

3/1/92

Dear Gerald,

After finishing the few pages of "Hitler's Children" I'd not read this morning I sat and thought about the book for a while. It is a subject worth addressing, you did very well with it I think in all ways, including fairness and dispassionate writing, and aside from enormous differences in the magnitude of the crimes of the fathers, there is virtually no country ^{where} of which what you report is not in some degree true.

Possibly not or only slightly in some countries like the Arabic, rather Muslim dictatorships, probably more so in Latin American dictatorships, and who can know about the USSR and other closed societies, like Mao's and his successors.

and here, too, albeit in enormously different degree.

Without knowing the reason for Reagan's children's alienation or his indifference to his grandchildren and children, on the opposite extreme there are illustrations.

Back in the 1950s when we lived in Montgomery County, then one of or the very wealthiest county and largely a Washington bedroom, I knew from policemen I knew that most of the children in the area closest to Washington who got into trouble ~~were~~ had fathers whose acts they could not tolerate, having knowledge of what they did in government and as lawyers in private practise.

As early as 1936 the daughter of a well-known FBI agent prominent in the JFK assassination investigation came up to me at the University of Maryland, introduced herself, and told me that the only use she had for that SOB of a father was to use him as a baby-sitter! I declined her offer to help me in my work and did not hint that she could tell me more than what she'd volunteered.

Not long thereafter the son of a then prominent Department of Justice lawyer who was deeply involved with the Clark autopsy panel when it was deliberating and indicated unwillingness to conclude what Justice wanted it to conclude, leaked an account of how his father visited it or some of its members and pressured them to conclude what they did not want to conclude. "Whipped them into line," he said.

There may have been other similar instances that now do not come to mind.

Even youthful members of the National Rifle Association unhappy with their parents' silence when the NRA could not duplicate the shooting attributed to Oswald, for which they'd selected the best or "master" shooters, visited me and told me that the rifle was so poor and undependable it was known as "Mussolini's contribution to humanitarian warfare." Two of them, in the summer of 1966, visited me and said this and other things.

The world being what it is I doubt that concern over what their children will think has discouraged misconduct and evil by fathers or now will or that any fathers gave any thought to what happened to the children of Hitler's accomplices of all stations and levels.

Good book! Thanks. And best wishes,

Harold