“Dan Moldea’s reporting in general on organized crime and American politics is in a class by itself. . . . Courageous and groundbreaking work.”
(Sally Denton and Roger Morris—from their book, The Money and The Power)

"If Moldea were a prizefighter, he would be a kind of Rocky Graziano. He never, never quits punching. Moldea never relents.”
(Robert Sherrill, The Washington Post)

**November 2019**

21. *The Detroit Free Press* gets comment from the FBI

Here’s a penetrating story by John Wisely for the Detroit Free Press—ground zero for reporting on the Jimmy Hoffa murder case—about the article I published this morning on the Fox News website about the possible discovery of Hoffa’s grave, based on information I received from Frank Cappola. . . .

Also Included is a response from the FBI.

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* This searchable catalogue is primarily based on DEM’s postings on Facebook—with the active links to each post and accompanying comments in red print. Also, see his brief statements on Twitter, https://twitter.com/DanMoldea, which are not included in this document.

21. Does Frank Cappola know where Jimmy Hoffa is buried?


As promised, here is my report about the best lead I have received about the location of Jimmy Hoffa’s body since the ex-Teamsters boss disappeared on July 30, 1975. Inasmuch as I started investigating Hoffa, the Teamsters, and the Mafia eight months before the murder while I was living in Akron, Ohio, and a graduate student at Kent State University, I have been waiting and working for this moment for 44 years.


At my request, my source for this report and new friend, Frank Cappola, has executed a sworn statement attesting under oath to his claims. In addition, along with promising to cooperate fully with the law-enforcement community, he has agreed to take a polygraph test.

Many thanks to my friend and colleague, reporter Eric Shawn at Fox News, who helped make this real.

“I am Ahab. And the Hoffa case is my white whale.”

Additional comments by DEM

This is not Absolute Truth--yet. God knows, we are mindful of Geraldo Rivera's empty-vault debacle.

* * *

Bob. . . . Phillip Moscato Sr. told me that Vito Giacalone was the driver of the car in Act One--Hoffa's pick up at the Red Fox--but we cannot confirm who else was in that car and/or whether there were as many as two other cars involved. We have reason to believe that there were. . . . In Act Two--the scene of the crime--Moscati Sr. confirmed that Salvatore Briguglio was Hoffa's killer--which is what I have believed since 1975--as I wrote in my 1978 book. Also, according to Briguglio just before he was murdered, I am the only journalist who interviewed him--and I interviewed him four times. . . . In Act Three--the disposal of Hoffa's body--Ralph Picardo speculated to the FBI that he was buried at Moscati's landfill in Jersey City--which Moscati confirmed to me during my interviews with him. Moscati told me, "Picardo basically had it right." . . . But Moscati never gave me the exact location. I now believe that Frank Cappola, the son of Moscati's partner at the landfill, has given me the exact location of Hoffa's remains, based on what his father told him . . . Eric and I will be on his Saturday new program on Fox on Saturday, sometime between 5:00 and 6:00 to discuss all of this.

* * *

Thanks, DeeDee. There is one helluva story about what has transpired since last July--which started with something I put on Facebook. . . . I'm in high confidence, but, if this doesn't pan out, it will be just another empty hole and another disappointment. Notably, I have refused to accept any money for anything I have done on this caper since July.
19. Preview: Frank Cappola at the PJP Landfill, aka “Brother Moscato’s Dump”

On Thursday, November 21, Frank Cappola, the oldest son of Paul Cappola, Sr., will take center stage in the Jimmy Hoffa murder case. . . . I snapped the attached photograph of Frank at the former PJP Landfill, aka “Brother Moscato’s Dump,” in Jersey City, New Jersey, which was co-owned by his father and Phillip “Brother” Moscato, a soldier in the Vito Genovese crime family.

In 2007, Moscato told me, among other things, that Hoffa was buried at their landfill.

On September 29, Frank gave me a very revealing tour of the site—which I videotaped from beginning to end. My story will be published on Thursday.

Law-enforcement inquiries are encouraged. Frank, who has already executed a sworn statement at my request, has agreed to cooperate fully.

Many thanks to my friend and colleague, reporter Eric Shawn at Fox News.

Additional comments by DEM

Actually, it's a little more complicated than that. These guys have been snake bitten in the aftermath of the failure of their previous digs and excavations--almost all of which, in my opinion, were legitimate and even noble. Plus, we not only have to entice them to get back on the horse, but we also have to get them to allow us to be present to memorialize the moment. . . . I want to be there.

* * *

Bob . . . If it wasn't against the law, I'd bring in my team, and we'd just do it, no problem. . . . Notably, it was a daunting task and even a little dangerous to get to the specific location on foot, and it would be very difficult to get the necessary equipment there, including but not limited to an excavator. Consequently, we need law-enforcement people to obtain and execute a search warrant. Towards that end, we are hoping that Frank's sworn statement will serve, at least in part, as the probable cause required to obtain the warrant. . . . After my story comes out tomorrow, we will focus on that. As I told Jeff Stein, above, I want both my source and me, as well as Eric, to be present for the excavation.

18. My search for Hoffa’s body with Eric Shawn of Fox News: Part One

Since last July, my friend and colleague, Eric Shawn of Fox News, and I have been on a mission to solve Act Three of the Jimmy Hoffa murder case. . . . We want to know what happened to his body.
Here is Eric’s remarkable report about the first part of our investigation, featuring the statements of Phillip Moscato, Jr., the son of the late Phillip Moscato, Sr., an identified soldier in the Vito Genovese crime family and the one-time co-owner of Brother Moscato’s Dump in Jersey City, New Jersey.

From 2007-2014, I conducted a series of interviews, many recorded, with the senior Moscato who told me, among other things, that a) In Act One, Detroit mobster Vito Giacalone had driven the car that took Hoffa to the scene of his murder; b) In Act Two, Salvatore Briguglio murdered Hoffa; and c) In Act Three, Hoffa was buried at Moscato’s landfill in Jersey City.

Several months after Moscato’s death, I contacted his son, who told me, among other things, that his father had given him a deathbed confession ten days before he died, which supposedly included the location of Hoffa’s body.

Mindful of the infamous Al Capone empty-vault debacle years ago, Eric and I have visited and filmed the location.

Later this week, I will publish the second part of our investigation.

Here’s Eric’s report—the excellent filmed version for which can be seen on Fox Nation, which offers a free seven-day trial subscription.

https://www.foxnews.com/opinion/eric-shawn-jimmy-hoffa-buried-killed.print

Additional comments by DEM

Here is the interview I did on Eric’s news show yesterday afternoon:
https://video.foxnews.com/v/6105171246001/?fbclid=IwAR1j58u9kJOZbvWWMjIrXb0e9Oz4Zi_CL4v7RLfo3tPwe23G7TjhMmDqbU#sp=show-clips

* * *

Here are Eric, Phillip Jr., and me in the Meadowlands.

13. Robert De Niro responds to my allegation that Sheeran conned him

Robert De Niro has responded to my widely reported claim that I warned him in December 2014 that he was “getting conned” by the false reality created by the late Frank Sheeran in the one-source book, “I Heard You Paint Houses,” upon which the film fantasy, “The Irishman,” is based. (In the movie, De Niro delivers an outstanding performance as Frank Sheeran, who falsely confessed in his book to killing Jimmy Hoffa.)

De Niro told Eric Kohn, the executive editor of IndieWire: “Dan is a well-respected writer. I met him in D.C. for a writers’ thing where they get together every year. He said that we were getting conned. I wasn’t getting conned.
“I have no problem with people disagreeing. He, of course, is an authority on Hoffa and everything else. As Marty [Scorsese] says, we’re not saying we’re telling the actual story, we’re telling our story. I believed it.

“I know one thing — I know all the stuff that Frank said, the descriptions of the places he was at, the way he talked, that’s all real. The way he describes what happened to Hoffa is a very plausible thing to me. I’d love to hear what actually happened to him. But this made a lot of sense to me.”


Additional Comments by DEM

Here is a recent 1:16-minute clip from "CBS Sunday Morning" during which Scorsese, Pacino, and De Niro discuss The Irishman. . . . Does anyone detect any equivocation from De Niro? . . . He flat out says he believes Sheeran--and this is what he has been saying from the outset, including at his meeting with me five years ago. He didn't even consider any other options or scenarios. . . . What De Niro and Scorsese are doing now is caving. . . . So, don't give me any of that cinematic-license bullshit. These guys were true believers in Sheeran's nutty story until the weight of the overwhelming evidence of Sheeran's lies threatened Netflix's $200-million investment in The Irishman. At that point, Scorsese used the artistic-license dodge, and now De Niro is starting to embrace it, too. This is classic caving. . . . And, by the way, I loved the movie--after recognizing it for what it is.

* * *

Reporters Julie Hinds of the Detroit Free Press--ground zero for coverage about the Hoffa case--weighs in on the controversies surrounding The Irishman.


* * *

I Heard You Paint Houses--the one-source book about a man who confessed to a bunch of murders he didn't commit and upon which the false-fact-filled fantasy film, The Irishman, is based--has just gone to Number #1 on the New York Times Best Sellers List for paperback "nonfiction" books. . . . Is this a great country or what?

12. On the eve of the impeachment hearings, we honor The Whistleblower’s attorney


Tonight at Clyde's Chevy Chase--on the eve of the impeachment hearings in the U.S. House--the members of "Learner’s Table" honored our friend and colleague, Mark Zaid, the attorney for “The Whistleblower” who started it all.

Behind me on the left and going clockwise around the table are Joel L. Swerdlow, Phil Manuel, Bill Thomas, Peter Ross Range, Mark Zaid (discreetly in the dark at the head of the table), Gus Russo, Mark Olshaker, Laurence Leamer, Nancy Lubin, and Mark Perry.

God bless Mark and The Whistleblower.

8. We just saw The Irishman, and—in spite of Frank Sheeran’s lies—it’s outstanding

Mimi and I have just returned from the E Street Cinema in downtown Washington after seeing *The Irishman*. I filled an entire reporter’s pad with my notes, but I want to see it again before publishing a more detailed review.

However, I will say that this false-fact-filled film fantasy lives up to the spectacular reviews it has already received since its widely praised premiere at the New York Film Festival on September 27. Quite simply, it is a stunning work of filmmaking by Martin Scorsese—although, once again, it appears to be his homage to Oliver Stone’s own film fantasy, *JFK*, with its great cinema but bad history.

To Scorsese’s credit, he has already conceded that he fictionalized his main character, Frank Sheeran, aka “The Irishman.” But, for anyone who has investigated the murder of Jimmy Hoffa and can get past all of Sheeran’s bullshit, the movie is a fascinating walk down memory lane.

For those who just enjoy outstanding motion pictures and simply don’t care whether true stories are accurately told, *The Irishman* is a jolting must-see experience whether on the big screen during its limited run at selected theaters around the country or after November 27 when it exclusively appears on Netflix.

An outstanding piece of work. Five stars across the board.

*Additional comments by DEM*

Diana: My advice? . . . Don't cry for Jimmy Hoffa. He was a very bad man. Because of his early pact with the Mafia, he descended from working-class hero to nothing more than a labor racketeer.

7. How Frank Sheeran, aka “The Irishman,” came into my life and then refused to leave


Long story short. . . Frank Sheeran, aka “The Irishman,” came into my life in 1977 while I was researching and writing my first book, *The Hoffa Wars*, which chronicled the rise and fall of Jimmy Hoffa and was published during the summer of 1978. In that work, I implicated Sheeran in the Hoffa-murder conspiracy, suspecting, based on my law-enforcement sources, that he was the “trusted friend” who had lured Hoffa into the car that took him to the scene of his murder.

However, I made it clear in my book and ever since that Hoffa’s actual killer was Salvatore Briguglio with whom I had four exclusive interviews before he was murdered in New York’s Little Italy on March 21, 1978.

One week to the day after the slaying, March 28, I interviewed Sheeran, who, of course, denied any role in Hoffa’s murder.

In March 1979, Sheeran’s attorney, Emmett Fitzpatrick, threatened in a letter to my publisher to sue me for defamation, insisting that “Mr. Sheeran wishes me to inform you that he emphatically denies the allegations about his involvement in Mr. Hoffa’s alleged death and to state specifically that your allegation that he was present in Detroit on the last day that Mr. Hoffa was seen is false, unfounded and has been specifically contradicted by evidence supplied by Mr. Sheeran to the Federal Government.”

Responding to Sheeran’s demand for a retraction and an apology, my attorney simply declared, “Mr. Moldea stands by his reporting.”

I didn’t hear from Sheeran or any of his representatives again . . . until twenty-five years later.

Attached is an excerpt—published this week by The Mob Museum in Las Vegas—from my 2013 memoir, *Confessions of a Guerrilla Writer*, which explains how and why Sheeran made his false claims of murdering, among many others, Hoffa and Briguglio in the one-source book about his life and times, which
became the basis for the Martin Scorsese-Robert De Niro motion picture, “The Irishman.” (h/t Geoff Schumacher of The Mob Museum)

We are looking forward to seeing and enjoying this false-fact-filled film fantasy tomorrow on opening day here in Washington, D.C.

https://themobmuseum.org/blog/is-the-new-martin-scorsese-movie-based-on-a-true-story/#section14

Additional comments by DEM

As my friends and colleagues will soon see, Eric Shawn of Fox News—who had heavily supported the Sheeran-killed-Hoffa theory from the outset—will wind up doing something remarkable with me later this month. Here is Eric’s promo which was broadcast on Sunday.

