

Dear Jim,          Policoff and the SatEvePost          9/17/75

You should know better than to think that when I am angry about what I regard as unethical behavior by others and I do not hide my anger from you that it is addressed to you.

We spoke about this projected Post article a week or more ago. I then suggested that you suggest to Jerry that he speak to me first or in the alternative, that he refer the Post to me on this. All the original work in the medical field is mine and is copyrighted as mine except for the insane, like Cyril's.

I could not write this immediately because the phone hasn't stopped all afternoon and early evening. I had to finish the started letter to Bud and when Lil calls me I'm mailing that letter to Bud, going into town to do it because if he has not called Livingston the potential is too serious to run any risk.

I have sold xeroxed copies of Post Mortem and other books, in each case extracting a written pledge of no use. With people like Jerry I did not feel it necessary to get it in writing. Bud had he not assured me that he had no intention of ever writing on the subject, was merely interested, he'd never have had a copy.

What he will want to forget and perhaps you also do is the violence of our disagreement over just this at the time of Cyril's ego-tripping. I was pretty much alone then and remember it clearly enough. I also have correspondence on this.

I have lived too many painful years in which others who are without need get paid for a rebash of my work. If Jerry were really being ethical about this he'd have spoken to me. If he were not hungup on his own emotions he also would have spoken to me. He has wasted hundreds of hours in pointless calls over the years but on this hasn't phoned me once. And I ask to have no questions??

Generally I am regarded as an impatient and intolerant man. But stop and think about what I've been publicly silent about with Bud alone. Now you know all the other such ripoffs. (By the way, I am getting another ~~W~~atlar for you for Kellogg if you need it. I have it located and it will be mailed.)

I don't want you to get involved in this. I think you should stay entirely out of it. For more reasons than that you do not have time. But I'm not going to involve you by spelling them out. My anger was at having so few I've known and trusted who would not disgrace an underattended barnyard. Jerry is one, despite all you know. He has done some pretty rotten things that to him are of another character. If he can't control his emotional involvements I'm not going to try.

The Post was in touch with me months ago. They didn't even know about Howard until I told them. One of those who called me wanted to kill their intent to reprint the Whelan article, it was that long ago. Before that special issue went to press. I've checked the file. May 2 Reyliss, the editor, thanked me for the phone conversation. Maybe elsewhere I have notes on the other one.

Do you not think there has to be a question when they have my books and they have spoken to me when they bypass me this way? And with a Jerry, who really is expert on nothing except some of the press treatment?

I do wish you could understand that the present issue is not press and that while it may be impossible for me to do anything about these plagiarisms the chance that I can means more to me and to the ultimate unravelling than any mention of the books, which is at best small fry.

Lil calls. Maybe I'll be able to add to this later. But when the Anson six-figure deal that is a theft follows on so many other of which you know enough don't expect my veins to carry icewater, especially when supposed friends are doing the unethical. I do not propose to subsidize Jerry's ego or ambitions. Or his past.

I've asked Lil and she confirms no exception to the stipulation on letting any xerox copy out of my possession.

My anger was not at you. Jerry knows what he is doing and what the fact and truth are and can't control himself. Here you phoned again. Best,

Jim, More on Policoff/Post and BF

9/18/75

On the separate envelope I've indicated a desire that you not open this until after the appeal is filed because part of it may irritate you and because there ought be no diversion of your time into the unessential.

When you phoned as we were leaving because I wanted Bud to get the Livingston letter today I asked you if you had heard from Bud. You had not. I had spoken to him about getting the retyping started. He had agreed that you were overloaded and gave me to understand there might have been a few suggestions from him if he had not felt you did not have the time. I told him I felt a few I'd made might be helpful. We both agreed that what you had done is good and he actually said he had people sitting around in his office with free time in which they could do typing. He did promise to phone you. I said it would not take long for you to incorporate those suggestions you want to pick up. Or, more of this endless doubledoubling, one version to me to make him look like a good guy and cooperative and fuck you, you don't even hear from him. And I do feel strongly that even the retyping of 40 some pages would be not only that much more toward completion but that such psychological pressure taken off of you.

Let me explain the SatEvePost-Jerry situation a different way. Both have problems as they relate to me. I can't be sure of what the Post's are, but in part they have to come from what people like Jerry and Lans and O'Toole tell them. In part it may be from their files of the past, their failures then and need of me. In part it may be because few publications are going to handle anything really tough on this and then say that what they've printed is largely nonsense, that most of the original work was done by one man.

Jerry can't get over whatever emotional think it was that caused him to handle the Washington Post and me so dishonestly in his initial piece on the press. He had from my file a proof that would have stacked in court of the accuracy of my representation and from Geoffrey Wolff confirmation in his own way. Bradlee's order was no review. Once Jerry would not be honest he developed a hangup neither he nor I can do anything about.

