

JDW, JL, Self On Good from Evil - The McDonald Caper HW 8/9/75

It was with considerable reluctance that I took the time required to look into and do something about the McDonald book, first for Grove and then for the National Enquirer. I wanted more than anything else to finish up with Post Nortem and get to other projects laid aside years ago.

It took much more time than I'd anticipated and it began with a requirement of no more than that I read the work and offer an opinion. An offer of \$500 for merely reading and making a report was too good to turn down.

As it turned out the pay was very poor for the time involved. But there were side benefits. It is a terrible concept, a fraud, and attention to it of the kind I was able to end would have been hurtful.

I'm reminded of this by the receipt of a nice note and a \$300 check from the Enquirer yesterday.

The deal with them may interest you. I didn't get a penny unless I convinced them not only that the book was a fraud but that they ought not nonetheless get for it nonetheless. I had to do all of this by remote and under time pressures. No time for letters, for example. Had to do it all by phone. The way around that was to get the reporter with whom I dealt to tape all I told him so his superiors could hear it in greater detail than he'd be able to remember.

The note was from the Senior Editor. I guess this means the guy under Gene ~~guy~~ Pope. It included the invitation to get them informed on my JFK work and new disclosures.

As soon as I saw it, remembering that a reporter had seen some of the documentation for PM and I'd heard nothing since, I decided to phone this guy on the chance it would by-pass some of the extensive bureaucracy. I can use their WATS line and from the McDonald experience I felt he would take the call. He was out, his secretary said he'd return the call, so while I was at it I got switched to an old friend who is one of the under editors. I went into what I thought they might go for and with another effort to bypass part of this bureaucracy. Reports were turned in on story suggestions and there hasn't even been a response to the reporters.

What I thought they'd go for is "Suppressed Scientific Tests Prove Oswald Innocent." The paraffin tests. Not new but the tests are. The results are not.

Seems promising. I suggested to under-editor friend that he see if they'd turn him loose to come up for several days and wade through PM and that in return for enough to pay the printer they could take as many stories as they want, with documentation. Interested him. (They had stopped at the \$10,000 tag on this the reporter friend placed on it, not the content he reported. But they were going \$25,000 for the McDonald swill.)

Back to the ill wind beginning: this McDonald work, in the way I have to think and allocate, just about pays this year's tax bill on both properties! The first tax bill and the Enquirer check were in the same mail. This means that the taxes will not have to come from PM and the Enquirer thing means that if it goes through there will remain the escrow account for the reprinting of the two books almost out of print.

For me this is good luck.

No new word on the McDonald project, no recriminations have reached me, last I heard National Star was considering it.