

6/8/72

Dear Js,

With less than an hour before lunch there's not point in picking up writing on (I'd like your opinion of title and possibilities on a cover) The Double Double-Cross. Your 6/3 came. I've read it but not enclosures, which I'll do twixtween other things. By now you know that one of the Gervais things is a dupe, but I'm glad to get it. Infrequently someone sends me a clip from the N.O. papers. I've sent you carbons of what I then noted and said.

Call from Moo this a.m. on other matters. He thinks Gervais will not take stand 6/12, agrees intent is perjury rap. My own view is that he will ask for immunity and will offer to testify with it, which will do more than call government bluff. The question here will be legal and his lawyer's attitude toward it. He could blow their minds by testifying and running the risk of perjury and more by getting immunity, which is why I think they'll not do it. It could, with an honest press, be embarrassing for them to offer him immunity on the most serious of crimes (fact-he has it) and not on possibility of perjury rap.

Oershing's quoted lack of fear on contract can have two origins, and I favor one. Not that he is all that brave and that he has no enemies. That those who had an interest in hurting him have lost it and whether or not they understand it, should understand that as long as he says things against the government he is helping them. My fear is a contrived contact, where a hood does the job but not for defendants. Were it not that he has no genuine fear and that he is anxious to demonstrate it, he'd not have advertised his return as well as he has. It is sufficiently detailed in the papers so that it should not be hard to identify the highways he would use, hence find him via his car, which is registered at every motel. I think he will have been correctly read by now and that it will be understood that a) he had no alternative to what he did and b) in the lon run, it serves every interested party as best he could, under the existing circumstances.

The Bremer parallel you suggest is real. I began feeling this kind of thing possible at the time of the Austin college-tower tragedy. I then began a "Snake" file, but abandoned it because I just have to cut back. I did clip what was in the Post on the current case, a mere mention, so your clip, unread, is welcome. The whole area of dealing with the disturbed is really unexplored. The shrinks have been fatuous and irrelevant. And Flatulent. The do offer the liklier recruits

Wit what you say about the Japanese I can't disagree. I think you stopped too soon. I do not have your knowledge of the orient, but a few smatterings of ignorance linger from the last job on which I was working in OSS prior to medical discharge, when I was rehired as a civilian in a different branch where my specialties could be of more use. I was then part of a crew working for texts for the Army of Expected Occupation. So, the things you discuss are not foreign to me. However, what you fail to take into account is the changes of the modern world on all youth, as I see these changes. For example, how foreign to the Messada tradition is the JDL (clip in next batch). There is nothing in the Jewish tradition to parallel the present Israeli military policies since the Maccabees, as I draw upon an inadequate recall of an originally inadequate knowledge. The Latin American kids are not consistent with their cultures, really a single one. Castro is a ffeak among Latin American revolutionaries, almost all of whom sold out fairly quickly (not all). No, I have met one of the modern Japanese kids when he was an exchange student here, and I found remnants of the past not surviving his living in the present. He is the son of an executive of the Japanese Broadcasting System and radical enough to have engaged in radical activity outside Japan on the ground that all radical activity serves the same end, his. Like you, I am untroubled by the mercenary aspect. I regard those fellows who did so terrible a thing as I regard the Arab guerrillas who have never assailed their real repressors as, in their own eyes, principled. I don't agree, but I do believe they are sincere in this belief and on this basis I can understand their sem-Trotskyite attitude. And practise. assuming them not sick in the head, which could account for any act. And I seem to recall a bit more of what to us would be brutality in the Japanese culture than you suggest, and that it was accepted. They are likewise more sensitive to the niceties than we, witness their delicacy with the Puerto Rican funerals, among other things.

