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4/7/94

Dear Richard,

When I was in the nearer local Walden store day before yesterday I asked the manager if he had heard anything about Case Closed. A month after Selections was out he had heard nothing about it. He checked his computer and told me it is for May publication. When it was manufactured in March I wondered if this indicates you plan to send review copies out. Not that doing that is not normal. But it seems like all that is normal, like minimal communication, is not normal with me. Nonetheless I have a suggestion for any review copies not sent. Without reading for errors I noted 76 that are in varying degrees conspicuous and can adversely influence any reviewer. This does not include the absence of a table of content or an index, which most regard as necessary in any serious work of nonfiction. Or ~~at~~ different subtitles on the cover and title page and copyright page. (The cover is much better and not inaccurate.) The suggestion is that there be an expression of regret, that in hurrying the publication indicated corrections somehow were not made, but that they do not in any instance involve fact and that the fact of the book is solid. I did notice in reading, however, that some corrections ~~of~~ ^{of} the mistakes I noted for the second time on the page proofs were made. And that with the cuts in the Conclusions there ~~thus~~ were 10 blank pages, or there was no need for that cutting to avoid requiring an added sig.

I have given much thought to the strangeness of about two years now and while I have not found any explanation that makes any sense there is a point at which the Trappist religion took over. It roughly coincides in time with when I started sending you ~~that~~ as a friend I believed you might want to know as C & G's counsel with what I sent being to me, ~~a~~ a layman, what I believed you ~~would~~ ^{would} want to know about their star, the Baltimore.

I did limit myself to what I believed was of that character. I did not send you all I could have, what could have been interpreted as an effort to influence publication itself. However, if it interests you, I am quite willing to send that now, to indicate that in this I am truth ^{ful}. Instead I merely tell you what it is, from recollection, and if you want will send you copies.

Both of his prime sources, both of whom suckered him with ease, were public with much of that crap years earlier. Currington in the National Enquirer about 1977, and Rothermel in Hougan's Spooks not long after that. Both are more severe on the Hunts in their earlier attacks on them, which coincided with the Hunt sons charging both as common thieves. For their obviously ~~was~~ ^{was} easy mark they embellished with fabrications about the JFK assassination. They did sucker ^{him} ~~the~~ so anxious to be suckered on the assassination with the fake book Garrison retitled to Farewell ⁱⁿ America that the French CIA had turned out under the title L'Amérique Brule. I knew the French spook in charge and prevented

his getting Garrison's endorsement of the film he'd made of the book and instead getting him the bum's rush, literally by the seat of his pants, from Garrison's building. I then, as may amuse you, had to rush behind them so he could get his luggage from the trunk of the car in which I'd been driving him around that morning so he could flee with it. While I was never a spook I surely did spook Herve Lamarre with his U.S. sidekick! I've even got pictures I went back later and took of a place to which I drove him and where he spent some time, Villerie's Coal Scuttle in the Quarter. It was a business sure not to be profitable in that warm climate. It sold only bagged wood and coal and that only after 10 a.m. and before either 2 or 3 p.m. And I did know that at least one of those vilified in the book planned to file suit if there was in it what was in some of the letters. I presume it was removed. Not that others under different conditions could not have sued.

There seems to be no point in recalling ^{ING} all the suggestions and offers I've made that were greeted with not even acknowledgement, all not unreasonably interpreted as a determination that the books do less well than they could but I do remind you of two. I ~~asked~~ asked for copies of any announcements so that I could include them in my responses to inquiries about my own books. And thus direct those people to their bookstores for Selections in particular and for Case Open when it is there. Since Selections appeared if I had had them rather than silence I could have mailed well over a hundred. This is a conservative figure. And those people could have talked to their friends. From my efforts with Selections I'm getting what you have not told me you got, a review in a relatively large paper. Plus a notice in an assassination newsletter. I've also introduced something ^{other than} but insane conspiracy-theorizing books to two reporters both of whom after getting the book came up. Several days ago I ~~heard~~ heard from one, an unusually nice and flattering letter in which he offered to help if he can. I told him I could use some help in getting a couple of articles placed when long articles are considered. You may remember I sent you one and asked that you let me know if any interest in it exists up there. I wrote a ^csecond more directly on Case Open but I made no effort with that until I could get it retyped. The student is anything but a professional typist ^{but} ^{side} but it is much easier to read than my typing and is in 10-point type.