Don Wells: Just to be both clear and consistent with what I have been saying and writing for many years, I believe your Dad's story about what happened the night before the murder—at his dinner with Mac and Stan, along with the sudden appearance of Tony Pro. I also believe your Dad's story about the pre-dug hole at the back of the farm. Also, I believe your Mom's story about the three fast cars that sped up the dirt road past the farmhouse and in the direction of that hole on the afternoon of the murder, along with their fast exit less than an hour later. I also believe that the FBI misread your Dad's diagram and dug in the wrong place at its 2006 excavation. (Remember: When I visited and interviewed your parents in 2009, your Dad, who had earlier taken and passed a polygraph, and I, along with your Mom, went out to what was left of the Wixom farm, and I stood at the intersection of the dirt road and the railroad tracks and saw how the FBI screwed up.). . . In short, I believe that Hoffa was murdered either at the Wixom farm or at Mac's house in Southfield about two miles from the Red Fox. And, of course, I believe that Mac arranged for the transport of the body via Gateway Transportation which was operated in Detroit by Stan, who, along with Mac, was your Dad's business partner. . . . But Phillip Moscato Sr., the owner of Brother Moscato's Dump in Jersey City, told me in 2007 that the body was transported via Gateway from Detroit to his landfill in Jersey City--which is exactly what Ralph Picardo, the FBI's early top informant told federal agents and prosecutors. Moscato confirmed to me during my interviews with him, "Picardo basically had it right." . . . And, now, Phillip Moscato Jr. has courageously stepped up and told Eric and me his story about how—after his father and the Provenzano crew learned that Picardo was talking to the FBI—they decided to move the body from his father's dumpsite to a nearby location, which we have identified, visited, and filmed. . . . Bottomline, this is provable one way or the other. The body is either there or it's not. . . With regard to The Irishman, I have said from the outset that the movie is based on a bullshit story—and I told that to De Niro to his face at our 2014 dinner. My position hasn't changed.

I’m just an investigator, following legitimate leads from legitimate sources. It’s not over until the DNA says it’s over.


Interviewed by The Hill, our friend and colleague, attorney Mark Zaid, who represents “The Whistleblower,” responded to the shameless demand from right-wing Senator Rand Paul, a top Trump zombie-stooge, for the name of Mark’s client to be made public.

Mark said, “A member of Congress who calls for the identity of any lawful whistleblower to be publicly revealed against their wishes disgraces the office they hold and betrays the interests of the Constitution and the American people.”

Bravo, Mark. We’re proud of you. Protect “The Whistleblower.”


1. The Irishman opens today for a limited run before returning to Netflix on November 27


Today is the public premiere of the fabulous false-fact-filled film fantasy. The Irishman, the first day of nearly four weeks of screenings at selected theaters around the country before it lands on November 27 at its permanent home on Netflix, which financed this motion picture that cost between $150 to $200 million. The movie’s world premiere was at the New York Film Festival on September 27.

Since then, The Irishman—a three-and-a-half-hour epic about the life and times of reputed hitman and pathological liar Frank Sheeran, featuring his alleged role in the 1975 murder of Jimmy Hoffa—has received widespread praise and extraordinary reviews. Some critics have even suggested that it is not only director Martin Scorsese’s best movie ever but one of the greatest motion pictures of all time.

Already the early favorite to win Best Picture and Best Director at the 2020 Academy Awards, The Irishman also features Al Pacino, who plays Hoffa and is the odds-on favorite to win the Oscar for Best Supporting Actor.

Notably, I was the first person to attack Sheeran’s credibility regarding the Hoffa killing as depicted in the 2004 one-source book about the alleged hitman upon which the film is based.

Also, at a 2014 meeting with actor Robert De Niro—who a) optioned the book’s film rights in or about 2007, b) portrays Sheeran in the movie, and c) stood by the claimed accuracy of the book during our conversation—I told him that he had been “conned” by Sheeran’s proclivity to confess to crimes he did not commit.

Even though Scorsese has now conceded that his Sheeran character is essentially fictionalized, De Niro inexplicably continues to insist that Sheeran’s story is an accurate depiction of Hoffa’s murder.

Once again, I believe the The Irishman will be remembered, among other reasons, as Scorsese and De Niro’s homage to Oliver Stone’s own film fantasy, JFK, with its wonderful cinema but terrible history.

Via the attached website, I bought tickets to see the film on November 8 when it opens here in Washington, D.C. And I fully expect to enjoy and appreciate it, especially for putting Jimmy Hoffa back on the public’s radar screen and for putting my 44 years of work on Hoffa’s murder back in the game.

Stay tuned for some real excitement this month.

https://www.theirishman-movie.com/
Additional comments by DEM

From the Vince Wade for the Daily Beast: https://www.thedailybeast.com/martin-scorseses-the-irishman-is-a-big-lie-heres-what-really-happened-to-jimmy-hoffa?ref=home&fbclid=IwAR2QM8lpG9d5Ws6prvPC6cvcu6HC3V4EaoFRDLf9R7ZPbwmoRWzPtp4gZSM

The Indie Wire notes my meeting with an admonition to Robert De Niro in 2014. . . . https://www.indiewire.com/.../jimmy-hoffa-investigator...


The Telegraph: https://www.telegraph.co.uk/films/0/irishman-true-story-behind-scorseses-best-film-decades/

From The Decider: https://decider.com/2019/11/01/the-irishman-true-story-fake-robert-de-niro/

(H/T Allan Lengel of Deadline Detroit). . . . http://www.deadlinedetroit.com/articles/23623/dan_moldea_i_warned_robert_de_niro_the_irishman_s_murder_story_about_hoffa_was_pure_fiction


* * *

You got me, Bob. . . . I was a 25-year-old graduate student at Kent State and floundering in 1975 with no life or prospects. So, I whacked Hoffa to give me something to pretend to do for the rest of my life. . . . After I killed Hoffa, I stuffed him into a 55-gallon drum, loaded him onto a Gateway Transportation truck, drove him to New Jersey, and buried him at Brother Moscato's Dump in Jersey City--where he is still buried.

* * *

Here's Rolling Stone on the soundtrack for the Irishman. . . .


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October 2019

30. The Nats’ relentlessness has inspired me to redouble my efforts to find Jimmy Hoffa
https://www.washingtonpost.com/sports/2019/10/30/world-series-nationals-astros-game-seven/
I am a life-long Cleveland Indians fan. But I have so enjoyed following the Washington Nationals throughout this remarkable playoff season, culminating with its inspiring victory in Game 7 of the World Series tonight. . . . The team’s relentless ability to never give up makes me want to redouble my efforts to find Jimmy Hoffa.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/sports/2019/10/30/world-series-nationals-astros-game-seven/

Additional comments by DEM

This town is always more fun when one of its sports teams has just won something. . . . In the midst of a divided nation over its corrupt and dishonest president, strangers here in The Nation's Capital, regardless of their political parties, are high-fiving each other, celebrating the Nats' big win.


One of the great heroes in Washington, D.C., is our friend and colleague Danielle Brian, the executive director of the Project on Government Oversight. Along with the Government Accountability Project, POGO is a safe haven for America’s whistleblowers.

Let’s hear it for the whistleblowers—and three cheers for Danielle.

https://thefulcrum.us/government-ethics/danielle-brian-pogo-government-oversight?xrs=RebelMouse_fb&ts=1572007535&fbclid=IwAR1GIkoeKxorAAPnakuaGlHnmEUyr4J7lhvtrKVmBdmcext7T1Fhy0zHJqc

27. Bernie Parrish, author of *They Call It A Game*, has died


Sad news. . . . Bernie Parrish—former Cleveland Browns All-Pro defensive back, fearless NFL players-union activist, and best-selling author—has died. His 1971 book, *They Call It A Game*, boldly revealed crimes and corruption in the NFL and helped to supercharge the NFL Players Association. . . . Speaking of how NFL team owners viewed the long-term health, welfare, and pension needs of NFL players, Bernie summarized their positions as, “Delay, deny, and hope we die,”

Bernie also provided invaluable advice and inspiration to me for my 1989 book: *Interference: How Organized Crime Influences Professional Football*.

God bless Bernie Parrish, a man of true integrity and high principles whom so many of us admired and respected.


16. The FBI’s new theory about the Hoffa case


Our friend and colleague, Harvard Law Professor Jack Goldsmith, the author of the widely praised new book, *In Hoffa’s Shadow*, appeared at Politics and Prose last night. During his excellent talk, Jack noted that the FBI has a whole new theory about what happened to Jimmy Hoffa, stemming from information provided in 2013 by the late Anthony Zerilli, the former boss of the Detroit Mafia. . . . The FBI appears to
be saying that the Hoffa killing was a Detroit operation and that Hoffa’s Detroit-based killer died earlier this year.

(Jack refused to name the alleged killer during his appearance at P&P. However, according to our friend, Hoffa expert Scott Burnstein, his name is Anthony “Tony Pal” Palazzolo, then a young Detroit mobster.)

If that is, indeed, the FBI's new position about this case, then I insist, with respect, that they are wrong . . . . From soup to nuts, the Hoffa murder was a New Jersey operation. And I am getting very close to proving it—once and for all.

Additional comments by DEM

Here is an appearance I made on CNN with Don Lemon, discussing the Zerilli matter—when I still had an open mind about this subject.


* * *

Convicted of second-degree murder in an unrelated case, Ralph Picardo—a long-time member of Tony Provenzano’s crew in New Jersey who became the key government witness in the 1975 Hoffa-murder case—said that Steve Andretta, one of the alleged co-conspirators, told him during a prison visitation that Hoffa had been: a) killed in Detroit; b) stuffed into a 55-gallon drum; c) loaded onto a Gateway Transportation truck; and d) shipped to New Jersey. . . . Andretta did not specify where Hoffa was disposed. However, Picardo speculated that Hoffa’s body wound up at Brother Moscato’s Dump in Jersey City—a nearly forty-acre toxic-waste site.

From 2007 until his death in 2014, I had a series of recorded interviews with Phillip “Brother” Moscato, identified by federal and state law-enforcement agencies as a soldier in the Vito Genovese crime family. Moscato told me, among many other things, that Picardo was right and that Hoffa’s body was buried at his landfill, which was the subsequent target of an EPA Superfund clean-up operation.

Also, Moscato suggested that Provenzano, who engineered Hoffa’s murder, wanted Hoffa’s remains to be recoverable—in the event that he wanted to use it as a bargaining tool with federal prosecutors. . . . Here is what I think happened: https://www.moldea.com/Hoffa-40.html

14. In the midst of rave reviews, the latest story on The Irishman, a film fantasy for its false facts


In the attached article in the UK’s Daily Mail today—the latest to attack the upcoming film fantasy, The Irishman, which is based on a one-source book, for its false facts—the reporter describes me as “America’s pre-eminent Mafia expert.” . . . That’s not true. I’m not even in the top twenty.

But, when it comes to the Jimmy Hoffa murder case, I can make a legitimate claim to be one of the top three—and, perhaps, even number one, mostly because I am the only person in the world, living or dead, who has interviewed most if not all of the alleged co-conspirators in the Hoffa murder case, including but not limited to Salvatore and Gabriel Briguglio, Stephen and Thomas Andretta, Phillip Moscato, Frank Sheeran, Charles “Chuckie” O’Brien, and Rolland McMaster, along with Stanton Barr, Larry McHenry, Jack Robison, and Jim Shaw, as well as William Bufalino and Salvatore Provenzano.

Stay tuned for more.

Additional comments by DEM

Mitchell: There is a lot getting ready to come out about this Scorsese-De Niro fiction, which is receiving so many fabulous early reviews. I will be playing a very secondary role on that. . . . But I will shake things up and make some news on another front. . . . Watch what happens after the public release of the film on November 1.

6. Passing the baton. . . .


Additional comments by DEM

Just to be clear, I am not embracing all of Jack Goldsmith’s conclusions about the Hoffa case—any more than he is embracing mine. However—unlike the one-source book about a pathological liar upon which The Irishman film fantasy is based—I know that Jack’s book is an honest account of the life and times of his principal character.

5. Jack Goldsmith and I appear on Brian Ross Investigates to discuss Jack’s book

Since September 24, I have celebrated the long-awaited release of Jack Goldsmith’s wonderful book, In Hoffa’s Shadow. On Thursday night, Jack and I appeared on Brian Ross Investigates on the Law & Crime Network. . . . Notably, Brian, still one of the finest broadcast journalists in the business, and I are among the now-dwindling number of journalists and investigators who were there on Day One of the 1975 Hoffa-murder case and are still alive and kicking. . . . BTW: During the program, I predicted that Hoffa’s remains will be found and that his killing will be solved.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8JeYGEVCNLe

Additional comments by DEM

Just to be clear, I am not embracing all of Jack Goldsmith’s conclusions about the Hoffa case—any more than he is embracing mine. However—unlike the one-source book about a pathological
liar upon which “The Irishman” film fantasy is based—I know that Jack’s book is an honest account of the life and times of his principal character.

1. Our friend, Mark Zaid, is co-counsel to The Whistleblower

Out of the loop for nearly a week, I have just learned that our long-time friend and colleague, Mark Zaid, is co-counsel to “The Whistleblower,” the mystery man/woman who threatens to take down Donald Trump and his zombie-stooges in and out of government for their bad behavior and overall corrupt activities. . . . Mark and I disagree on many things, but he is a good, decent, and honest man, as well as a remarkable attorney who specializes on intelligence matters.

Notably, Mark has always been excellent at keeping secrets, keeping promises, and keeping the faith. . . . Well done, Mark. Protect The Whistleblower.


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September 2019

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27. My website has crashed

In the midst of a routine SSL upgrade, my website—www.moldea.com—completely crashed and shut down last night, affecting everything, including my daily blog. . . . Nothing nefarious, just bad luck in the midst of all that’s happening. I’m working with my provider to work out the problem. I apologize for any inconvenience.

Additional comments by DEM

Up and running, back in business. . . . With the SSL update, my website is, once again, safe and secure, www.moldea.com. (September 30, 2019)

27. The premiere of The Irishman receives rave early reviews

Rave early reviews for the New York world premiere of The Irishman this afternoon . . . I couldn’t be happier as Jimmy Hoffa returns to the public radar screen.

“When the legend becomes fact, print the legend.” (from The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance)

(H/T: James Gordon Meek)

https://www.newsweek.com/irishman-premiere-reviews-first-reaction-scorsese-pacino-de-niro-pesci-netflix-1461871

Additional comments by DEM
Netflix has allowed *The Irishman* to run at selected theaters for a required number of days, November 1-27, so that it may qualify for and receive consideration for the 2020 Academy Awards.