But he also has the occupation for cheap fame.

He knows very well that there is no medical evidence of any consequence that is not my work. He knows specifically about Cyril learning nothing or next to it and then saying all the crazy things he has. He knows that I prepared Cyril's 1969 testimony because Cyril didn't understand the panels' reports. He knows that I had all of that written before Cyril testified. He knows that I had all of the first three parts of Post Mortem written and published in a limited edition prior to Cyril's seeing anything and that I had the third part done except for what I added on Lattimer later. He knows from both Howard and me what we talked about when Fred Graham called me because Howard was here. In short, he knows that for all practical purposes all the medical work is mine.

Whether or not he knows, and I think he does, the SatEvePost phoned me right after the NYU meeting, when I was not yet well. Two people. I offered them the ancillary rights to all of this. They professed excitement and said they'd be back. Why do you suppose the editor took the time May 2 to write me so nice a letter?

The decision I made before the NYU meeting was the correct one. It was wrong for me to let Howard take all of what I had on that in the fourth part of PM out but I did. We have to confront these self-promoters and ripoff artists. Howard was afraid it would make me look bad but I don't really care about that because there is something more important and that is the harm these people have done and are doing. They have to be exposed. There isn't one of them who care ~~xxxx~~ about anything more than in some way he cares about his self-interest in this. It drives them to dirty things. Some cross over into the unethical. With Cyril, any time I want to do something- and I don't- I have more than enough. He read the first two parts of PM and even studied some of the pictures and without my permission made copies and send me some when I had them.

They don't want to change and we can't change them.

You ought to remember enough. You have the closer experience with Bud, Bob and Cyril, among others. Then remember the flap about Cyril going in to see the stuff and that whole affair? The only one of the 100% opposition who had the inner decency and self respect to speak honestly was Howard. The rest were bitter-enders. Sylvia and Jerry took the view that the Kennedys had it coming to them anyway. Sylvia wrote me this.

None of them can face anything, none is capable of changing, and all we can do is waste time trying. I can't think of anything Jerry has done or can do that is worth the time he has wasted alone. It has made no difference and may have been counter-productive. It really says nothing new. It represents another kind of minor-press copout.

What difference does it really make which of the ignoramuses writes a medical-evidence story for the SEPost? They can't do it without transgressing against my rights. I may not be able to do anything about it, may not even try, but if there is no real difference, and there isn't, why not let these people who have the money and can pay for the damage they do put me in a position to collect if it is possible?

None of them really want to help me, including Jerry. This is the way he quiets his conscience. I can't think of even a single simple research job he would do for me in NYC. I had to use a highschool dropout for library chores there. Sylvia? She never once ever proposed me for any single show, never once referred any reporter to me, and refused all specific requests I made, like when I asked her to edit PH II before the final retiring.

They are all in various ways at least jealous and they have trouble cohabitating with their emotions. But they have a clear and undeviating record of not changing.

Now what I don't want you to tell Jerry is that no matter what the SEPost does on the medical evidence it can't be out before PH and the ancillary use of it. They'll get badly splattered. Let HDs and let them. Ack yourself what there is in the medical evidence that is credible that he can honestly attribute to the writing of another? (Lane, by the way, did not do his gun and the woman who did it for him didn't understand it and wrote me for help. I have a file if you want to see it. I think her name is Ruth Portal.) Or if anyone else dug anything of any consequence out of the Archives before I did or in addition to what I did. So what is this business of he can credit my work and sell me a couple of books? What does it mean except that he is telling himself he is not really a bastard, asither?

He knows the only honest thing was to tell the Post the work was all mine and that they should a) ask me to do the piece or b) run the risk of being sued if they used my work without permission. But he wouldn't even let himself think of that.

He was the same way on the proposed Helia piece for New Times. For all Howard did that was so good and all Sylvia did, they both missed the most significant and both failed to put it together as they could and should have. So what was there that kept Jerry from saying I was the first who had done this and why didn't the New Times get in touch with me?

The sad part is that he believes all the nonsense into which he has talked himself. He has made himself part of Lane's dirtyworking self-promotion that at its best will deceive more young mind that do not have to be told the official story is a lie. Jerry craves the attention he hasn't been able to get any other way and he can't control. So, my advice is just to let them all alone and not waste time and emotions on what we can't do anything about. We are better off being hurt with the prospect of being able to do something about it than with this kind of "help."

I am not anxious to sell the early books now because I'll run out and can't reprint now and because we have to complete Post Mortem and can't do everything. What comes first? For me getting the stuff printed.

And the hotter the subject gets the more of this there will be. People have been ripping me off for a decade. I can stand a little more. Hastily,