Let me add another dimension in Sirhan (and no disagreement with what you say): there was a fairly strong Arab anti-Israeli, radical-right oriented group in the LA area, including a dentist, Toma. So I can accept the well-dressed man bit, too. I have other and

serious troubles with Owen, as you do. And I think you segregate the tapes properly, for although you give th same cast, Hal told me the interview was in Davis' SF office and I think I'd have recognized if the voice were not Turner's. That ism while I would not now recognize yours, I would Turner's.

I have no separate file on The Billiken Courier and I don't recall the author, of whom I'd not heard. I suggest that the easiest and fastest way to locate a copy will not take long. First, I think Ballantine was the publisher or the reprinter if an original paperback. The second way is by looking up the title in Books In Print, Starting about 5-6 years ago. It won't take long in the library or any large bookstore. If you will not be getting to either soon, the first time I write the guy who gave it to me (five days on mail-he has left country) I'll ask him.

Earlier, after I took a walk, I began a search for your missing early-day King files. I haven't even found that first and only Caldwell story, which leads me to the certainty that I have to think of more files in which it can be or if I loaned it. However, in those many files I did search, I have no single original clip of that period from you. I have even checked my attache cases, in which I sometimes store what I may use in th infrequent appearances. As a general practise, Je marks what she wants returned with a little slip, and as my general practise I go over it first and return as soon as I can. There remains the possibility that some mailing ~~stack~~<sup>didn't</sup> get through. I am following two practises beginning now. I will number each first-class mailing and letter the 3rd. This way you will know if you get all. I can't keep a record, but unless there is some reason to send something fastm what I'm doing is accumulating to close to the limit of postage of any denomination and then mailing. So, it will be simple to address a new envelope on the mailing of the one before. I have just identified this envelope as "1" and the 3rd clas one started as "A".

As you will see, I have taken an UnKaiserlich approach to Bremer with today's stories (written early, before paper came) and interviews via a detective with whom I have worked on radical-right activities. We'll see. I doubt his lawyer will go for it for non-legal reasons: commercial-he'll want the possible literary rights. I expect none, but I'm also not giving them away.

Braggart dept: It now turns out that HHH says HW read HHH correctly on Wallace—and that HHH is now open about it. I did a sidebar for the Enquirer on this. I didn't expect them to use it. It is now clear, as I then found it, that HHH did not at all say what he had been universally accepted as having said, and the "adame Wallace soon enough confirmed me. What she said is that the "em's need him on the ticket, which is not to say as Number 1.

unch! Best,

3 June 1972

Dear Harold:

Your first class of May 30 came in yesterday, and in the meantime a few things have appeared which you should have and which are enclosed.

Gervais appears to be slowly making his way back toward NO. Like you, the tax gripe sounds inadequate here as an explanation of why he's returning to what is being made to appear as a possible trap, in view of the talk about a hit contract for him. We've seen nothing in any paper outside NO since the first stories, although admittedly we haven't worked over the NY Times yet except for the latest on Bremer. Will watch carefully for anything further.

Regarding Bremer, I find an uncomfortable parallel between his case and that of Narvey McCleod, the young black who shot up the shopping center May 29 at Raleigh, ~~RALEIGH~~ N.C. Both were strange characters, lonely, and both were janitors in school buildings where the custom is to work at night and where surreptitious contacts are easily possible. There is no sensible motive in either case. As to McCleod, we heard on radio the same day there had been a racial disturbance elsewhere in N.C. either the same day or the day before, and never saw anything about it in the local press. Apparently no connection as a trigger for McCleod, since he might not even have heard about it and the police say he shot at blacks as well as whites.

And believe it or not, I find also possible parallels and links between the Sirhan case, that of Bremer, and the gory shootout at Tel Aviv airport on May 30 by the three Japanese gunmen, allegedly hired by Arabs. While there is a long tradition of political assassination in Japan, this would be the first time to my knowledge that it has been exported and ~~expanded~~ expanded into a general bloodbath such as that at Tel Aviv. In other words, the Japanese are among the least likely to hire out for a job like this outside their own country where their own internal political motives are not involved.