* * *


**27. Meet Frank Sheeran, aka “The Irishman” . . . A 1997 video**


MEET FRANK SHEERAN, AKA “THE IRISHMAN,” the man whom Netflix has reportedly bet nearly $200 million that he told the truth in his 2004 book about murdering Jimmy Hoffa, Joey Gallo, Sal Briguglio, and others whom he falsely confessed to killing in a cynical effort to make money before his death.

Here is a brief excerpt of a 1997 video of Sheeran (1:16), who died six years later, falsely claiming that another reporter and I were misled by the FBI to believe that the Teamsters and the Mafia were behind Hoffa’s murder when, according to Sheeran in this recording, the person who engineered the killing was former U.S. Attorney General John Mitchell. . . .

Yes, you read that right. This is just one of Sheeran’s many conflicting and even ridiculous versions of the events revolving around Hoffa’s 1975 disappearance.

Netflix should have spent some of that $200 million for a fact-checker.

This video was shot by John Zeitts, with whom Sheeran was under contract to write a previous book that was never published. I am in possession of all of John’s unpublished manuscripts, as well as all of his many hours of audio and videotaped interviews with Sheeran—which contradict key events in his published book, as well as many of the tall tales about his life and times featured in the movie. Zeitts died in 2011.

The Scorsese-De Niro film fantasy, “The Irishman,” will premiere today—Friday, September 27—at the New York Film Festival. It will open at selected theaters on November 1 and then appear exclusively on Netflix after November 27.

In spite of my criticism of the one-source book upon which the movie is based, “I Heard You Paint Houses,” I will be cheering for the success of this motion picture. As Martin Scorsese’s homage to Oliver Stone fantasy film, “JFK”—great cinema but bad history—“The Irishman” will put Jimmy Hoffa back on the public’s radar screen.

And, with all this renewed attention, Hoffa’s murder might finally be solved.

*Additional comments by DEM*


Sad news. . . . Our friend and colleague, retired investigative journalist George Lardner of the *Washington Post*, has died. George, 85, a long-time member of our Authors Dinner Group, won a Pulitzer Prize in 1993 for feature writing with a heart-wrenching but measured and totally professional investigative report about the tragic murder of his beloved daughter, a college student who was killed by her former boyfriend.

God bless George, as well as his slain daughter, Kristin, and the entire Lardner family.


*Additional comments by DEM*

George had been working for years on a book about Presidential pardons, and many of us were more than happy to assist him. I had given him a boatload of materials about Richard Nixon's 1971 commutation of Jimmy Hoffa's thirteen-year prison sentence. George had an absolute fascination with the corrupt ex-Teamsters boss.

* * *

24. **Jack Goldsmith publishes In Hoffa’s Shadow about his stepfather, Chuck O’Brien**


Congratulations to our friend and colleague, Harvard Law Professor Jack Goldsmith. Today is the pub date of his wonderful new book, *In Hoffa’s Shadow: A Stepfather, a Disappearance in Detroit, and My Search for the Truth*. Jack’s stepfather is Charles “Chuckie” O’Brien, the “foster son” of ex-Teamsters boss Jimmy Hoffa. For years, federal investigators and prosecutors believed that O’Brien drove the car that picked up Hoffa on the day he disappeared in July 1975. . . . Bottomline? He didn’t.

Jack’s publisher asked to me to write a promotional quote about the book in which I stated: "I am one of the world’s experts on the July 30, 1975, murder of Jimmy Hoffa. And, now, Jack Goldsmith—with his brilliant research and beautiful writing style—comes along and tells me a whole bunch of things I never knew about that day. Satisfying his curiosity about his stepfather’s alleged role in the crime and through his own personal integrity, Goldsmith has advanced the state of evidence of this unsolved mystery, bringing us closer to a final resolution."

Well done, Jack. And welcome to the fray.

https://www.amazon.com/Hoffas-Shadow-Stepfather-Disappearance-Detroit/dp/0374175659/ref=sr_1_1?keywords=In+Hoffa%27s+Shadow&qid=1569248448&s=books&sr=1-1

*Additional comments by DEM*

As far as the venue, everything is still in play. Rolland McMaster's house was two miles away from the Red Fox, just off Telegraph Road.

* * *

Jack gets a rave review for his fabulous new book in today's *New York Times*:


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23. Luciano Penay’s collage
https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=2368988449985686&set=a.1406746079543266&type=3&theater

Luciano Penay, a Professor Emeritus of Art at American University, created this mind-blowing original collage, which I purchased over the weekend at an amazing art show, featuring the works of AU faculty members, curated by the 98-year-old Dr. Penay. The exhibition is at the Katzen Arts Center on AU’s campus and runs through October 20.

Remarkably, the scene in this painting—which eerily reminded me of a God-forsaken, soulless place where I wound up last week in New Jersey—cost less than an evening at The Palm.

(H/T to our friend, the Washington artist, Claudia Vess)

21. Embracing The Oberg Solution: “Censure first, then launch the impeachment inquiry”

Once again, several friends, colleagues, and I appeal to U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to reconsider her decision not to entertain a House resolution to censure Donald Trump. We encourage her to embrace “The Oberg Solution” in which the House censures Trump for any number of legitimate reasons which can be fully documented—with the complete understanding that the Republican majority in the U.S. Senate will reject the House vote, leaving Senate Republicans ultimately responsible for Trump’s blatant dishonesty, overall bad behavior, and specific corrupt practices.

And then, simultaneously, “The Oberg Solution” recommends that, after the House censure vote, the House will proceed with an official impeachment inquiry, based on Trump’s more serious crimes. . . . In short, censure first, then launch the formal impeachment investigation.

Speaking of the process to censure first, the celebrated whistleblower, Jon Oberg, writes: “This review would provide an opportunity for Americans to form opinions on impeachment as it affects their everyday lives, their health and safety, their consumer protections, their human rights under law. Such opinions need time to ripen, once evidence is compiled. If the House censes the president on the separation of powers and moral grounds, it will have done at least part of its duty and public opinion can solidify, or not, on impeachment. In the meantime, the House can get on with doing the legislative work expected of it.”


14: Mindhunter returns to the New York Times Best Sellers List
The nonfiction-paperback edition of *Mindhunter: Inside the FBI’s Elite Serial Crime Unit*, by our friend and colleague, Mark Olshaker—along with his co-author, John Douglas, the former FBI special agent and profiler of serial killers and criminals—will appear on tomorrow’s *New York Times* Best Sellers List, which, over the years, has become a second home for all of their outstanding books.

Congratulations Mark and John!


12: **RFK Jr. falsely accuses Gene Cesar of murdering his father immediately after his death**


A Profile in Courage? . . . Bobby Kennedy Jr. waits until Gene Cesar is dead—which I first announced yesterday on my blog and Facebook—to falsely accuse him of murdering his father, Senator Robert Kennedy, the subject of my 1995 book. . . . Also, he is now shamelessly suggesting that I am part of the ongoing cover-up.

When Kennedy called last year to tell me that he had met with Sirhan Sirhan and believed him to be an innocent man, wrongly accused, I admonished him, saying: “Bobby, this is the guy who killed your dad.”

RFK Jr. has been manipulated, misled, and conned by the RFK conspiracy crowd. He is completely off the rails on this case.

And—after my many years of work investigating organized crime, alone, as an independent investigative journalist and author—I object like hell to being falsely and unfairly accused and portrayed as a villain and a bad guy.


11: **Gene Cesar, a security guard falsely accused of killing RFK, has died**

https://www.facebook.com/100006236621784/videos/236034790849732/

12:30 PM. . . . Thane Eugene Cesar—the security guard still falsely accused of killing Senator Robert Kennedy in June 1968—died an hour ago at a Manila hospital in the Philippines after a long illness. He was 77 years old. . . . When I first entered the RFK murder investigation in 1987, I, too, believed that Cesar—who was standing next to Senator Kennedy with a gun in his hand and powder burns on his face—was a possible second gunman. However, I continued to investigate and was able to find and repeatedly interview Gene, whom the Los Angeles District Attorney’s Office believed to be dead.

After spending over forty hours with him, I wanted some test or measurement to determine how much time and money I needed to continue pursuing him. Marvin Rudnick, a trusted friend who was a former federal prosecutor in L.A., suggested that I arrange for Cesar to take a polygraph test. . . . Thus, if he failed, I would never stop coming after him. If he passed, I would treat him as another eyewitness to the killing.

Cesar agreed to take the lie-detector test—personally conducted by Edward Gelb, then the president of the American Polygraph Association. Cesar passed with flying colors and no room for doubt.

In short, Gene Cesar was an innocent man, wrongly accused of murdering one of the greatest crimefighters in American history. And I was proud to proclaim his innocence in my 1995 book about the murder of Senator Kennedy. Four years later, Cesar invited me to be the godfather of his newborn son, and he asked me to handle all media inquiries for him, giving me his legal power of attorney, which I still retain.
Attached is a 1:28-minute excerpt of my twelfth and final recorded interview with Cesar which took place on June 4, 1994, the day before my third and final face-to-face interview with Sirhan Sirhan, whom I concluded in my 1995 book committed the murder and acted alone.

BTW: I am the only person in the world, living or dead, who has interviewed both Cesar and Sirhan.

God bless Gene Cesar, a tragic character in a footnote of American history, who will sadly continue to be defamed long after his death.

(Video credit: Copyright © 1994 Dan E. Moldea. All Rights Reserved)

**Additional comments by DEM**

Tomas. . . I just got off the phone with Beaux Carson, the film producer who found the "Cesar Gun" and still owns the gun. . . . So you still have questions, eh?. . . . Then explain this: https://www.insideedition.com/sirhan-sirhan-reveals-why-he-killed-robert-f-kennedy-1989-jailhouse-interview-43884

* * *

Also, speaking of my book, Vincent Bugliosi said: "Beyond its boldness and intelligence, *The Killing of Robert F. Kennedy*, after all of its fascinating twists and turns, makes a very persuasive case for its ultimate conclusion. With its exclusive interviews and important new evidence, this book will be an unavoidable touchstone for all future works on the case."

11: **Rebuilding, a year after 9-11**

Rebuilding at ground zero, a year after the worst day in American history. (Photo credit: DEM)

10: **AOC impressive at today’s “crisis” in the student-loan program hearing**
https://www.facebook.com/100006236621784/videos/2359915087559689/

From the outset, I never took this kid—Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, aka “AOC”—seriously, thinking that she was just another congressional lightweight. . . . This morning, I attended a hearing of the U.S. House Committee on Financial Services, chaired by Rep. Maxine Waters, titled: “A $1.5 Trillion Crisis: Protecting Student Borrowers and Holding Student Loan Servicers Accountable.” . . . AOC is a member of the committee.

I had a lunch appointment and left before Ocasio-Cortez’s line of questioning to the panel of experts, led by the remarkable Seth Frotman, Executive Director of the Student Borrower Protection Center. Notably, Frotman dominated this hearing much like our friend and colleague David Halperin dominated the U.S. House Oversight Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy hearing on corruption in for-profit colleges last May.

When I returned home, I called another great friend and colleague, Jon Oberg, the godfather of whistleblowers who focus on corruption in the student-loan program. Jon had watched the hearing on his computer.

To my surprise, Jon singled out AOC for her remarkable performance during her questioning of the conservative witness from the American Enterprise Institute. He added that she had also—singularly among all the committee members—called out the Department of Education under Secretary Betsy DeVos for its provable “corruption.”
I went back and viewed AOC’s five-minutes of questioning—which I have attached—especially her Perry Mason moment with the AEI scholar. . . . Reconsidering what I had thought before, Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez did a great job. The kid’s got talent.

Additional comments by DEM

Right now, as 2020 fast approaches, I just want to see Democrats with the ability and willingness to fight back. . . . Today, AOC showed me that she possesses both.

6: Don Wells has died. His information led to the FBI’s 2006 search of McMaster’s farm in Wixom, Michigan


One of the most important federal sources of information about the Jimmy Hoffa murder investigation was Donovan Wells, who died yesterday near Detroit. Below is an excerpt of a story I wrote for the 40th anniversary of the Hoffa case in 2015, based, in part, on my many interviews with Don and his wife, Monica. . . . God bless Don, whom I liked and respected.

(Photo credit, Don and Monica Wells by DEM)

In May 2006, FBI agents raided the farm looking for Hoffa's remains based on information provided by Donovan Wells, a former business partner of both Rolland McMaster and Stanton Barr. At the time, Wells was in a federal prison in Lexington, Kentucky. He and his family lived on McMaster's farm at the time Hoffa disappeared.

The FBI's search warrant for McMaster's farm has never been released. But Wells told me in 2009 that he informed the FBI that a large hole had been dug on the north end of the property several weeks before Hoffa's murder. In addition, his wife, Monica, claimed that on the afternoon of Hoffa's disappearance, she saw two or three dark-colored cars speeding onto the property, roaring past the farmhouse on an adjacent dirt road, and heading towards the pre-dug hole.

But what had really piqued the FBI's interest was what Wells had seen and heard the night before Hoffa's murder. At a local restaurant, as Wells, McMaster, and Barr were having dinner, Tony Pro – in the flesh – suddenly appeared, slapped his hand on their table, and said: "It's going to be a great day tomorrow! A great day tomorrow! Right, Mac?" And he slapped McMaster on the back.

Provenzano then asked McMaster to accompany him to the bar for a private conversation.

While they were gone, Wells asked Barr what was going on. Barr replied that Provenzano and Hoffa were meeting the following day to settle their differences—and that Tony Giacalone was making the arrangements for the sitdown.

When Provenzano and McMaster returned to the table, Provenzano pointed to McMaster and Barr and asked, "Do you guys know where you're going to be tomorrow?"

McMaster responded, "Yeah, we're all straight on that."

The FBI never unearthed Hoffa's remains, or any evidence that he had been killed on McMaster's farm, but Don Wells—who passed an FBI polygraph test—provided the Bureau with important new information about Hoffa's disappearance in 2006: Rolland McMaster and Tony Pro were together at a restaurant in Detroit on July 29, 1975, the night before Hoffa disappeared. Wells also heard a portion of their conversation which was clearly about Provenzano's scheduled 2:00 P.M. meeting with Hoffa on July 30, as
well as the need for McMaster and Barr to have established alibis for the afternoon when Hoffa was last seen.

