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This is no longer so & could be informative

Dear Richard,

I ^wsuppose I should have realized that when a voice like David's, Peter's or Raphaela's did not answer the phone there had been changes. There have been with me, too. I'm much more feeble although my output surprises my friends in academe. You may not recall that the weekend you and David went to Gettysburg I told you that I intended to spend the time that remains to me perfecting the record for history to the degree that is possible. By now ~~if it~~ ^{it is} perhaps 12-15 book-length manuscripts. When I can I've been getting them retyped on a computer and disks are on deposit with these friends, for the future, if there is the interest I think there will be in the future. Before getting back to the purpose of my call a word about the last of those completed (but rough) manuscripts. I had titled it The Dark Side of Sy Hersh: Faking Kennedy. I changed it to a description I use in the text of the kind of writing Hersh resorts to in that book, to Hersh-It Journalism: Faking Kennedy. It has nothing about the assassination in it, other than the assassination of Hersh, so to speak. When I told Dave Wrono at Wisconsin to be ~~be~~ expecting the disk it reminded him of something I'd written when Hersh's The Samson Option appeared that Dave thought I should add as an epilogue. I'd just read it when you phoned and while I agree with Dave and will add it, it interfered with how clear I could have been to you. *(Hersh is anti-Israel, an anti-semitic Jew, so it speaks)*

I hear from Ray from time to time. A friend who was with him last time we spoke, and he has been terribly ill, told me that his ^speaking to me brightened Ray up considerably. He has been in terminal illness for months and the state is keeping him that way, preventing what might save his life, a liver transplant.

There is what may be a problem in C & G having published the book of Ray's present counsel, Bill Pepper. (To whom I offered all I have and he had no interest in what I think would have been very useful. He took copies of some but I make all available without supervision and do not know what he copied when he was here or had a student get for him.)

It is when Ray dies that there will be rekindled interest in him and when TV is more likely to get interested in what can be done, what exists and is real, not the dream stuff and the Perry Mason stuff. I had in mind, literally, talking it to David preferable with a camera from which a TV special could come and for David to put it together after the talking was over.

I know what I have, ^{and get it} if I can remember it all, and I know at least some of what I have done as Ray's investigator (which caused Percy Foreman to flee a TV studio with his makeup on when he heard for the first time he would face me)

and I remember hopefully, enough of what I got in the about 80,000 pages I got in an FOIA lawsuit the DJ stonewalled for a decade!

If it were to be done as a book only there are special problems and as an old friend to one I once regarded as a dear friend I must be honest. I can't safely go down to my files in the basement, haven't for several years. Just about all the FOIA records are there, most of my own case files, and all, I think, of my tape recordings. Which include an account by a former Ray counsel of what he heard outside the door of the original judge who then had ^{and died} a heart attack, the only reason Ray did not get his trial in 1969. (He had a heart condition and the lawyer recognized the voice of an assistant DA who was arguing within. We got on discovery what we, Lešar and I, believe was the beginning of that judge, E. Preston Battle, writing out an order for a "new" trial.

any little things like that. (That ass't DA was made a judge. He developed a stutter.)

I have the proof that the DJ got Ray extradicted by false swearing in the basement, with an affidavit it knew was false, and that one affidavit was the basis for the extradition. *In violation of the treaty, which exempted political crimes.*

I have the transcripts of what did not interest Lepper, the evidentiary hearing that my first investigation got and then the investigation for that hearing at which the judge did, as judges can and do do, decided against the weight of the evidence.

I have what I think would have walked Ray if there had been a trial.

And I think it could make exciting TV, especially with an AK of almost 85 doing it and sitting with one left high enough so the blood will return, as I am now sitting and typing.

My nerves were like steel. They are not now, and my blood pressure, *the first* for the first time in all those years, wants to get high from time to time. The Hopkins cardiologist reduced some of the medication with the understanding that I'll have the blood pressure taken weekly here, and I do. (You see should see the array of medications now! ^{It} It is not unusual for them to cost \$750 a month, but they are working!) I do not know how I'd react to a deadline pressure on a book or to what seems to go with getting a book published these days.

I know what exists, what can be done. I am not confident about what with pressures and problems I would be able to do. What exists can make a helluva boom and exceptional TV but, with luck, on the 8th of next month I'll be 85, and that alone reflects one kind of problem, what I've survived is another, and what has happened in the past that I would not want to face again is still another problem.

Aside from the pictures that ~~do~~ exist and can be gotten I have a fair

amount of evidence I can lay my hands on, the FBI's, ^{its Lab work} and a fair collection of some hairy documents. Like Hoover telling AG Ramsey Clark that he wants to tape the Ray family phones and that if they get caught and it exculpates Ray it is still worth it. I have in my office part of what I'd intended as a working file on the book I'd planned and then laid aside for more JFK assassination work.

