

Dear Richard,

In all my books parts are written so they can be used as separate pieces. That was my optimistic intent in the first one, before I began to get even a notion of what happened to our major medal in the wake of that assassination. My second book was not intended to be a book. I wrote lengthy individual articles at the request of a French agency that then changed its mind, so I called it a book, with a few additions.

After I sent you what with the unfortunately necessary haste I did to fast as a Hartogs insertion I gave it a bit more thought, did more checking, and I found that each and every thing Posner did was of undiluted mendacity.

Not one of his sources said what he attributes them except for Hartogs, and there as you will see, Posner quoted from both sides of his retraction of his own incorrect testimony. Posner quotes only his mistake that he admitted is a mistake and condemns Meagher and me, her much more, for what is an absolutely correct account of what Hartogs did swear to.

And this, in Posner's own description, is the most important single part of his book!
Total, unhidden mendacity!

While my opinion of the major media is unchanged, I believe there may have been enough of a change in some aspects, as in the Post's and Newsweeks saying the Commission and the story to begin with were out of kilt, to think that this as a separate piece has some possibilities and can confront, challenge, the NBC-TV miniseries on him.

Because Posner launched a false attack on the Post after its accurate review I think it may not be impossible it might consider this, edited, for its Sunday magazine.

Maybe even the New York Review, which I've not seen in years and may be wrong about.

Any such use would be quite valuable for the book before and when it appears.

As I thought of this I was reminded of what I do not recall ever telling you about. If I did, the repetition has a point anyway.

After Ivan Obolensky broke our agreement in late February, 1965 and I reconstituted the ms because he never returned it, a friend sent me to Pocket Book, to an executive who was a friend of his and was out of town. In his absence Eugene Prakapis, an editor, saw me. He was attracted by the subject matter and although ill, read it rapidly. He then was so excited almost his exact words were that with my background, their public-relations experience and knowhow and that subject matter they had another Green Belt Jungle and I'd soon be one of the best-known men in the country when the book appeared.

Everybody went for it big. Up to Boris Shinkin. He liked the book very much but rejected it. Prakapis was quite honest in telling me about it after less than a week as I now recall. It was a short time because they all were excited by the book.

Prakapis told me that Shinkin saw the book as a "red flag under the charging bull" of the U.S. Department of Justice.

As he then explained that it was that Pocket had ~~private~~ published a fraudulent book,

Calories Don't Count. Six people had been charged and were to be tried in federal district court in Brooklyn.

Shimkin did not want to be the seventh.

I think that when they fired Grossman, who was responsible ~~for~~ for or at least was held to be responsible for it, that is when he started Grossman Publishing.

(The reference to The Green Felt Jungle was to the best-selling book of the year before.)

Posner's is a fraudulent book. That does not encourage the belief that the DJ will dream of doing anything about it. I have no such illusion at all!

But with at least that Calories Don't Count precedent there is a legitimate precedent and basis for making such a demand of DJ.

I do not know how much experience, if any, you have had in public relations but this is completely legitimate. And this Hartogs thing is without question. I'll be enclosing his pages and the pages of his source so you and anyone else can see.

That as stories go it is more than a merely legitimate story does not mean that it would be welcomed. But it might be and I think it would not be impossible to interest even Oliver Stone in it. As well as quite a few elements of the minor media.

I'm sorry Lil is not in a position to retype it and that again I've rushed with it to get it to you rapidly.

I think this is worth a separate chapter ^{now} in the book and I know very well that it can make an exciting article if the interest in it can be attracted. Is C & G's Mooney experienced in that?

If nothing else works, if I correctly understood Charlie Winton to be indicating that he has a relationship with the S.E. Chronicle, maybe he could interest it or something else out there or with which he has had some contact or connection.

This is really powerful and unassailable stuff! I hope some effort is made with it. That could do wonders for the book!

Best,

Harold

On separate pieces from my first book: The Old Saturday Evening Post wanted to do that but wanted to do it with an agent. It sent me to Max Wilkinson, of Littauer & Wilkinson. Max went for it but before long he had killed that deal and said he'd represent me in England, which I declined. It later turned out that E. Howard Hunt was his client and used his office as one of his CIA offices! Then Saga came for me and used a chapter from it. I learned about Hunt when, as you may remember, a German publisher was interested in a Watergate book, before he changed his mind with the announcement of one to be done by The Times of London investigative reporters.