<snip>

**Additional comments by DEM**

As the 2006 excavation concluded, Micheline Maynard of the *New York Times* reported in her news story—which included an extraordinary admission from the FBI:

<snip>

“After a thorough and comprehensive search, no remains of Mr. Hoffa have been located,” Judith M. Chilen, an assistant special agent, said at a news briefing at the entrance to the farm this afternoon.

**But Ms. Chilen said she was convinced that Mr. Hoffa’s body had been buried on the farm, and there was “no indication that it has been moved.”** Investigators said that they might return to the farm in the future and that the investigation would remain open.

"There are still prosecutable defendants and they know who they are," Ms. Chilen said.

<snip>

[https://www.nytimes.com/2006/05/30/us/30cndhoffa.html](https://www.nytimes.com/2006/05/30/us/30cndhoffa.html)

*          *          *

From my memoir, *Confessions of a Guerrilla Writer*, pp. 621-622:

As I walked towards the fence, I stepped onto a dirt road. I looked back at Don and Monica, asking, “Is this the path that started on Pontiac Trail, the one on which Monica saw the three fast cars that day?”

Don and Monica came over to where I was standing and looked around the area. Then, for a further perspective, we walked towards the tall fence.

They confirmed that we were on the dirt road that once ran north and south off Pontiac Trail, alongside McMaster’s farmhouse.

About ten yards from our side of the fence was another long path that stretched east and west and was littered with discarded railroad ties.

“Jesus, Don,” I said, now standing where the two paths intersected. “Is this where the railroad tracks were?”

Both Don and Monica came over, along with [the farm manager]—and now [the owner of the property] who had also joined us.

All four of them agreed that we were standing at the location of the now abandoned railroad tracks, as well as the road that had once run from Pontiac Trail to the back of the farm near the tree line.

Pulling Don and Monica off to the side, I asked privately, “Okay now, where was that pre-dug hole?”
Both Don and Monica agreed that it was in a field north of the railroad tracks and east of the road.

When we walked just a few yards to that location, it was nothing more than a fenced-in pasture, occupied at that moment by two horses, which appeared as interested in us as we were in the land they were occupying.

However, the site of the 2006 FBI dig was north of the railroad tracks and about twenty to thirty yards west of the road—the site of the new red barn built by the FBI.

I am not even going to try to hazard a guess as to why the FBI chose to dig west of the road instead of east—and, of course, the FBI is not talking.

* * *

h/t Allan Lengel . . .

http://www.deadlinedetroit.com/articles/23196/dan_moldea_a_key_federal_source_in_jimmy_hoffa_disappearance_dies_inMetro_detroit?fbclid=IwAR1CBzYeKzEAu5vkJpLD4LsW9vuO9ydkkZ82jauNoRgDrEusdFC_q0cEaa0

3: My quick trip to New York and my homage to the New York Times


I'm in New York for a quick but fun adventure. Even though I'm rushing around, I just had to take a moment to walk to 8th Avenue and pay my respects to the newspaper that created me, destroyed me, and then resurrected me from the dead a long time ago. . . . God bless the New York Times. (Photo by DEM)

August 2019

31: Sirhan stabbed by a fellow inmate


Thoughts and prayers for 75-year-old Sirhan Sirhan, hoping for a quick recovery and fast return to his prison cell to continue his life sentence for murdering Senator Robert Kennedy in June 1968—and acting alone in the process. The Associated Press reports that Sirhan is in stable condition after another inmate stabbed him at their federal-correctional facility near San Diego.
Between 1993 and 1994, while researching and writing my 1995 book about the killing, I had three face-to-face interviews with Sirhan, totaling fourteen hours. In general, he was a very pleasant guy. But, from time-to-time, he exhibited flashes of his bad temper in the midst of our talks.

https://www.apnews.com/ebe7cfc1b97f4b4e9e56e19a9a697e47

29. Eric Dezenhall and Meyer Lansky’s final passport


I just had lunch at Clyde’s Chevy Chase, aka "The New Krupin’s," with my great friends, Eric Dezenhall, and Joel Swerdlow, Eric blew us away by displaying one of his most prized possessions . . . the authentic, autographed final passport of Meyer Lansky, aka the fabled “financial wizard of organized crime.”

In The Godfather Part II, Lansky, who died in January 1983, was the inspiration for the Hyman Roth character, depicted with great flair and style by acting legend Lee Strasberg, who received an Oscar nomination. . . . Well done, Eric. "This is the business we have chosen."

Additional comments by DEM

Eric told us that Harvey Keitel, who will be playing Angelo Bruno in "The Irishman," is slated to handle the role as Meyer Lansky in an upcoming biopic. . . . Everything old is new again.


26: Remembering Noodles on National Dog Day


On National Dog Day. . . . Remembering my sweet dog, Noodles, the pick of Bugsy’s only litter, whom I won at a poker game from the wild and crazy but ultimately tragic Scott Malone. . . . God bless both Noodles and Scott.

Additional comments by DEM

Barb. . . . She was a great friend, helping to get me through my work on five books between 1985 and 1999, as well as my work on Moldea v. New York Times and the Clinton-impeachment drama.

26: Open Road offers Dark Victory as part of its “Forbidden Bookshelf” collection


From time to time, Open Road features these Kindle editions at low, low prices. . . . Today, my bestselling 1986 book, Dark Victory, is offered for $1.99, which is fine by me. I’m proud to be part of the collection with so many great authors who also faced daunting obstacles to get their books published.

The Los Angeles Times wrote, “Dark Victory is indeed a victory for author Moldea. He has, through sheer tenacity, amassed an avalanche of ominous and unnerving facts. It's a book about power, ego and the American way. Moldea has shown us what we don't want to see.”
19: Mourning the loss of Hillary Clinton from the national political stage

Shamelessly abandoned by her own political party, Hillary Clinton, who would have been one of the greatest Presidents ever, is in a league by herself when it comes to American tragedies. Her story is Shakespearean. . . . When I look at today’s outstanding field of vice-presidential contenders currently seeking the Democratic nomination for President, I deeply mourn the loss of Hillary Clinton from the national political stage.

Additional comments by DEM

James. . . . That's a bullshit comment. I'll put Hillary's career-long progressive credentials--as a person who could actually win a national election--against anybody you can come up with. . . . Anybody.

My friend, I am more and more horrified with each passing day that this freaking sociopathic autocratic is in office. Simultaneously, I know of no one who can rival your personal credentials as a progressive. But no one who thinks like you can win a national election. And, right now, that's the principal task at hand. You are an influential leader on the left, and I suggest that you lower your standards and help the Democrats win next year.

*          *          *

When I did my thing during the Clinton impeachment drama--which led to the resignation of the Speaker-Designate of the U.S. House on the day of the President's impeachment--we went after public officials with conflicting standards of private behavior. . . . One for themselves and quite another for Bill Clinton. I never judged politicians' marriages--unless they deemed it necessary to judge that of the Clintons.

*          *          *

Damn right, Denny. In order to win in 2020, the Democrats gotta claim the center. Without doing so, they lose the swing states, Trump wins, and, overnight, we become an authoritarian state.

*          *          *

I totally agree. I can't see anyone taking the fight to Donald Trump as well as Hillary Clinton did in 2016 . . . And all while since 1992, she has been and still is the target of a 24-7 smear campaign by the knuckle draggers.

*          *          *

I don't buy any of that. Running against Bernie Sanders would be the Republicans’ dream come true. They would kick his ass all over the country, leaving the Democratic Party in shambles.

The person they still fear more than anyone is Hillary Clinton, which is why they can’t stop smearing her—even nearly three years after she won the national popular vote but lost the Electoral College to a corrupt and dishonest Republican who had the help of the Russians, James Comey, and the Bernie-or-bust crowd.
Bernie, a registered Independent, is a repeat insurgent who, once again, expects the Democratic Party to roll over for him—and doesn't guarantee his personal loyalty if the party picks someone else. . . . Bottomline, I am a Democrat, and I support Democrats.

* * *

I have no problem with Democratic Socialists, except when they allow their ideology to help defeat the Democratic Party's candidates. . . . I believe that, as a group, they prefer to stay on the fringes, because they have a basic fear of governing and carrying out their noble but unachievable goals.

* * *

Dan: I couldn't disagree with you more about your "serious questions regarding [Hillary's] integrity and her judgment." She has been on the national stage for 27 years. And for 27 years, she has been investigated and reinvestigated, and when her enemies couldn't get her on anything, they just started making shit up. And that includes much of the sloppy reporting at the New York Times during the Whitewater investigation in 1992-1996 and the newspaper's early reporting about her "email-server scandal" during the 2016 presidential campaign. . . . You're a good journalist. If you have something on Hillary that can stick, then disclose it. You will make history and receive eternal gratitude from Fox News and everyone else who has tried to destroy Hillary but could never even lay a glove on her. . . . Meantime, the reckless and malicious smear campaign against Hillary continues. And, hearing all of the false charges repeated so many times, a lot of good people with good intentions have started to believe them. . . . In fact, Hillary Clinton is an intelligent, honorable, and hard-working woman of high integrity and noble principles.

* * *

I have a little bit of standing on this subject. In 1998, I published a book about my investigation of the 1993 suicide of Vincent Foster in which Hillary Clinton was one of my major characters. As you might recall, she was accused by many in the right-wing media of either participating in Foster's actual murder or, at the very least, in the active coverup of that alleged murder. . . . I was among those who exposed that smear campaign against her and have interviewed many of the major players complicit in that defamation effort.

16: My admonition on conspiracy theories

Because I have spent 45 years investigating organized crime—aka “conspiracy crime,” by definition—I have investigated a whole bunch of conspiracies theories. . . . Here is my admonition about conspiracy theories, in general, which I had to learn the hard way. . . .

“Placing into a new context what I had known all along about this case, I now realize that even law enforcement officials—who possess the training, qualifications, and experience to determine the significance of crime scene evidence—do make mistakes if their abilities are not put to the test under the proper circumstances and conditions.

“In other words, if one does not account for occasional official mistakes and incompetence, then nearly every such political murder could appear to be a conspiracy, particularly if a civilian investigator—with limited access and resources—is looking for one.” (From my 1995 book, “The Killing of Robert F. Kennedy”)


Additional comments by DEM
Tim. . . . When it comes to the JFK murder case, I still say that it was a mob hit--Jimmy Hoffa, Carlo Marcello, and Santo Trafficante--and I was the first one to say it 41 years ago in my 1978 book about the rise and fall of Jimmy Hoffa. . . . And, then, a year later, the U.S. House Select Committee on Assassinations stated in its final report in 1979 that Hoffa-Marcello-Trafficante had the "motive, means, and opportunity" to have the President killed. And the committee's chief counsel said, "The mob did it. It's a historical fact." . . . I still stand by my 1978 reporting in 2019. . . . Watch how the upcoming Scorsese-De Niro film fantasy about Hoffa's murder, based on a 2004 book, will try to pretend that they are the first to present that case--that the Mafia whacked President Kennedy--when the movie is released next month.

* * *

Although there was no camera in his cell, there was a camera in the hallway outside his cell that didn't stop filming. To my knowledge, no one was seen entering his cell. Consequently, he was, indeed, alone. Thus, whatever he did--this guy who tried to kill himself a couple of weeks ago--he likely did to himself once again. . . . Now, let's get back to talking about the corruption of Donald Trump, The Mueller Report, and the important work by the House judiciary, intelligence, and oversight committees.

12: Will Epstein’s suicide help Trump run out the clock?

There is lots and lots of smoke in this Epstein-death caper. At this point, though--until we see some evidence of foul play, something beyond police incompetence--pursuing conspiracy theories will do nothing more than divert our attention away from the impact of the Mueller Report and the ongoing maneuvering by the U.S. House intelligence, judiciary, and oversight committees, as well as the anticipated indictments coming from the U.S. Attorneys' Offices in DC, NY, and Virginia, along with the New York State Attorney General's Office and the Manhattan DA's Office. . . .

The wild speculations about Epstein's suicide could be a godsend for Donald Trump. After all, when your strategy is to run out the clock, then anything that takes time off the clock is welcomed.

Additional comments by DEM

This is the story that has me shaking today. The headline says it all:
https://www.cnn.com/.../anthony-scaramucci.../index.html

* * *

I still believe in Michelle Obama's "They go low, we go high" strategy. We get kicked in the teeth a lot, but, ultimately, we will win with honor---and therein will be America's salvation after Trump is finally gone.

* * *

Because I have spent 45 years investigating organized crime—aka “conspiracy crime” by definition—I have investigated a whole bunch of conspiracies theories. . . . Here is my admonition about conspiracy theories, which I had to learn the hard way

“Placing into a new context what I had known all along about this case, I now realize that even law enforcement officials—who possess the training, qualifications, and experience to determine the significance of crime scene evidence— do make mistakes if their abilities are not put to the test under the proper circumstances and conditions.
“In other words, if one does not account for occasional official mistakes and incompetence, then nearly every such political murder could appear to be a conspiracy, particularly if a civilian investigator—with limited access and resources—is looking for one.” (From my 1995 book, *The Killing of Robert F. Kennedy*)

* * *

Laurie: Investigate to your heart's content. Tell us what you find. Do you have some special information or secret sources you'll be using? . . . In my experience, finding smoke doesn't necessarily mean there's fire. Usually, finding smoke just wastes a lot of my time. . . . There are more important things going on right now than spending time finding out whether Epstein committed suicide—two weeks after he tried and failed to commit suicide.

* * *

If there is credible evidence out there that Epstein got whacked, then, please, somebody bring it out. . . . I've been through this before with the suicides of Danny Casolaro and Greg Stone, as well as to a lesser extent, Gary Webb—not to mention Vincent Foster about whose suicide I published a book. . . . All of these troubled guys killed themselves.