There is another consideration, the effect on book buyers interested in the assassinations, of the desecration of the market with all sorts of trash and worse than trash, the crazy stuff that TD begin with sold. I guess people just got a belly full. (By the way, I got a high percentage of letters from ^{Case} Open, at least 500, and some of them are the finest I've ever gotten, and most of them thanked me for not theorizing, not playing Perry Mason, for sticking to fact and evidence.)

However, what I have in mind is the kind of thing ^Driver Stone would do only this would be entirely factual. (No, he won't talk to me or have anything to do with me, I think.) I think it would do best first-person. Which it is anyway.

I think also it would have a powerful pull to those opposing capital punishment, particularly because it was ^{ing} who was killed, such a man.

Lil can't help. She need a hip replacement, has trouble walking, even getting out of a chair, and uses the walker prescribed for both of us. (Until she started using her walker, I used to get laughs by noting his and her canes.) I know of no college student who is as good as that wonderful Helen Wilson you provided some years ago but from the community college I might find one who took its paralegal course who is not working and could be a gofer and typist. Retypist.

As I told you, I have no interest in vanity publication and I do not have ^{that} ~~the~~ kind of ego. In recent years I've turned TV down rather than be part of what I do not want any association with. This means I have no interest in publication of a book that nothing is done to sell. Or in changes about which I'm not consulted, as in eliminating the subtitle of NEVER AGAIN! from the cover and with that denying browsers any indication of the content. If a single review copy of anything of mine that C & G published was given out I've no knowledge of it. As I told you, when I offered to pay for copies to try to use with the press, six letters were ignored. With a little attention that book could have done OK, as I doubt it did. But I'm not now prepared to face no publisher effort with a book.

One I think could be important, could do well with an effort and with the editing that would be required. It is not the JFK assassination, the field of which has been tainted and is of special sensitivity to the government and hence to those ^{who} who are sensitive to government interests.

I'm trying to be informative, to let you know what I think you should about the problems that come to mind. Which may not be all. That is why I enclose the two medical statement, the summary page when Hopkins discharged me, reflecting what was treated there, and an added explanation for "edicare", which had declined to pay for the ambulance that saved my life.

I'm going to look for an agent on Hersh-It Journalism. I have in mind the woman ^{who} had been connected with Teddy Kennedy. Esther Newmeyer of something like with, the agency International somethingorother. The chances are not very good there but she is of a Kennedy past and it may give her some ideas. She began as Hersh's agent and withdrew. Hersh was a Goebbels. I picked up signs of that in what Wrono just sent me that I did years ago. And if she is not turned off to begin with, whether or not she is willing to represent, she might be a good person to let know what there is put aside for the future.

I do think the Hersh book, with decent editing and the elimination of unneeded repetition, could do very well. There are ^{who} that many people from my mail, ^{who} love JFK still. (Most of those who wrote me about Case Open went out of their way to tell me how young they were when he was assassinated, that they had not been born or what class they were in in school. A recent one said he'd rather meet me than the president and then he sent me a liter of fine gin. ^{But also,} I can't drink anything straight any more. ^{if I can} I think there is a good market for a book defending Kennedy and I hope if I can get that woman's address she thinks so, too. I tell you this for more than letting you know but also because you may know someone who might be willing to be the agent or a publisher who might be willing to make an effort with it.

I have the transcripts but not the exhibits of what we introduced in the evidentiary hearing. Cesar has the exhibits. Believe it or not, we found in the sheriff's office, he and I, ^{exercising} ~~exercising~~ discovery alone and limited to two days, instructions from the Justice Department of how to deny Ray his most essential legal rights, privacy with his lawyers. The orders were to intercept and copy even his letters to and from his lawyers. We got a couple of them. Even when he wrote the judge they intercepted and copied it and we got a copy of that. I was under threats by the State and had to get myself a lawyer. Cesar had never appeared before a jury and he got a letter from the Supreme Court ^{then} about a case he's taken there and it was torn open crudely before he got it. They played rough. But ^{it} makes a good story. I even got what might be a solution by the most unusual means, from a man ^{striking} who had been with the union down there and was really drunk, in which he identified the man he believed behind the assassination. Then I got *The Same*

Thinking from the FBI in that FOIA lawsuit. It had done nothing about that lead. Which does more than merely make sense. That man has DJ connections in what had been a very ensational case. What he did for the DJ got some 25 charges, two capital, dismissed. I have the rap sheet. Oh, if there were only time! There is so much!

If a publisher willing to make an effort were to go for what could again be called *Fragn-Up*, I have a friend who is about an hour a way who was with *Unsolved Mysteries* and was working in a sequely to his master's thesis with which I'd helped him, a JFK documentary that won the CINE Golden Eagle. Might ask him about the taping for TV, to be edited for TV.

Last I heard Ray was in a coma. I think every living member of his family would be willing to praise me and what I did and express confidence in me. A sister, a brother-in-law and two brothers.

Best toall,

Harold