

9/9/74

Dear David,

Thanks for the suggestions. We will have a very serious problem with freebies because we begin with 535 of ~~ax~~ them minimum for Congress alone and a major publisher can't afford that on a big deal! However, I'm inclined to agree with you. Jim and I will discuss these kinds of things as they come up plus in general. We have already had to agree that we'll restrict ourselves on freebies to those provided by my last contract, six. With use it will be each. This will hardly supply our families. But we have all the costs to pay back to begin with and they went up more than 10% on paper alone after we received the estimate. In fact, it had to be bought out of town and shipped in! But history must be served. And historians.

Jim told me about Roche. There must be someone else of the same name. I'd appreciate a xerox to hang, please.

Could your article on 2052 come from the book and be professionally acceptable? That is, write each of those we expose, ask his version and when you get nothing tell the story, what we say, they are silent, or if they lie, what they lie to.

You have come to realize what it was hard for me to accept, that to these people history, what it may record of them, even their secret self-esteem, are all irrelevant to immediate political objectives. They are as sincere as Hitler's following and do believe in what they do. This is how they tell themselves that night is day and lies are truth or that lies are justified.

You could take a less charitable view, that career and upward mobility are all that matters.

But I do think that there is a need for this approach of Contempt for History: the New Thing in the Federal Bureaucracy.

You might not believe it but there is worse than in 2052-73. The difference there is, as Jim put it, for the first time we forced them to haul out their big gun, Rankin. He won't pop again for a while!

In a sense, 718-70 and the spectro suits are worse because both involved deputy AGs. In fact the lying if not perjury was worse in ~~255x~~ 2569-70.

One of the reasons I've tended to favor the local small college if we can work out any kind of foundation grant is to be able to work personally with bright students who can do things with me to call upon and offer suggestions and for them to use my files while I also am using them. Not that Wisconsin isn't much more pretigious. (If anything comes of it, and I can't take the time to look, those ~~at~~ locals will collaborate with Wisconsin.) We are really talking about a thesis that could make a book. One of so very many!

Tennessee was quite a victory for which Jim can't get too much credit. There have been and will be developments. I'm urging what most lawyers would regard as a novel approach or we'll be swamped in the immediate and hung up forever. What I have not yet told Jim, it has compelled the Memphis establishment to sit back and think and the attitudes as represented by the monopoly media are changed.

If you do this article, I would suggest addressing it as one of many horrible and unpublicized examples (possible only because of the lack of publicity) and not at all the exception in practise although it is in subject matter, the reason for an article...Next time saty longer. We have the space. "est,

August 4, 1974

Harold Weisberg
Rt. 2
Frederick, Maryland

Dear Harold:

Thanks for the visit. It was good to meet Lil after having heard you speak of her so often. I wish we could have visited longer but time is short when one has to pare it off the few minutes we had from our children who are quite young.

I have been going back over 2052 and the Weisberg decision. What impresses me about the boys is they don't seem to give one hoot and holler about the judgment of history, for the case is so obvious when it is read carefully.

Jim told me about the Tennessee outcome and it looks promising. I could not find ten words on the subject in every paper in Wisconsin and the big city dailies from Minneapolis.

Recently as perhaps Jim has told you I was reviewing a book of essays by John Roche, sanctified to life, and he dedicates the book to you and Lyndon B. Johnson. It is a remarkable tander bitch. Roche is a fellow divided amongst himself, but of high principle. He has such an says he is lost and can't figure out what has happened to America.

After your kind suggestions and Jim's observations I decided to squeeze out an article to publicize your 2052 in the history journals if at all possible. How to handle the article to make it acceptable to my colleagues is hard, but if time permits I will try.

I have informed several persons about WW IV and hopefully your sales will increase by a half dozen or more from all around the country. Did you think you wished to send review copies to the leading history journals? Even if they don't review them they list every book they receive and it is also indexed in their annual report? The Wisconsin Magazine of History might review it? 411 816 State Madison 53706; the American Historical Review (22,000 circ.) is located in Washington D.C. The Journal of American History is Editor, Journal of American History, Ballantine Hall, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana 47401

regards

Dave

Dave Wroone