Of course, I should add Jeane Palfrey, aka "The DC Madam," with whom I was writing a book, to my list, above. Her suicide in 2008 created an avalanche of conspiracy theories. . . . And, like Epstein, she tried and failed to kill herself two weeks before she killed herself. . . .


* * *

Bill: With AG Barr entering the fray, I now believe that the entire federal probe will be a demonstration of pure political corruption. It sounds to me as though Trump-stooge Barr is collecting information in a blatant effort to protect friends and punish enemies.

* * *

Bill: Are you suggesting that Donald Trump—who is totally corrupt and lies about everything—is capable of not only insider trading but of cynically manipulating world events in order to enrich himself? As a highly respected former federal prosecutor, is that what you're suggesting? . . . If so, well said, my friend.

* * *

(Yawn) So what else is new? . . . Now, let's get back to *The Mueller Report* and the important work by the House committees on judiciary, intelligence, and oversight.


10: Beware of conspiracy theories in the aftermath of Jeffrey Epstein’s suicide


In the aftermath of Jeffrey Epstein’s bizarre suicide today, be careful not to jump to conclusions and not to allow the concoction of conspiracy theories without provable evidence. It will do nothing but lead to distractions from more important matters. . . . I am reminded of all the conspiracy theories that ran rampant after the suicide of a much better person than Epstein, Jeane Palfrey, aka “the D.C. Madam,” with whom I was writing a book about her life and times. She hanged herself shortly after her conviction in
federal court. . . . Here is an excerpt from my memoir, Confessions of a Guerrilla Writer: Chapter 145, “The suicide of the D.C. Madam” . . .

<excerpt>

On May 6, 2008—the day after the Tarpon Springs medical examiner officially declared that [Jeane] Palfrey had committed suicide—the chief investigating detective for the Tarpon Springs Police Department contacted me for additional material which he wanted for his formal report. I gave him a copy of my book proposal with Palfrey—in which she twice discussed the possibility of suicide, as well as copies of my final emails to her. Also, I arranged a conference call among the detective and me with Jim Grady, who was at the April 11 lunch where Palfrey and I last saw each other.

After speaking with the police, I called Blanche Palfrey to express my sympathy and to discuss her daughter’s death. At the outset, I told her how upset I was with Jeane for placing her mother in the position to find her body hanging at the end of a rope.

Blanche, who couldn’t have been happier to hear from me, said that Jeane “was so upset about going back to prison that she couldn’t stop crying.”

During our continuing conversation, she spoke of Jeane’s recent overdose in Orlando. When I said that I didn’t know what she was talking about, she explained that on April 25, Jeane had gone to her condominium in Orlando and taken an intentional overdose of pills. She was unconscious for nearly thirty hours.

Failing to end her life in that manner, Jeane then returned home and hanged herself.

I asked Blanche if she had told the police this story. She replied that she had not, adding that she didn’t want to cause any more trouble.

I told her that she had to tell the police. I gave her the lead detective’s name and telephone number. She assured me that she would make the call.

I called Blanche again on May 9 and asked her if she had provided the information about Jeane’s earlier unsuccessful attempt to kill herself to the police. She replied that she had not.

I then asked for her permission to represent her with the police and disclose this information.

Blanche agreed, and I immediately called the lead detective in the case and told him what Blanche had told me about Jeane’s attempted suicide in Orlando.

The detective knew nothing about this. I invited him to call Blanche who would give him all the details.

NOTE: Here is a portion of the official police report, which includes the police interview with me about Jeane’s suicide—and it was a suicide: http://www.moldea.com/DJP-death-report.pdf.

Additional comments by DEM

As many remember, while the conspiracy theories ratcheted up, I was accused by that right-wing screwball, talk-show host Alex Jones, of murdering Jeane, causing scenes like this one on CNN:

blob:https://www.facebook.com/8a1fb1e8-cb3c-4b31-9a46-fda638a9b324

*   *   *
I'm hip. After all, I have spent my entire career investigating organized crime, which, by definition, is "conspiracy crime." To be sure, I have investigated a boatload of conspiracies. I have seen them come and go. And I have also published books, debunking conspiracy theories such as those in the Robert Kennedy murder case, the OJ Simpson murder case, and the Vincent Foster suicide case, among others. . . . In the aftermath of official investigations, full disclosure is the key in these matters. Without full disclosure, conspiracy theories are sure to follow.

* * *

Gene: As you know, there are legitimate conspiracy theories, and there are illegitimate conspiracy theories. It depends on who’s promoting them. In fact, you're the world's expert on this one. . . . How much damage did the New York Times cause as a result of its highly publicized Whitewater conspiracy theories in 1992-1994, which were brought about by its own sloppy reporting?

7: Slate: “The Lies of The Irishman,” an attack on the Scorsese-De Niro film fantasy

Here’s the first investigative piece about The Irishman, the upcoming Martin Scorsese-Robert De Niro film fantasy about the murder of Jimmy Hoffa, which I have been relentlessly attacking for several years. . . . The headline tells it all: "The Lies of the Irishman." BTW: The criticisms of this motion picture—which will open the New York Film Festival on September 27—have not even begun. . . . As I told DeNiro at our meeting in December 2014, “Bob, you’re getting conned.”


Additional comments by DEM

Critics of the sheep in Donald Trump’s flock for their blind allegiance to someone who lies to them and cons them will be faced with that same situation when nearly everybody’s favorite director, Martin Scorsese, lies to them and cons them with the content of The Irishman.

* * *

Claudia: I have spent a career going after Mafia, the Teamsters Union, the National Football League, the National Rifle Association, the Los Angeles Police Department, MCA, the Reagan White House, the George H.W. Bush White House, the George W. Bush White House, the Donald Trump White House, the FBI and the Department of Justice, the CIA-Mafia plots to kill Fidel Castro, Iran-Contra, the legal and illegal gambling communities, the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, the Washington Post, Kenneth Starr and the Office of the Independent Counsel, and both the political left and right wings, as well as a variety of politicians, white-collar criminals, and murderers. And now I'm finishing up my favorite project, featuring Big Jon . . . With all of that experience, there is not a lot I take personally.

* * *

With respect, Jeff, you’ve been drinking Frank Sheeran’s Kool-Aid for many, many years. And I have repeatedly advised you, as a friend, to protect yourself. . . . And, with regard to my meeting with DeNiro, he didn’t know shit from shinola about the Hoffa case. For instance, he wrongly thought that Steve Andretta was dead—just like everybody else on your team because that’s what Sheeran told Charlie.

In good faith, I tried to set DeNiro straight in what started out as a very friendly conversation. Gus Russo was an eyewitness and will attest to that, just as he did in the Slate article, above.
The legendary Scott Burnstein, the world's expert on the Detroit Mafia, aka "The Partnership," weighs in on Frank Sheeran's claims about the Hoffa murder. . . .
https://gangsterreport.com/dont-believe-the-hype-new-hoffa-movie-pedaling-blatant-falsehoods/?fbclid=IwAR0mBxTV_uAvZNIDElfekun6wGtV10YIWsYyk0aqE6f5N7BiSCcCa9p-w6Y

James: Scorsese and De Niro love Frank Sheeran's character. They view him as a fascinating bad-ass, as well as a one-man crime wave. The guy confessed to a slew of murders he didn't commit-- in order to salvage his book deal as he was on his deathbed in 2003. Sheeran was a conman, and Scorsese and De Niro bought his entire story--hook, line, and sinker. . . . He is being portrayed as the man who actually murdered, among others, Joey Gallo and Jimmy Hoffa. He didn't commit either murder.

Jeff: That's a loaded question, especially coming from someone on the other team--which, from what I understand, is having collective heart failure over the Slate article. . . . I wouldn't want to be accused of a copyright violation.

Harvard law professor Jack Goldsmith, weighs in on the Slate article about The Irishman, the film fantasy about the Jimmy Hoffa murder case. . . . Watch for Jack's excellent book, In Hoffa's Shadow, about his stepfather, Chuckie O'Brien., which will be released next month. . . .
https://www.amazon.com/Hoffas-Shadow-Stepfather-Disappearance-Detroit/dp/0374175659/ref=sr_1_1?crid=2U8IRKF38QSD4&keywords=in+hoffa%27s+shadow&qid=1565380258&s=books&sprefix=In+Hoffa%27s+Shadow%2Cstripbooks%2C127&sr=1-1

Steerforth Press responds to Slate, which stands by its story. . . .

A Hollywood blogger weighs in. . . Do Scorsese and De Niro have an escape route?
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o3SKKqbtUQ&feature=youtu.be

The Philadelphia Inquirer reports on conman Frank Sheeran aka The Irishman.

The film tie-in version of I Heard You Paint Houses will be published by Hodder and Stoughton:

Netflix battles theaters for the limited rights to screen The Irishman:
6: The great Toni Morrison dies at 88

The great 1993 Nobel Prize and 1988 Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist, Ohio-born Toni Morrison, has died at 88.

In October 1981, the legendary poet and author Ethelbert Miller and I co-chaired the Washington delegation to the landmark American Writers Congress in New York City, sponsored by The Nation Institute—at which the National Writers Union was founded.

At the conference, Toni Morrison, whom we had the honor to meet, delivered a riveting keynote address, saying, in part: “We don’t need any more writers as solitary heroes. We need a heroic writers’ movement—assertive, militant, [and] pugnacious.”

Two years later—while I was living in Manhattan and through a complicated series of events—a couple of friends and I wound up spending part of the evening of Thanksgiving 1983 at Toni Morrison’s home in New York where I took a photograph of this amazing and wonderful woman in repose. . . . God bless Toni Morrison.

Additional comments by DEM

https://www.nytimes.com/2019/08/06/books/toni-morrison-dead.html?campaign_id=60&instance_id=0&segment_id=15916&user_id=ed49a764c38aedc175bff85372bbb55f&regi_id=71046532ing-news

* * *


4: Insurgent Bernie rides again

The difference between Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren is that Warren is an actual Democrat. Bernie, a registered Independent, is a repeat insurgent who, once again, expects the Democratic Party to roll over for him—and doesn't guarantee his personal loyalty if the party picks someone else. In other words, the “Bernie-or-bust” crowd” had almost as much to do with the election of Donald Trump in 2016 as that asshole, James Comey.

And, because Bernie is also a declared socialist, the GOP knuckle draggers have made him the embodiment of everyone else in the party—even those who aren’t socialists—giving rise to The New Redbaiting and The Inevitable Blacklisting not seen since the 1950s.

Loyalty begets loyalty. Respect begets respect. And Bernie's mere grudging loyalty to the Democratic Party is indicative of his complete lack of respect for those of us who call ourselves Democrats. . . . Bernie is in this for Bernie.

To avert another fatal division of the Democratic Party in 2020, Bernie—who has promised the moon and stars, as well as a slew of impossible dreams and schemes to the sheep in his flock—should take his million-dollars-plus in personal assets and go on vacation until 2021. If the “Bernie-or-bust” crowd wants
to reelect Trump next year, let them do so out in the open this time. . . . The Democratic presidential primary should be for Democrats.

Additional comments by DEM

Just to be clear, Elizabeth Warren, who is very smart and talented, is not my candidate. To me, at this moment, the most interesting Democratic candidate is Governor Steve Bullock of Montana—who could be positioned politically to lead the complete and total repudiation of Donald Trump in 2020. . . Actually, the Democrats I wanted—Hillary Clinton, Sherrod Brown, and Terry McAuliffe—are not even running.

* * *

I was angry at Bernie in 2016 for the same reason that I was angry in 2000 with Ralph Nader, whom I had always admired and respected. The refusals by Ralph and Bernie to fully support the Democratic nominees, Al Gore and Hillary Clinton, respectively, led to the elections of right-wing Republicans, both of whom brought America to the brink of destruction.

1* * *

Edward. . . . Noting your relentless smearing of Hillary Clinton above, and in context with what I wrote about you Bernie supporters during 2016 campaign, I rest my case. . . . Fred not, there will be another Democratic nominee for President to challenge Trump in 2020 whom you Bernie supporters will, no doubt, trash and sabotage, too. . . . What was it that the creepy Susan Sarandon, a prominent Bernie supporter, said in support of a Trump victory over Hillary in 2016--something about helping to bring "the revolution" sooner?  https://www.cnn.com/.../susan-sarandon-donald.../index.html

* * *

In this story in New York magazine from just a few weeks ago, Bernie claimed that the 2016 Democratic primaries for President were rigged against him and that he would not commit to supporting the Democratic nominee for President in 2020. . . . How dare the Democratic Party prefer a loyal Democrat over a cranky Independent who wants to restructure the DNC in his own image. . . . So, instead of wasting my time on my FB page with your guilt trip over how Trump won the 2016 election, I suggest that you get out there and start that revolution that your fellow Bernie-supporter, Susan Sarandon, predicted. Or are you guys just marking time until Bernie announces an upcoming third-party candidacy for 2020—which will guarantee Trump's reelection?  https://nymag.com/intelligencer/2019/06/bernie-sanders-2016-rigged-wont-pledge-support-winner.html

* * *

Yes, those “Bernie-or-bust” people were so filled with love and support for Hillary Clinton at the 2016 Democratic National Convention—during which they found common cause with the “Republican hate machine” while they were trying to sabotage her formal nomination, as well as the leadership of the DNC. The result? . . . Donald Trump—with the added help of James Comey and the Russians—became president.

And, yes, I double-down on my claim that Bernie is a political conman. I think he proved it in 2016 with his tepid support for the Democrat ticket which did nothing more than enable the "Bernie-or-bust" crowd. And I believe that he will prove it again in 2020. . . . If he wants to run in the Democratic primary, then tell him to run as a freaking Democrat.
Also, in terms of being a responsible progressive who has a proven track record to actually get things done, I will put Hillary’s record as a true progressive up against Bernie’s any day of the week—and, yes, twice on Sunday.

Bernie’s so-called “progressive agenda” is a mere illusion and nothing more a pipe dream that will do nothing more than get Trump reelected. Running against Bernie would be a dream come true for the GOP, which still fears and smears Hillary Clinton. . . . My biggest problem with the Democratic Party is that it has allowed the GOP to get away with what it did to Hillary.