This gets me to what I regard as quite important that I did write you about long ago, my belief that although you told me you do not plan to publish NEVER AGAIN! until September you prepare it for printing and have it ready in the event there are developments indicating earlier publication ^{be considered} is indicated. This is still true, a real possibility from what is going on in the field. More, the interest is still there despite what I imagine is reflected in sales, the negative effect of all the crap, particularly the killing of the ^{truth} ~~man~~ and Case Closed. Sunday ~~Dr~~ Drone told me a story that bears on this.

He is on sabbatical, some interesting work on ~~the~~ Abe Lincoln. His university was on its Easter break the day before when he went to its library. There was not a single

person there, in the entire library, except in a single room in which it has its JFK assassination stuff. There were 12 people there. Of those he spoke to, four were professors, two historians, two in social science. There may have been other profs. One had driven there from the major branch of the university, as Madison, to work in what he has there and they do not have an Madison.

One of the reasons I gave you for preparing NEVER AGAIN! for publication in advance is that I am still here. I hope this is not academic but through an accident and from the negligence of the doctor when I informed him of the mistake I may be in danger of hemorrhaging internally. If this does not come to that point today it is an unwelcome making of my 81st birthday tomorrow.

By accident yesterday I took a double dose of the anticoagulant when the test showed the blood was already in the danger area. I phoned the doctor immediately. He did not take the phone. He told me nothing can be done. I then asked if I should have the test for the clotting time repeated today, not wait for tomorrow's. He told that would mean nothing. It was not until later that I wondered whether the stomach could or should be pumped because I had just taken the second dose and later, ^{when} still that I consulted the literature I have ^I and found that contrary to what he said, that the effect would not be seen until tomorrow, an appreciable effect with an overdose is ^{possible} reflected the ^{on Friday} next day. So, with a weekend coming up I ^{had} to be my own doctor and have this test ^{the morning} again and then see to it that there is an accessible supply of Vitamin K for the weekend in the event I need an injections suddenly. I did hemorrhage subcutaneously, from mere contact, earlier in the night but I hope that is not indicative of the situation internally, particularly in the area of the heart surgery.

From the newly-released records I have obtained what is quite exciting that others, including my source and his source, seem not to have really understood. It is official and long-suppressed confirmation of what I've written in NEVER AGAIN! The student will be here again for a couple of hours Saturday and she'll be retyping what I've written. It is again in a form that lends itself to magazine use, I think.

Bill can't do any typing for me during tax season and she is no longer the perfect typist she was. Not long after the end of the season, but about the time her work will end, with some time extensions obtained by some of her clients, she will have the cataract removed from the other eye and thus will not be able to type for a while.

Later. What may amuse you about that car I had the use of in New Orleans and in which I drove Lamarre around, it was a souped-up Chevy II the police had taken from a gangster. Cars taken like that were used by the city. It gave Garrison that one. But nobody on the staff would drive it, it was that unsafe in their opinions. On a very hot Friday afternoon it once locked in low gear. And that on a main street, at rush hour.

Wrone phoned to ask the fastest way to get a copy of Case Open. The Wisconsin State Journal, which he said is the paper of choice for most of those who read in the state, agreed to his doing a review and they gave him 800 words. I told him it would probably be faster to phone and ask Carroll or Graf.

When I get the additional copies Peter said would be coming I'll send some to where mention may be possible.

Jonathan Kwitney wrote a long review of Case Closed for the L.A. Times. He made mistakes in it for which Posner criticized him. Perhaps a copy to him would be worthwhile. He has a reason for wanting to use that kind of info. About Posner.

If you have a connection with Thunder's Mouth, I've just finished reading Fonzi's The Last Investigation. It is based on Fonzi's belief - he has no proof at all - that his leading character, one Veciana, worked for the CIA. He did not. As one of those to whom he expressed thank could have told him, Veciana worked for the AFL/CIO's International Confederation of Free Trade Unions. As, Certainly, Veciana had to know. For the man who handled the western hemisphere for it, Serafino Roumaldi.

These junior Keystone Kops, junior grade at that, all have something in common: ignorance.

Fonzi had one and only ~~the~~ one thing of ~~the~~ significance in his book and he was too ignorant to appreciate its significance. It was not about the assassination. It was about the USSR's missiles in Cuba. If true it has enormous significance.

4/8 Well, I made it without hemorrhaging. Sorry if I'm not clear on anything. It was quite disconcerting for a while.

Best,

Heeds