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NYTimes ads Frank's An American Death 5/22/24,25, 26

I think these are rather exceptional because it is the general practise to advertise only those books that are doing well and there is every indication that Frank's is not. I think Doubleday has other purposes in placing these ads, esp. the half-page one. They can't begin to come out on the book without a movie and they are, with these ads, I think really working on that. Without subsidiary rights being sold, they have to sell 100,000 copies in hardback to recapture the advance they gave Frank. The placing of the ads follows the end of his coast-to-coast tour, which in itself was expensive for Doubleday. Their people and Frank live well, travelled extensively, and there were at least four of them. The cost of this tour alone exceeded the cost of all that is required for the production of a 5,000 edition of the ordinary book. I found out that the man who made the arrangements and hecked the part is had one name, and when I met Frank, he had two others from Doubleday with him, making the four-party total...There remains the possibility that the tour did make the book do better than we believe, and this, too, could account for the considerable investment in these ads. HW

The whole series of NYTimes-Feltrinelli stories makes the incident less comprehensible. The 5/25 story, for example, where a newspaper is raided for accurate reporting, sounds like Saigon. For the police and prosecutor to behave so would seem to indicate they are pretty uptight and makes me wonder about their involvement in the crimes of violence. The alleged objection to the printing of a clue deals with the kind of thing police often publicize in an effort to catch the culprit. The superficial indications of this story can be interpreted to mean that the real inspiration for the raid on Corriere della Sera is the good investigative work it is going on the Feltrinelli case. It is hard to believe that Feltrinelli would or could be so incompetent about anything as this story of the bombing as retailed by authorities makes him. HW

Times 5/22/26 Bremer stories: If one assumes mental instability on his part, there is no inconsistency or meaninglessness in Bremer's joining the ACLU. He asked that it defend him, and it didn't because no issue of the kinds of rights in which it is interested was involved. He could have had in mind that being a member would give him a better chance of getting its help. He does seem to have planned some such deed for some time. Meanwhile, although he also was portrayed as a loner, there continue to emerge these references to associates who should be identifiable to the FBI. Of course, if they were but casual acquaintances, it would be wrong to publicize identifications. These also gradually raise the total of Bremer's expenditures, making it more impossible that his income could account for them. The Terrence Smith story (26) makes me think he is one I met at the Archives, an expert at missing the obvious. "Problematical" about an ideological element involved? When the only candidate in whom he had no interest was McGovern? What is the fundamental difference between Wallace, Nixon and HHH? They all represent the "conservative" side, McG alone the other side...Why should he have asked for a receipt from the Canadian gas station? There seems to be nothing else like this in all his travels...The description of "two books on the assassination of Robert F. Kennedy" is not quite faithful. It is my recollection that the Arab's is not on the assassination but on Sirhan and makes a kind of hero of him. I've not read it. ...The accumulation of these hits and pieces on when he was observed at which rallies makes even more incomprehensible that he did not attract police or Secret Service attention. One can only wonder why the crowds were photographed if the photos were not studied. If they were studied, it is hard to see how his constant appearance at so many scattered places would not have inspired some interest or concern. Incompetence may be a more likely explanation than deliberateness. HW

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