* * *

I’m sorry to be so cynical and jaded, but I don’t happen to think that all corporations are bad. . . . Like it or not, the horrific Citizens United decision is still on the books. And the 2020 campaign is probably going to cost around two-billion dollars to finance. That’s a lot of bake sales, car washes, and $25 contributors for those not accepting corporate money. . . . I would love to see the big-money crowd get out of politics once and for all. But, if the Democrats don’t accept some of that Wall Street money—the good Wall Street money—then the Republicans are going to get it all. And that means that we are going to lose the 2020 election across the board—the House, the Senate, and the Presidency.

And, if that nightmare comes true, 2021 will introduce a new and dark America as an authoritarian state.


Along with Belgrade Gardens in Barberton, Ohio, The Old Europe restaurant in Washington, D.C., the Peking Gourmet Inn in Falls Church, Virginia, and Katz’s Delicatessen in New York, Musso and Frank’s on Hollywood Blvd in Los Angeles is among the greatest restaurants in America. . . .


Additional comments by DEM:

In early 1997, I hosted a dinner at Musso’s for 46 journalists and law-enforcement officials to honor LAPD Detectives Tom Lange and Phil Vannatter, my co-authors for our bestselling book about the O.J. Simpson case, “Evidence Dismissed.” The publicity director from our publisher, Simon & Schuster, heard about the dinner from Phil, called the restaurant, and picked up the check for our entire group. . . . Seated at separate tables near us were rocker Joan Jett, film director Steven Spielberg, and actor Gabriel Byrne.

Now, that was a fun evening. We closed the place down.

* * *

Robert: I really don’t want to get into a pissing contest with you and your choices of German restaurants. But, over the past thirty years, I have hosted sixty twice-a-year dinners for hundreds of Washington authors at The Old Europe, which has always given us great food and excellent service at a reasonable price. . . . I apologize if my favorite restaurants are not in sync with yours.

* * *
I know the owner of The Old Europe and his family very well. And I also know and respect his progressive politics. He makes Bernie Sanders look like a Republican.

* * *

Musso and Frank Grill (Los Angeles):  [https://mussoandfrank.com/](https://mussoandfrank.com/)

Belgrade Gardens (Barberton, Ohio):  [http://belregadegardenschicken.com](http://belregadegardenschicken.com)


Peking Gourmet Inn (Falls Church, Virginia):  [https://www.pekinggourmet.com](https://www.pekinggourmet.com)

Katz’s Delicatessen (Manhattan):  [https://www.katzsdelicatessen.com/](https://www.katzsdelicatessen.com/)

Andiamo (Bloomfield Hills, Michigan):  [https://andiamoitalia.com/bloomfield-township/](https://andiamoitalia.com/bloomfield-township/)

Restaurants in Akron, Ohio:  [https://www.ohio.com/photogallery/OH/20190804/NEWS/804009999/PH/1](https://www.ohio.com/photogallery/OH/20190804/NEWS/804009999/PH/1)

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**July 2019**

31: **Rep. Gabbard gives Senator Harris a comeuppance**


For me, the highlight of tonight’s Democratic presidential debate was Tulsi Gabbard’s takedown of Kamala Harris—who really had it coming after her despicable ambush on Joe Biden at the last debate . . . . Regardless, in my opinion, the winner of the two nights of debates was Elizabeth Warren. I just wish I could muster up more enthusiasm for her candidacy.

[https://twitter.com/i/status/1156750240038510592](https://twitter.com/i/status/1156750240038510592)

* * *

**Additional comments by DEM**

Jeff . . . I want whoever will kick Trump's arrogant ass from coast-to-coast during the 2020 campaign, ending with his complete and total repudiation by the American electorate.

* * *

Rozanne. . . . Here's a partial list of Republicans who were critical of and attacked Donald Trump during the 2016 campaign. . . Today, most of them are kissing his ring and supporting his holy war against the poor and powerless.


* * *

I am hopelessly loyal to Hillary Clinton, the ongoing target of a malicious smear campaign for the past 27 years. From the outset of the 2016 campaign, she went right after Donald Trump and called him out for his dishonesty and his corruption at every opportunity— with facts, with passion,
and even with humor. Plus, she kicked his ass in all three debates. . . . If not for the bad behavior of that asshole, then-FBI Director James Comey—who did more damage to Hillary than the Russians and Wikileaks combined—she would be President. And she would have been a great President. . . . And I still think Hillary would be the best and most effective candidate to go after Trump.

* * *

Bill. . . . I agree with you about Rep. Gabbard. I just liked the comeuppance she gave to Senator Harris for her unfair attack on Joe Biden. I’d also like to see someone give one to Kirsten Gillibrand for her cheap shots against the Clintons who had always been loyal to her. . . . This Democratic contest is bringing out the absolute worst in some of the candidates.

* * *

The difference between Bernie and Warren is that Warren is an actual Democrat. Bernie, a registered Independent, is a repeat insurgent who, once again, expects the Democratic Party to roll over for him—and who doesn’t guarantee his personal loyalty if the party picks someone else. And, because he is also a declared Socialist, the knuckle draggers have made him the embodiment of everyone in the party, giving rise to The New Redbaiting, not seen since the 1950s.

30: Celebrating Jon Oberg on National Whistleblower Appreciation Day


Celebrating the great whistleblower, Jon Oberg, on National Whistleblowers Appreciation Day, along with the Government Accountability Project (GAP), the Project on Government Oversight (POGO), Essential Information, the Democracy Fund, Open Government, Public Citizen, the Electronic Privacy Information Center, the Nation Institute, and the Fund for Constitutional Government. . . . And three cheers for all of their staffs and supporters. https://www.nytimes.com/2007/05/07/washington/07loans.html

Additional comments by DEM

On Jon Oberg. . . . https://www.americanswhotellthetruth.org/portraits/jon-oberg

* * *

And here is Jon’s excellent blog: https://viewfromthreecapitals.blogspot.com/

30. The 44th anniversary of Jimmy Hoffa’s murder


Published in Dateline Detroit on July 29:
http://www.deadlinedetroit.com/articles/22898/author_jimmy_hoffa_vanished_44_years_ago_here_s_what_i_think_happened

Published in Tickle the Wire, an online publication for the federal law-enforcement community, on July 30: http://tickletthewire.com/2019/07/30/dan-moldea-on-the-44-anniversary-of-jimmy-hoffa-disappearance-heres-what-i-think-happened/

Jimmy Hoffa disappeared 44 years ago today.

In early August 1975, while serving twenty years at Trenton State Prison for manslaughter, inmate Ralph Picardo received a visit from his accountant, who was accompanied by Stephen and Thomas Andretta, two of the alleged co-conspirators in Hoffa’s murder a few days earlier. Picardo, who was a close friend of the
Andretta brothers, told the FBI in or about November 1975 that he had spent some time alone with Steve Andretta during that prison visitation. According to Picardo, Andretta had given him a few details about the murder.

Picardo told the FBI that, based on what he had learned from Andretta, Hoffa had been murdered near Detroit in a killing engineered by New Jersey mobster Anthony Provenzano, the Andretta brothers’ boss. After his death, according to Andretta via Picardo, Hoffa was stuffed into a 55-gallon oil drum, loaded onto a Gateway Transportation truck, and shipped to New Jersey.

Shortly thereafter, Picardo made a deal with federal prosecutors and became the most credible witness about the Hoffa case to date.

When he was asked by the FBI specifically who had murdered Hoffa, Picardo replied that he didn’t know for sure but added that Salvatore Briguglio, Provenzano’s top lieutenant, had earlier received a contract from his boss to kill Hoffa in late 1973 or early 1974. Provenzano sent Briguglio a note, delivered by his brother, Gabriel Briguglio, asking him to execute the Hoffa hit.

When Picardo was asked by the FBI where Hoffa was taken in New Jersey via the Gateway truck, he again replied that he didn’t know for sure but added that his friends in the Provenzano crew frequently disposed of dead bodies at a landfill in Jersey City, owned by Phillip Moscato, a soldier in the Genovese crime family.

In 1975-1976, I revealed—in what was my biggest contribution to this case—that a vicious Hoffa rival, Rolland McMaster, was the mystery man behind a series of acts of violence—bombings, beatings, shootings, and general sabotage—directed primarily against Hoffa’s allies in Detroit’s Local 299, the last of which was a car bombing just twenty days before Hoffa vanished.

There were three key McMaster connections that linked him directly to the murder conspiracy: First, on the day of Hoffa’s murder, McMaster was with his brother-in-law, Stanton Barr, who was the head of Gateway Transportation’s steel division in Detroit. Second, one of McMaster’s top goons was Jim Shaw, a long-haul driver for Gateway, who had been directed by McMaster, to participate in the earlier anti-Hoffa violence in Local 299. Third, on the night before Hoffa’s murder, McMaster and Barr had met with Provenzano at a restaurant in Detroit, according to another federal witness, Donovan Wells, a long-time business associate of McMaster.

Notably, I am the only person in the world, living or dead, who has interviewed all of these suspects—the Andretta brothers, the Briguglio brothers, Moscato, McMaster, Barr, and Shaw. And most of these interviews were recorded.

I also recorded interviews with other persons of interest, including Charles “Chuckie” O’Brien, Hoffa’s “foster son,” and Frank “The Irishman” Sheeran, who would later falsely claim to have killed Hoffa.

Confirming that Ralph Picardo “basically had it right,” Phillip Moscato told me—on tape—that he and Briguglio had unloaded the barrel containing Hoffa’s body from the Gateway truck and then buried it at his landfill in Jersey City.

Here is a longer version of what I believe happened to Jimmy Hoffa, based on the best available evidence: https://www.moldea.com/Hoffa-40.html

During the coming months, watch for more excellent reporting on the Hoffa case from Eric Shawn of Fox News and his top investigator, the legendary Ed Barnes, as well as the extraordinary work of author and filmmaker Scott Burnstein, the world’s expert on the Detroit Mafia, aka “The Partnership.”

And get ready for the upcoming, highly anticipated book—In Hoffa’s Shadow: A Stepfather, a Disappearance in Detroit, and My Search for the Truth—by Jack Goldsmith, a Harvard law professor, which will be released in September. Goldsmith is the stepson of Chuck O’Brien, whom many believe had driven the car that took Hoffa to the scene of his murder.
Remarkably, Phillip Moscato suggested to me that Detroit mobster Vito Giacalone, the brother of the notorious Anthony Giacalone, was the driver, not O’Brien. Tony Giacalone was a brother-in-law of Tony Provenzano. According to the FBI, Hoffa expected to meet with both men on the day of his killing at the Machus Red Fox restaurant in Bloomfield, Michigan.

FBI informant Don Wells told me that he believes that Provenzano was in Detroit and at the scene of Hoffa’s murder, which he believes took place at Rolland McMaster’s farm in Wixom, Michigan. In 2006, the FBI searched that property for Hoffa’s remains without success.

With regard to The Irishman, the hyped-up Martin Scorsese–Robert De Niro film fantasy about the Hoffa case which is set for release in late November, Netflix has reportedly bet nearly $200 million that con man and provable liar Frank Sheeran, who died in December 2003, had told the truth about Hoffa’s murder in a 2004 book upon which the movie is based.

Netflix should have spent at least some of that losing bet on a fact-checker. The film is sure to be Scorsese and De Niro homage to Oliver Stone’s film, JFK, which featured great cinema but bad history.

Watch how quickly Netflix, along with Scorsese and De Niro, suddenly start describing their motion-picture project as "based on fact with several departures from reality."

Finally, when I met with De Niro in December 2014, I warned him about Sheeran and bluntly accused him of getting conned by this perpetrator.

Additional comments by DEM

The legendary Scott Burnstein, the world’s expert on the Detroit Mafia, discusses the Hoffa caper and “The Irishman” https://wwjnewsradio.radio.com/articles/jimmy-hoffa-44-years-later-irishman-has-story-all-wrong

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Here’s a piece I did for the Washington Post, which assigned me to review the last movie about Jimmy Hoffa, starring Jack Nicholson . . . and how Hollywood turns thugs into heroes. https://www.moldea.com/DEM-WP12271992.html

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The Irishman: The first trailer for the film: https://www.freep.com/story/entertainment/movies/julie-hinds/2019/07/31/al-pacino-jimmy-hoffa-martin-scorsese-movie-the-irishman-robert-deni/1876417001/?fbclid=IwAR0cFSYWDGr09x7keciqc08xSd5bOL47JXPe23JCoTsGUbSb_VRT96pKBLg
The legendary John Wisely of the Detroit Free Press summarizes the Hoffa murder case. . . .

24. Robert Mueller’s two testimonies today

(3:29 PM) Throughout both hearings today, Robert Mueller was repeatedly confronted with loaded questions by both the majority and the minority in rapid-fire succession. Consequently, because he didn’t want to make mistakes or appear partisan, he gave slow, halting, and painfully deliberate responses that almost seemed at times to be clumsy, evasive, and even doddering. Notably, his afternoon appearance before the intelligence committee was much more effective than his disappointing morning testimony before the judiciary committee.

In the end, Mueller’s flat and passionless presentation did little or nothing to give encouragement to House Democrats to support a formal impeachment inquiry. But, simultaneously, his overall lackluster performance didn’t give the perception that the damning and devastating Mueller Report has been discredited.

It remains a solid and important investigative work that reveals the crimes and corruption of Donald Trump.

Additional comments by DEM

Here’s my theory about why Robert Mueller performed so badly during the morning session. . . . Mueller’s testimony before the judiciary committee revolved around the issue of obstruction of justice—about which The Mueller Report exhibited its strongest evidence against Trump and his stooges, which has been manifested in continuing investigations and several sealed indictments. These processes are ongoing, and I think that Mueller was especially wary about doing or saying anything to interfere. Consequently, his responses were particularly slow and deliberate.

In the afternoon session before the intelligence committee—which revolved around the issues of the alleged conspiracy between Russia and the Trump campaign—Mueller was more relaxed and a little more willing to engage his interrogators.

Regardless of his performances today, I am among the many people who continue to believe that Mueller is a courageous man of high integrity.

