

Garrison's defeat

HW 12/16/73

At 4:30 this a.m. WCBS, CBS-owned radio, New York, reported Jim's defeat, without mentioning the name of his opponent. At 4:58 they reported totals for all but one precinct and Connick's claim of victory. And on the 5 a.m. net news, CBS said the difference was 1,820 votes, once precinct not in, and Jim demanding a recount.

I was not aware that the runoff was yesterday. From the previous vote, I expected it would be close. But I also expected that Jim would pick up some votes from the friends of those defeated in it. He appears to have gotten few, if any. Of course, the opposite worked, too: those opposed to him got behind the leader of the opposition. However, the total seems to indicate that more stayed away than were anxious to either defeat or re-elect him. And it depends on the nature of the uncounted precinct. Some, in the past, might have put Jim over. However, because he does not control the machinery, it is more likely that this is not one of his sections of town.

If Jim was defeated in a squeaker, I think he probably did it to himself. From his strange ego more than anything else. He appears to have done no real campaigning prior to the election. If he was as unseen and as unheard during the runoff the crooked label stuck so far as the uncommitted are concerned.

But there are many things that could have been decisive and I have no way of knowing which, if any, were operative.

I think it probable that there was a real gangup on him, part national and part "liberal" local.

As Das go, I am certain he was one of New Orleans's better ones. Not because he worked hard. He didn't. He was lazy. But his policies were good ones. Despite the appearances of the Shaw case, he was not vindictive, did not persecute enemies. One case that must have hurt him with the many racists is his refusal to prosecute a black flag-desecration case. He could have prosecuted Layton Martens for ~~xxxx~~ attempted murder. The police made the arrest and placed the charges. Jim was satisfied there was an element of self-defense and refused to prosecute.

Where he really blew it in his JFK fiasco was in the cases he could have had and did not file. Not major cases but those that could have made clear that there was a deliberately dishonest official investigation and that criminality was involved in them. One that I delivered to him is a clear perjury case against Bringuier. And had he taken this case to court he would have established the altering of the transcript of testimony.

He could also have established some of the stranger dirty-workings after he made his charges. There was an odd kidnapping, etc. I gave him both.

There are many things he could have done that would ~~he~~ have been more than merely helpful to the establishing of truth. He could have proved the Report a fake and he could have established the means by which it was faked. He had witnesses ready to make charges against ~~the~~ FBI agents in the official investigation.

However, he and his staff were incompetent in these areas and he disliked me because I was ~~a~~ independent, not a sycophant and perhaps more than all, although this is a subjective judgement, not based on visible fact, because I could see and do in his turf what he and his could not and did not. His ego could not abide this.

Of course, he never forgave me for saying he would lose the Shaw case and because of his doctrine, separate from Shaw's guilt or innocence, should lose it. Nor did he forgive me for refusing to stay there for the trial and helping him in it. I did help him in advance of it, on the Dealey Plaza part, and I did give him all that is of value that he used in that part.

If it is to his credit that he avoided all that could have prejudiced the case against Shaw (of a personal nature) it is not to his credit that he failed to prepare the case he could have prepared and failed to show what he could have shown on Shaw, who did perjure himself, as did his enemy turned friend, Cobb. Had he investigated the leads I had given him earlier, not relating to Shaw, he'd have had this proof in hand, as I later did.

What remains is to be seen. If any of his files remain in his office and Connick, the former DJ lawyer, gets his hands on them, they do hold the potential for misuse against those who disagree with the federal posture or who helped him in any way.

The old Jim would have converted the federal prosecution into electoral victory.