

Dear Charles,

3/5/91

If what I say may be useful to others, please feel free to send them copies.

Lee Miller phoned this morning. We had a long discussion and I made a few suggestions based on my knowledge of Roger Feinman. As I told you I believe he is in and reflects serious emotional distress. What he has done and written is entirely unlike the man I've known, liked and respected these many years. If I were not convinced that he is suffering severe emotional distress I'd believe his letter to you is a bluff with ulterior purposes. It may be a bluff but he does have purposes one of which is venting frustrations and another is vengeance for an imagined offense.

We have had much correspondence on this and I suggest that unless you or someone else wants to go over the entire file and copy anything that may appear to have future usefulness you may at some point face a need in a rush. Or, I can bring in everything that we wrote each other after Sylvia Meagher died.

What I am certain he really wants now is control over Meagher's records. That had been her original intent. She persuaded him, against his desire and judgement to draw up her first will. He would not execute it because he could see a possible conflict of interest. He told her to take it to another attorney for execution. He was shocked to learn on her death that she had changed her will entirely. He repeatedly attributes this to pressures from two nieces and the husband of one in particular. He has made his dislike for them clear.

This is inconsistent with his statement that he'll seek to have the will nullified. Her papers would then become the property of those he dislikes and does not trust. In fact, he has repeatedly blamed them for not phoning him, as he says Meagher requested repeatedly for the last three days of her life. They had been close friends. Unless he is entirely irrational, the last thing Roger wants is for those nieces to have or to have control of Meagher's papers. Unless he has already made some kind of deal with them.

When he refers to Greg Stone's lack of performance, Meagher knew very well that he was devoted to the late Allard Lowenstein and to carrying forward to the best of his ability Lowenstein's interest in the RFK assassination.

His reference to undue and improper influence is and he knows, if rational, that it is false. That he says this when he has every reason to presume you'll be in touch with me indicates that he is not rational. The only thing that can be stretched into this misrepresentation happened after Stone told me he was "burned out" from his RFK work and complained that he had these records to go over when I urged him to complete his doctorate. When Stone made it clear that the last thing he wanted to do was go over Meagher's papers I urged him to get Feinman to do it and immediately notified Feinman. The only other person of whom I know who made any recommendation to Stone was Prof. David Wrono, University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point. Roger probably assumes that Jerry McKnight did.

Roger wrote Wrono 2/22, or Wrono received his letter that day. Three days later he

wrote you and three days after that he wrote me the letter of which I've given Jerry a copy for you. Wrono, also troubled by Roger's state of mind (we have the Greg Stone tragedy so fresh), phoned me and we had a long talk. He is to send me a copy of the letter he got and I'll give you a copy. As I recall, he said it was eight pages long.

He may also have been in touch with Stone's sister, his only living relative of whom I know, a clinical psychologist living in Mississippi. He told me that if Stone made no reference to the Meagher papers in his will, assuming it is a valid will, those papers may revert to that sister.

Except for trying to connect with a law firm, I know of nothing that Roger has to do because he has not been able to establish his own practise or make any such connection in the many months since the firm he was with folded. This also means he has plenty of free time for brooding and plotting.

Do not be misled by the letterhead. It is no more than that. It is an address at which he can get mail and to which mail can be addressed, no more. Like an answering service for mail.

His reference to an amicable agreement is lawyer's talk. He wants control or possession of those papers, Meagher's original intent.

"Here" for "hear" in the next line is the only typo I recall in the many letters of Roger's I have. He is an excellent, a perfect typist. I doubt very much he dictated this to any "MSW."

His reference to Stone's "mental competence" is to the fact that at the suggestion of his Los Angeles friends he had gone to see a psychiatrist who specializes in the problems of movie people (my source is the actor Paul LeMat) and was in therapy with a group of people who had one or more alcoholic parents before he killed himself. He had had a controversial anti-depressant prescribed by still another doctor. His friend and neighbor Floyd Nelson (213/666-6148; 1314 N. Harvard Blvd., 90069) found an empty container and one with the medication. He also found the will and a letter of apology when he searched Stone's residence. (LeMat's address is 1100 Alta Loma Rd., 90069.) As of my last knowledge Roger had not seen Stone's will. I know he went to the official records and read Meagher's so I suggested to Lee Miller that he ask Feinman for copies of both. I had in mind putting him on the defensive in his thinking and clear intent to make trouble, his time costing him nothing.

What when he showed no signs of irrationalist he wanted was access to Meagher's records relating to him, particularly to what I asked Mr. Miller not to let anyone other than at Wood know because I want to make no trouble for my troubled former friend and I want him not to be tempted to make any for me. He was working on a book on the dishonesty of CBS's treatment of the JFK assassination based on those of its many records of which he had copies. He consulted with Meagher often about this. While there may well be much about which I have no knowledge that he could have referred to as the unpublished manu-

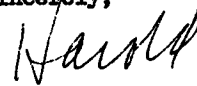
scripts of others, I do know he told me she had worked with him on his planned book. Were what he had to work with to get out prior to publication of such a book, it could be seriously embarrassing if not hurtful to him.

Oddly for a fine writer, all he has told me of his progress is that he had made a lengthy and <sup>d</sup>stalled outline. I do not know that he ever wrote a word of text and I've often wondered why. Especially when in recent months he has had much free time. The only client he mentioned having had become a problem and he told me he'd asked the judge to relieve him of his obligations to that client.

I feel strongly that he is not now of sound mind, is bitter, vindictive, frustrated and irrational. I have reason to believe that he is pretty much alone. So, I believe he will be capable of anything that he thinks of now if it does no more than make trouble. So I do encourage you to be or to have someone at ~~h~~ood familiar with our correspondence if only to be satisfied that there is not a single word of truth in any of his allegations.

His mind may be so twisted by now that he may actually believe he is doing what his once dear friend would want him to do, even though he has been repeatedly bitter to me about what he referred to as her betrayal of him and of their friendship and his trust in her.

Sincerely,



Harold Weisberg