* * *

Last night during a press conference, Nancy Pelosi made the following statement: "I do believe what we saw today was a very strong manifestation -- in fact some would even say indictment -- of this administration’s cone of silence and their cover-up. This is about the oath we take to protect and defend the Constitution. But some of the actions that the administration may have taken ... may have jeopardized our national security by strengthening Russia's hand and interfering in our elections, undermining democracy, not only in our country but in other countries as well, upsetting our pre-eminence as a democracy in the world. This is very serious. Today was very important.”
(h/t Politico Playbook)

* * *

Ed. . . . I love that you always drink a healthy dose of Kool-Aid before coming to my FB site and dropping your usual load of bullshit. Just to be clear, I have zero interest in what pro-Trump
conservatives have to say about anything political. With regard to liberals who defend *The Mueller Report* which documents the crimes and corruption of your beloved but wholly dishonest Donald Trump, I refer you to the list of over a thousand former federal prosecutors—hardly a bunch of lefties—who agree with us about the importance of *The Mueller Report*.  
https://medium.com/@dojalumni/statement-by-former-federal-prosecutors-8ab7691c2aa1

**22. Robert Mueller as Bernard Malamud’s Roy Hobbs**  

If author Bernard Malamud had written *The Natural* about politics instead of baseball, Robert Mueller’s testimony on Wednesday, July 24, would be the perfect denouement of his story. In that 1952 novel, Roy Hobbs swings and misses for the final out, costing his team the pennant. But, in the 1984 motion picture based on Malamud’s book, Roy Hobbs, played by Robert Redford, wins the pennant with a walk-off home run.

So, it comes down to this. . . . If Bob Mueller strikes out on Wednesday, the well-documented allegations in *The Mueller Report* will be perceived as discredited, and the corrupt and dishonest Donald Trump will escape justice and could be rewarded with a second term in office.

If Mueller hits a home run, the U.S. House Judiciary Committee will quickly move for an impeachment inquiry to hold Trump accountable for his countless crimes and clear corruption. . . . Consequently, the stakes couldn’t be higher.

Personally, I am hoping for the Hollywood ending.

*Additional comments by DEM*

Like it or not, the necessary public defense of *The Mueller Report* has to come from Robert Mueller. If he fails to live up to his billing and/or gets tripped up by the GOP knuckle dragger and smear merchants on the judiciary and intelligence committees, his testimony will be dismissed and even ridiculed. . . . All Mueller needs to do is credibly defend his team’s excellent work. To me, that would be a home run. He is not required to go beyond that. . . . If he succeeds, the impeachment inquiry will follow.

**20: The New York Times on the moon landing—50 years ago today**  

Here is the front page of the *New York Times*, reporting on the magnificence of the July 20, 1969, moon landing, arguably the greatest technological achievement in human history—50 years ago today.


*Additional comments by DEM*

I can't even imagine the raw and sustained courage it took for those guys to do what they did. . . .

* * *

In my opinion, the biggest story of the week about the moon landing was the discovery by our colleague, James Mann, of the written statement that President Nixon would have issued if the astronauts were killed or marooned. . . .

https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2019/07/12/speech-richard-nixon-would-have-given-event-moon-disaster/?utm_term=.1b7841de21bf
18: The sheep in Trump’s flock reveal themselves

Deeply resentful of the label, “hate-filled racists,” the sheep in Donald Trump’s flock last night revealed themselves for what they really are—hate-filled racists, just like their lord and master. . . . “In time, the Rockies may crumble. Gibraltar may tumble. They’re only made of clay.” But their love for Trump is here to stay.

Additional comments by DEM

Now, I get what “Make America Great Again” really means. . . . We’re our way back to the 1950s with all of its segregation, scapegoating, paranoia, red baiting, and blacklisting—but where to be anti-Trump is to be anti-American.

* * *

The only way we get through this period is by practicing non-violence. . . . There is no other way.

* * *

Marty: As many have said. . . . Those Republicans who claim not to be racists but still support Donald Trump clearly believe that being a racist is not a deal-breaker.

* * *

This morning, the New York Times Editorial Board weighed in on “Send Her Back!” and Donald Trump’s cynical use of race to divide America, as well as his ugly roles as both a racist and a "race warrior." https://www.nytimes.com/2019/07/18/opinion/trump-rally-send-her-back.html?nl=todaysheadlines&emc=edit_th_190719?campaign_id=2&instance_id=10977&segment_id=15359&user_id=ed49a764c38aede175bff85372bb55f&regi_id=710465320719

* * *

While I was in graduate school at Kent State, I taught a course in the Honors and Experimental College called "Racism and Poverty." And we addressed your concern. . . . I think that apart from hate-filled racism, there is a form of "benign racism," which doesn't require hate, just a sense of entitlement and superiority based on race. I fear that this condition is more widespread than we might think.

* * *

As long as Trump continues to wage his cowardly holy war against the poor and the powerless, his delusional Ayn Rand-like supporters will continue to follow and support him.

17: The Classic Comics version of The Mueller Report

Before Robert Mueller’s appearances before two U.S. House committees next Wednesday, July 24, every American should read The Mueller Report, which is an outstanding, even devastating piece of work. But, sadly, most people don’t have the time to go through it. . . . So, here’s an excellent abridged—sort of, Classics Comics—version that can be read in about an hour and includes everything we need to know. https://www.insider.com/mueller-report-rewritten-trump-russia-mark-bowden-archer-2019-7
16: Searching for our inner Victor Laszlo

Between now and November 2020, let’s not play into the hands of the knuckle-draggers by being divisive and stupid. Let’s show the world our inner Victor Laszlo.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SEJHJ_WfNgU

14: DEM: “I have a new lead on the whereabouts of Jimmy Hoffa’s body”

Every five years or so, someone comes along and gives me a new tip about the whereabouts of Jimmy Hoffa’s dead body or what’s left of it. After all—as I’m fond of saying—I am Ahab, and the Hoffa case is my white whale. So, if the casts of characters and the timelines feel right, I will always pursue these new leads.

And the best information about Hoffa’s location continues to be that—after he was killed by associates of labor racketeer Anthony Provenzano in a suburb of Detroit on July 30, 1975—his body was stuffed into a 55-gallon drum which was shipped via a Gateway Transportation truck to New Jersey and buried near Provenzano’s home.

In 2009, my investigation of one of these promising leads ended with me getting set up in a phony drug deal by my double-crossing source—a career criminal who was trying to strike a plea bargain with state prosecutors and was maliciously using me as an unwitting fall guy. After tempers cooled in the aftermath of the dragnet of state and local law-enforcement officials who descended upon me at a gas station on a country road in Hartland Township, Michigan, we were able to sort out what had happened. The real story of this caper wound up a few days later on the front page of the Detroit News. Shortly thereafter, the career criminal, the creep who betrayed me, went back to prison.

In 2014, with the death of reputed Genovese soldier Phillip Moscato—the owner of a landfill in Jersey City who was suspected by the FBI of providing the venue for Hoffa’s final resting place—I was permitted, as per my agreement with Moscato, to publish my interviews with him from 2007-2014, conducted and recorded in person and over the phone.

Although he never laid out the whole story of the murder conspiracy, he did provide me with certain details about Hoffa’s killing, some of which were cryptic while others were quite clear.

For instance, he strongly suggested that Detroit mobster Vito Giacalone—not Hoffa’s foster son, Chuck O’Brien, as many of us had believed for years—was driving the car that delivered Hoffa to the scene of his murder. Simultaneously, Moscato told me on tape that he, along with his long-time friend, Salvatore Briguglio, had personally buried the 55-gallon drum which contained Hoffa’s dead body.

Briguglio has long been the FBI’s top suspect as Hoffa’s killer.

Notably, I am the only journalist in the world, living or dead, who has interviewed Briguglio and his alleged co-conspirators—live, in person, and on tape in October 1976. My fourth and final interview with Briguglio was in February 1978, a month before he was murdered in New York.

Also, one week to the day after the Briguglio slaying, I interviewed Frank Sheeran—aka “The Irishman,” the subject of the upcoming Scorsese-De Niro film fantasy about the Hoffa case. Sheeran falsely confessed to killing both Hoffa and Briguglio, among other murders he did not commit. . . . But that’s another story.

(BTW: Phil Moscato told me in no uncertain terms that Sheeran played no role in the killing of Jimmy Hoffa.)

Today, in 2019, it’s happening again. Admittedly another long shot, I have a new source with impressive
credentials whose information dovetails with what Moscato told me. I also have two corroborating
witnesses. The basic story is very simple, but the logistics for the required excavation are extremely
complicated and problematic. Sadly, I am not equipped or well-connected enough to make this happen
without the help of a news organization to grease both the legalities and the politics while watching my
back and professionally memorializing the denouement.

I’m not asking anyone for any money. All I want is to keep the rights to my own story and to receive the
principal credit if I do find the trophy.

Sadly, like the FBI, most media operations feel snake-bitten by the Hoffa case, following leads over the
years that went nowhere. . . . Believe me, I’m hip.

Does anyone out there have any advice as to what I should do? Please feel free to send me a private
message, an email, or call me on the phone. I’m easy to find.

BTW: Here is the 2015 story in the New York Daily News about the report I published, featuring the most
likely explanation of what happened to Jimmy Hoffa—forty years after his murder:
1.2308877

Additional comments by DEM

Here’s the August 25, 2009, story on the front page of the Detroit News, written by my friend and
colleague, investigative journalist Paul Egan, about the conman who set me up.
https://www.pressreader.com/usa/the-detroit-news/20090825/page/1

* * *

At one time, I had it in my will for my ashes to be spread on the roof of Teamsters headquarters in
downtown Washington. . . . I wanted to haunt that building forever.

* * *

Geoff. . . . You guys might be perfect to help me pull this off. At the very least, I would love to see
you as part of it, even if you don’t take the lead. To be sure, I have been fooled before on this caper
and would never claim to own Absolute Truth on this or anything else. . . . But the circumstances
of this current situation have really put the hook in me. . . . Once again, I will not try to cash in on
this situation unless we are successful—and that means that the FBI confirms the find. I have put
that in writing to my sources who claim to know. One warning, my key source can be a little
difficult. And that has caused problems between us.

* * *

What a freaking nightmare that was in Hartland County in August 2009. I was even afraid that I
was going to get whacked that afternoon because the demanded arrangements had kept me so
isolated. . . . In short, I was told by my double-crossing source that his team was going to dig up
Hoffa’s body at a nearby farm, the owner of which was Stanton Barr, one of my top suspects in
the case. He was the brother-in-law of Teamster thug Rolland McMaster, whom I believed within
days of Hoffa’s July 1975 disappearance—while I was working for NBC News in Detroit—had
played a major role in the disposal of Hoffa’s body. Also, I believed that Hoffa had been taken to
and murdered at McMaster’s farm in Wixom. Stan Barr, whose farm was in Fenton, was the head
of Gateway Transportation’s steel division.

When the police from multiple jurisdictions swarmed and detained me at the gas station—which is
where I was told to be to receive the 55-gallon drum containing Hoffa’s body—I still refused to
identify that asshole as my source, even though I knew that he had set me up. Although I gave the police my driver’s license and registration, I didn’t tell them that I was a journalist, let alone looking for Jimmy Hoffa.

However, I had hired a private detective, a close friend of mine, to watch my back, and I had told him everything I knew about the project. He was doing surveillance at the farm and had planned to call me when the source and his team arrived to dig up Hoffa’s body, which the source said was in a large red barn on the property.

While the police dragnet kept me up against the front of my car—their cameras whirling—I refused to allow them to search my car where the source anonymously claimed to them that I was holding caches of drugs and guns. My reticence was based on the fact that the source had been in my car, and I feared that he might have planted something—which is why I kept asking the police for an attorney.

Meantime, two deputies from the Genesee County Sheriff's Office grabbed my PI-friend at Stan Barr’s farm, cuffed him, and brought him to the gas station. By the time they arrived, my friend—fearing that the police could arrange to pull his state-certified private investigator’s license—gave up everything, including the identity of the source. He also told them that I was nothing more than a journalist who was looking for Jimmy Hoffa.

When the police learned the name of my source, who was already notorious in that area, the pressure of the moment was immediately relieved. And instead of a cache of drugs and guns in my car, I had a box, containing copies of my 1978 book, “The Hoffa Wars,” which I signed and gave to the sheriff’s deputies and the police officers.

* * *

Actually, in my 1978 book, I leaned towards a theory told to me by Chicago Mafia soldier Charles Crimaldi, who said that Hoffa’s body had been crushed and smelted near the Gateway steel-division terminal in Dearborn. . . . What Phil Moscato told me is a game changer.

* * *


* * *

*The Irishman* will be Martin Scorsese’s homage to Oliver Stone’s nutty movie, *JFK*. . . . Great cinema, terrible history.

* * *

From our friend and colleague Larry Henry. . . . [https://themobmuseum.org/blog/new-movie-rekindles-debate-over-jimmy-hoffa-killing/?fbclid=IwAR0TGbWHd7R7nHevyYB_eX4l4RpKWFlsmR2Qj_kht0OYoWQzR06hn_8few](https://themobmuseum.org/blog/new-movie-rekindles-debate-over-jimmy-hoffa-killing/?fbclid=IwAR0TGbWHd7R7nHevyYB_eX4l4RpKWFlsmR2Qj_kht0OYoWQzR06hn_8few)

**12: Film producer Artur Brauner has died at 100**

The great motion-picture producer, Artur Brauner—widely lauded for his breathtaking works about the horrors and inhumanity of the Holocaust—has died at 100. Among his many remarkable films, Brauner was a producer of “*The Garden of the Finzi-Continis,*” which won the 1972 Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film. He was also a Holocaust survivor. . . . “Never forget. Never again.”
11: White House correspondent Brian Karem nearly brawls with one Trump’s stooges


Our friend and colleague, the widely admired and respected Brian J. Karem, a CNN political analyst and the White House correspondent for Playboy, nearly locked horns earlier today with the creepy Sebastian Gorka—one of Donald Trump’s most notorious bitches who is now a contributor for Fox News, aka Trump State Television. The incident occurred in the Rose Garden at the White House, which would be an interesting venue for an all-out brawl between the noble and heroic Washington press corps and Trump’s punk-sissy stooges.


