beyond. Not less so because I knew Jean Dixon when.

Larry Finley is a CDN reporter, not the fellow from whom Sk. comed my stuff. Surprised you do not recall the by-line. On city desk.

Most encouraging is ref. to Crook County and libel reading, unless this is in anticipation of delivery of the ms. If you have finally done it, great and best of good luck.

Thanks and best,

2/12/72

Hal---

I knew I would get a response from you on "Farewell America."
But little did I imagine that you as well informed as your letter of 2/10 indicates.

I was given the book on loan by a highly-respected individual who is keenly aware of Skolnick's penchant for publicity and general unreliability. Nevertheless, he has been in touch with Skolnick off and on (and on a reserved basis) while I have completely cut any ties with him. He may have received the book from Skolnick and I shall find out and use this gentleman to drop Herve Lamarre's name on Skolnick for reaction. Will take a couple of weeks perhaps, since I have to do this in steps. (Still phoneless.)

By the way, the previously-mentioned friend ~~is~~ is on a new investigative assignment involving Chicago and Illinois corruption. He and his new boss were out to see me last weekend for dinner and I was pleasantly surprised to find out that his ~~new~~ boss has been given the assignment of drafting a bill based upon "None of the Above." It will be introduced in the Illinois General Assembly this year. You and I know how far it will get on the first go-round but you have to start someplace. It may move faster than the 10-12 years I figured it would take for enactment. I believe I can get additional sponsorship, well-placed, for the initial introduction -- including those in leadership roles in both parties in the legislature, not just professional do-gooders.

I am working with a fascinating lady on the West Coast who is receiving messages from the Beyond, not ~~in~~ automatic writing (for she is a mental rather than a physical medium) but dictation which comes in German, French and English. She has been in contact with Aldous Huxley, Winston Churchill (who was her father in a previous life) and one major and one minor Roman Catholic ~~monks~~ nuns who were sainted by the church. Two books, one completed, one in progress, are the result. She is for true and has overcome the hurdle -- not uncommon to those "gifted" with mediumistic capacity -- of alien, ~~and~~ mischievous or downright evil entities falsely presenting ~~themselves~~ themselves as bearers of information or messages. She is not a "Spiritualist;" indeed, that group has been contaminated with some misinformation. In fact she is not really associated with any organized earthly religion or sect -- which will make more believable the messages which are being transmitted through her. I have offered to help her and, ~~she has accepted my help~~ after consulting her "teachers, she has agreed to accept whatever I ~~may be able to do.~~ This is more exciting than I can herewith convey to me personally but I recognize that much skepticism abounds and I do not wish to be more detailed ~~with~~ with you unless you express an interest yourself.

(more)

I am ~~reading~~ enclosing some photocopies from Farewell since I was not certain whether you had read the book (do I gather that it's fairly hard to get? -- I've returned the loaner already) or perhaps just the manuscript.

Needless to say, I want them back. Copy, naturally, if you wish.

How did you "blow" the book in early December, 1968? Unfamiliar entirely.

Who's the Larry Finley you mentioned? Is he your Chicago friend who somehow passed information onto Skolnick regarding Groth and the earlier plot?

How do you know that Skolnick is pushing "Farewell America?" I don't challenge that he might be but I'm curious to know why he is and how it can be established that he is? In other words, what's in it for him?

Heard from Walter. He said he would look into who would do the libel review of Crook County, a matter of some concern to me since the parent company of Bantam has a couple of top lawyers close to Sidney Korshak, not to mention the chairman of the parent himself.

Best,

