

AMW 10/11/98

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HAROLD WEISBERG
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Dear Hal:

It's less than a week since I returned from Dallas but for some reason it seems longer.

I hope your medical exam went well and that everything will be O.K. You know, many people at the Dallas conferences asked about you and they were very concerned.

It was good to meet such people as Paul Hallor and Barbara who especially asked how you were. And as you know there were two different conferences going on at different hotels. I managed to attend both at different times and was able to speak at both (of which I'll mention more later on).

The "COFA" group which really is Gary Aguilar's "baby" gave me the opportunity to speak at the 12-30 annual ceremony on the knoll (and I suspect it was Gary who did the approval). Such speakers as Mark Lane, Bill Tarnes and mostly other "COFA" people spoke so for "COFA" allowing me to speak was kind of an honor, I think.

The "Lancer" event (which is the rival group to "COPA") probably had more people but both were well attended I thought. As you may or not be aware Gary Aguilar will have nothing to do with the "Lancer" people & the feeling is mutual.

I'm sure by now Paul Halbr has written you about the panel where I appeared (together with Josiah Thompson and Art Snyder). In my opinion our arguments rebutted them completely and the behavior of Fetzer hurt their "cause". Fetzer got into a shouting match & wouldn't let go of the microphone (it's all on video so new comers can see what a spectacle he made of himself). At one point Fetzer put up his hands in a boxing mode threatening Snyder to go ahead & take a punch at him. Someone told me that Fetzer said to Snyder "you are contemptible" & Snyder replied "yes - I have ~~some~~ contempt for you."

When I sat down later having something to eat & Mary Ferrell (who always asks for you) was sitting near me she said something like "well you boys, really gave it to them." (I think Mary is on our side on this Z-controversy but I've never really asked her).

I also spoke on the Z-film for COPA & appeared with Robert Groden (who also asked about you). At one point Groden asked the audience for a voice vote as to what the audience believed on Z-film alteration. The vote turned out to be

two to one in favor of non-alteration but it was still quite of a shock to see how many still believed in alteration.

Lancer presented me with 2 awards & I was glad to get them. Gaeton Fonzi (one of the nicest gentlemen around) got the same kind of award I did & he definitely deserves it.

By the way I met Vincent Salandria there whom I hadn't seen in decades & it was really great to see him once again. Years ago I stayed at his home in Philly & he's still practicing law there. When "Lancer" asked him to speak after accepting his award he said - "no, you've said it all, there's no need for me to speak."

As someone said to me during the conferences our presentations on why the Z film couldn't have been altered probably means their ^(opposition) won't be presented at future conferences but, I don't know - they're on a Titanic course & don't know when they've hit an iceberg. I think we'll hear from them again.

After I spoke on the grassy knoll someone came up to me & said he was doing a video on you & he would send you an interview of myself & Paul. Have you received it?

I've enclosed material I've gathered. Read it when you get a chance.

Hope everything goes well for you.

Best,
Hal Verbo