There is one factor in their cultural heritage which could help to explain their action. This is the so-called ronin tradition. The ronin were hired warriors during feudal Japan who swore fealty to any of the various shoguns, or regional warlords, and did their bidding as long as the agreement was lived up to by the overlord. Their knightly duties included assassinations, raids and the like, all under a code known as bushido which was an ethical mishmash roughly comparable with that of the knights of the round table in mediaeval England. Aside from the bushido nonsense, there was NO ~~xxx~~ intellectual, ideological or other political element involved. They were simply hired men, paid warriors, and apparently did not hesitate, if their master failed to hold up his end of the bargain, to go over to another side, sign a new contract, and fight just as enthusiastically for the new boss. The important thing about the whole scene is that the ronin is to the Japanese what the knights of the round table were to succeeding generations of the English, and such stories as the Tale of the 47 Ronin occupy a comparable place in Japanese legend and literature. In China during the Japanese occupation, the term ronin came to be applied to Japanese civilian adventurers who tagged along behind the conquering Imperial Army and who filled precisely the role of the carpetbagger. The army used them often for jobs it didn't want to handle itself.

However it is one thing for a Japanese draft dodger to make his way to Manchuria or occupied China and pick up a few fast bucks doing dirty work for the army of occupation, including the spreading and sale of heroin among the Chinese; it is quite a different stretch of the imagination to envision today's young Japanese radical knowingly allowing himself to be dragged into the Arab-Israeli dispute so far away from home and in a cause so remote from the domestic Japanese issues which made him a radical in the first place. I say some factor was at work here which has not even been hinted at. There is nothing I know of in the Japanese character to explain the ~~savagery~~ savagery of the Tel Aviv attack on what had to be totally impersonal targets. It is not untypical, of course, that given the fact the trio found themselves in this situation, one would destroy himself and even kill a comrade with the gunfire he was spraying around so insanely. I'm not alone in my puzzlement. The Japanese in Japan appear profoundly shocked by the whole thing, so much so that it's not entirely explainable on the basis of national pride and shame. They know the ronin tradition better than I do, and although they haven't even mentioned it as far as I know, must be painfully conscious that never before has it been exported so far and to a milieu totally unrelated to Japan.

I cannot forget that this is ascribed to Arab money -- one might even guess that it could have been a preliminary smokescreen for the nationalization of the oil industry in Iraq which followed by a day or two. But this does not explain how Arabs could PERSUADE three Japanese to do such a desperate, untypical thing.


This recalls the Arab whom Jerry Owens thought was the nationality of the extremely well-dressed man he saw with Sirhan and who he thought was more or less in charge. Owens was very positive and obviously much impressed with this man. Owens might have been lying about 90 per cent of the rest of his story, but I am quite sure he was bowled over by the expensive nature of this man's attire. And of course a well-dressed man has been mentioned as having been seen with Bremer during his ferry crossings, and although described as Greek, easily could also have been Arab. (1968.)

By the way, the Owens tape you describe appears to be that of another interview with Owens. Mine was made June 29, at George T. Davis' ranch in Napa County, with Davis and a local minuteman type named Ben Hardister who was acting as a sort of bodyguard to Owens, who at the time felt himself under threat. I recall that Bill Turner later had an interview with Owens, but can't recall having heard the tape of it.

As for my tape, it's a poor recording and it's very hard to tell how much of what Owens says has any relation to fact. However he obviously was scared at the time, and although he talked for nearly an hour, said little which should interest you now. If you wish, I can dub it for you, but believe it would be a waste of your time.

To answer one of your notes, I've not heard of Richard Neely. The ~~name~~ rings no bells. Like you, I lean toward a pen name.

Some time ago, when you first mentioned the Billiken Courier, we tried to find it, couldn't, and then tried to order it. Nothing happened. If you could give us the name of the author we'll try again.

That's all for now, best,  jdw