10: How will DOJ-IG Michael Horowitz play his “investigating the investigators” report?


Michael Horowitz, the DOJ’s Inspector General, will soon release his “investigating the investigators” report—which the sheep in Donald Trump’s flock hope and pray will serve as a harsh response to the noble and righteous Mueller Report. Notably, according to a story in today’s New York Times, the IG’s office interviewed at length a major character in the Mueller Report, Christopher Steele, last month in London.

Next to Mueller, Steele, the author of the famous “Steele Dossier,” will be the Republicans’ top target at the Mueller hearings before the U.S. House intelligence and judiciary committees on July 17, a week from today.

Will William Barr, the worst Attorney General since John Mitchell, sabotage Horowitz’s work in advance of its release, as he did, recklessly and maliciously, with the Mueller Report in March? Or will Horowitz be complicit with Bill Barr, Trump’s chief stooge, in the continuing cover-up of Trump’s ongoing obstruction of justice in the criminal probe of the Russians’ influence on the 2016 election?


Additional comments by DEM

Here is Horowitz’s first report that addressed some of these issues, released in June 2018:

*  *  *

Yes, Brendan, I am one of the pain-in-the-neck people who is always looking for the bright side of things.

*  *  *

Thanks for asking . . . In my opinion, if Robert Mueller performs well next Wednesday, the impeachment inquiry will begin almost immediately—which might or might not wind up with an actual impeachment vote down the road. . . . I trust Nancy Pelosi’s judgment on this--but the
Republicans are going to smear Mueller prior to his testimony and repeatedly during both hearings on July 17. They need to discredit Mueller, and they will be swinging for the fence. Bet on it. . . .

To me, the opportunity missed was the desperately needed independent commission—like the 9-11 commission—to address all issues about the role of the Russians in the 2016 election. And that would have included Trump's alleged complicity with Putin and company, along with his subsequent obstructions of justice, as well as whatever investigation of the investigators was necessary. . . . We needed that independent commission.

* * *

I agree with most of what you wrote, Dan. But I have to disagree with one thing. . . . It won't be boring. The stakes couldn't higher. This is the freaking ball game. If this blows up for the Democrats next Wednesday, Trump will declare victory. There will be no tomorrow.

* * *

Whatever it takes. . . . But I would really like to see Bob Mueller shine next Wednesday, setting the stage for the main event. He and his team did great work, and I want him to strut their stuff.

3: Donald Trump and his Benito Mussolini moment on the Fourth of July


After over two years of sucking up to the world's most nefarious dictators in Russia, North Korea, and Saudi Arabia, among others—while attempting to diminish our traditional foreign allies, such as the members of NATO, as well as our own law-enforcement and intelligence communities and especially the news media—Donald Trump will enjoy his Benito Mussolini moment tonight during the Fourth of July celebration. This landmark event will feature 60-ton tanks, flyovers from combat jets, and the presence of assorted military hardware, displayed in the midst of the civilian population here in our Nation's Capital for America's 239th birthday.

And, of course, there will be Trump’s obligatory speech.

If Trump speaks from a prepared script, written by one of his more lucid speechwriters, there is the possibility for him to appear conciliatory—regardless of how disingenuous and insincere his scripted words would be. No doubt, he would contradict those remarks shortly thereafter with tweets and non-scripted, off-the-cuff statements.

Regardless of how lame his efforts might be, Trump has always been celebrated for any appearance of conciliation. After all, Donald Trump is "The God of Countless Second Chances, Constant Resets, and Never-Ending Benefits of the Doubt.”

His belief that he may defame at will but be forgiven by his supporters for anything and everything is well founded. The sheep in his flock believe him to be their lord and savior, as well as a misunderstood visionary.

June 2019

30: Trump, after a great moment, reverts back to form

At or about 3:00 AM. . . . Couldn’t sleep, turned on the television. On CNN, Donald Trump stepped through a set of double doors in South Korea. Then—alone—he walked across the DMZ into North Korea where he was greeted by Kim Jong-Un. . . . After shaking hands, Kim and Trump turned around and—together—walked back across the DMZ into South Korea where they were welcomed by South Korean President Moon Jae-In.

Even though I view Trump as a totally corrupt and completely dishonest man, I had to admit that this was one helluva moment. And I thought to myself, “Wow . . . Well done.”

Then, just moments ago, Trump stepped in front of the cameras and, in lieu of humbly absorbing this wonderful event and well-deserved praise, he immediately started trashing the Obama Administration and the news media. . . .

So, here, Donald Trump had this remarkable unifying moment in history, worthy of great acclaim and respect. Then, he just couldn’t help but revert back to his now-familiar role as a divisive, bullying nutcase.

28: On the two debates for the Democratic presidential nomination

After watching both debates among the candidates for the Democratic nomination for President, I just wish that all of them were as smart as Senator Elizabeth Warren. Unfortunately, I still view her as ringing a school bell and ultimately ill-equipped to pose an effective challenge to the corrupt and dishonest Donald Trump, who bullies everybody and lies about everything.

I believe that Senator Kamala Harris might be the right person to take the fight to Trump. But, on the downside, I find her to be an incredibly shrill cheap-shot artist who is at her worst when attempting to seize the moral high ground while on the attack against an opponent.

Meantime, I love the affable, pro-union Joe Biden—even though he’s a human gaffe machine. But, sadly, he is not the man he was when President Barack Obama,—whom I wish could be cloned—selected him as his Vice President in 2008. Trump would eat Biden alive in a general election. . . . But it will never get that far inasmuch as Joe’s heart will be broken during the Democratic primaries.

Without an Obama clone, I am really pulling for Senator Cory Booker, who is very talented and qualified, to step out of the weeds and present himself much better than he has to date.

Looking at the back of the pack, I’d like to hear a lot more from Governor Steve Bullock of Montana, who was excluded from the debates but could still pose the greatest threat to Trump’s reelection bid.

All in all, I just want one of these Democratic candidates to inspire us . . . by stepping to center stage and mercilessly leading the charge for the complete and total repudiation of Donald Trump.

Additional comments by DEM

I was very unimpressed with Kamala Harris during the Kavanaugh hearings last year. In the midst of one of her examinations of the nominee, she peppered him with questions about a vague connection he supposedly had with some law firm, hinting that she was in possession of more information that could impeach his testimony. In the end, she presented nothing, which helped to embolden and enable the Republicans on the Senate Judiciary Committee to launch their counterattack against Kavanaugh’s critics—which led to Kavanaugh’s unfortunate confirmation . . . Also, last night, I really objected to Harris’s bullshit assault on Joe Biden. Using bait-and-switch tactics, as well as cynical strawman illusions, she attempted to leave the impression that Biden—whom the beloved President Obama selected as his running mate in 2008 and 2012—is a racist, which is a ridiculous claim, stated or implied. . . . Biden is not my candidate for 2020, and I really want to like Senator Harris. But her willingness to play to the crowd and contrive a “big
moment” by using bogus Trumpian-like tactics diminishes her and her chances to receive the nomination.

* * *

Bill . . . I think all of these Democratic candidates are very interesting and have remarkable strengths. I like action, and I am enjoying the fray.

* * *

I agree, Hugh. . . . Sadly, sooner or later, Joe Biden will leave this campaign with a broken heart. It has been inevitable. But he did not deserve the false aspersions leveled against him by Kamala Harris.

* * *

I was directly involved in the Kavanaugh thing---because of my information about the Starr-leaks matter---and I dealt with her staff. Harris was a disappointment from beginning to end. She never laid a glove on the nominee.

* * *

Claire. . . . Elizabeth Warren would be Pocahontased to death by Donald Trump. . . . With regarding to Bernie--whose "Bernie or bust" supporters and their stubborn resistance to Hillary Clinton--helped to elected Trump in 2016, along with James Comey and the Russians, I am not a fan of his. Sorry, I view the Democratic primary to be the exclusive property of registered Democrats--not registered Independent insurgents, who whine about the Democratic Party's preference to support Democrats.

26: Subpoenaed, Robert Mueller will provide public testimony on July 17

The U.S. House Intelligence and Judiciary Committees have subpoenaed Robert Mueller to testify in two separate hearings on July 17. . . . Between now and then, expect the right-wing media, led by Fox News, to wage the most reckless and malicious smear campaign ever directed against a public official.

Additional comments by DEM

Over a thousand former prosecutors support the findings of Robert Mueller’s monumental investigation, saying, “Each of us believes that the conduct of President Trump described in Special Counsel Robert Mueller’s report would, in the case of any other person not covered by the Office of Legal Counsel policy against indicting a sitting President, result in multiple felony charges for obstruction of justice.

“The Mueller report describes several acts that satisfy all of the elements for an obstruction charge: conduct that obstructed or attempted to obstruct the truth-finding process, as to which the evidence of corrupt intent and connection to pending proceedings is overwhelming. . . .”

25: Present for the beginning of the end of the Nixon presidency

June 25, 1973: 46 years ago today. . . . In this historic image—apart from the more famous wide-angle photograph—my great friend, Bob Corlett, and I witnessed this landmark moment during the Watergate
scandal from the back wall of the main hearing room of Russell Senate Office Building, just over John Dean’s left shoulder. . . . I’m the 23-year-old stiff in the tie. Bob, a life-long musician, is the cool guy with the beard and the shades. . . . We were present—live and in person—for the beginning of the end of Richard Nixon’s presidency fourteen months later.

Additional comments by DEM

The historic photograph I want is the one with my arms wrapped around the 55-gallon drum that contains the remains of Jimmy Hoffa.

23: CNN’s documentary on Apollo 11

Well done, CNN. . . "Apollo 11" was a wonderful, even breathtaking documentary. No talking heads--just amazing footage of the first moon landing, step-by-step, in real time, along with some very dramatic background music. . . . What a great moment for America and the world--50 years ago on July 20.

Additional comments by DEM

Those three astronauts were absolutely fearless. The documentary noted their heart rates at key moments. . . . At launch, Neil Armstrong's was 110. Michael Collins was at 99. And Buzz Aldrin's was a cool and calm 88. . . . At the moment of the moon landing, Armstrong's heart rate was 156--after he had suddenly taken control of the spacecraft just before touching the moon, maneuvering the ship away from a rocky and more dangerous landing area. . . . Pure, unadulterated courage.

20: Using war to deflect public attention from Trump’s crimes and corruption

Since he became president in 2017, Donald Trump has made or told nearly 11,000 provably false statements and/or flat-out lies. And, now, this demonstrably dishonest conman—who is desperately looking for ways to deflect public attention away from the intensive investigations by the U.S. House and multiple law-enforcement agencies of his specific crimes and overall corruption—appears to be leading the United States into another stupid war, appealing to the American public to trust him and his motives. . . . After all of his proven lies and deceit, how can anyone trust anything this guy says or does—especially when lives are at stake? https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2019/06/10/president-trump-has-made-false-or-misleading-claims-over-days/?utm_term=.be90183205c4

Additional comments by DEM

Can any of us imagine what would have happened if Trump had been president during the Cuban missile crisis in 1962?

*   *   *
Does this article in *Psychology Today* square with your very honest and legitimate concerns? [https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/mind-in-the-machine/201905/the-belief-trump-is-messiah-is-rampant-and-dangerous?fbclid=IwAR21jvh82MWAmI0jynCBWDdofx4NSuOaN2SIBFlgPPmBsvWCiKJ5I25I](https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/mind-in-the-machine/201905/the-belief-trump-is-messiah-is-rampant-and-dangerous?fbclid=IwAR21jvh82MWAmI0jynCBWDdofx4NSuOaN2SIBFlgPPmBsvWCiKJ5I25I)

* * *


* * *

When critics on the right and the left start to complain that Trump punked down tonight, he will feel a personal need to redeem himself. And that's when he will become really dangerous. He has the obvious ability and the clear willingness to get thousands of people killed

* * *

Without knowing any new facts beyond the *NYT* story at 4:00 AM, Fox News, aka Trump State Television, is portraying Donald Trump as a man of great restraint and responsibility. . . . This will be an interesting day, watching Trump and his stooges twist and torture the English language in an effort to explain what happened. . . . Bet that Vladimir Putin, Iran's top ally, played a behind the scenes role in Trump's bizarre decision.

* * *

Trump says he backed off, because he didn't want to kill 150 Iranians. . . . Yeah, yeah, yeah. Sure, sure, sure. That's now 10,797 false statements.

* * *

Here's Trump accusing President Obama of doing seven years ago what Trump is doing now. Also, to anyone who thinks that Trump stood down last night on humanitarian grounds, I know of some swampland in Florida you might want to buy, as well as a bridge in Brooklyn.

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**20: Four smart solutions by four smart people:**

* On impeachment: “Censure now, then open an impeachment inquiry” (by Jon Oberg). . . . Jon, a celebrated whistleblower, offers a legitimate resolution to Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s dilemma, giving the Democrats the opportunity to do the right thing by moving quickly to censure—based on overwhelming existing evidence—and then using that evidence to initiate an impeachment inquiry through which the U.S. House can determine whether or not to impeach. Jon fully recognizes that both processes—censure and impeachment—will likely be blocked by the GOP-controlled Senate. However, Jon also notes that of the 34 Senate seats up for grabs in 2020, 22 are currently held by Republicans, who will be held accountable and are clearly at risk.

* On how to attack Donald Trump: “Everything Trump's critics have thought was a liability is actually an asset” (by Eric Dezenhall). . . . Eric—a conservative who is arguably America's best crisis manager—says that Trump’s critics have utterly failed to go after him on the one thing that he fears most: His fraudulence. He knows that he has a long history of business failures and is the perfect opposite of a self-made businessman. His father surely reminded him that he’d probably be in an Arizona prison for a land-swindle scheme were it not for one thing . . . that he was the heir to a vast fortune which is the provenance of his whole career. . . . If the Democrats and the media want to force Trump to come unglued, then they should learn to incant, “You’re not a billionaire, and you were handed everything by your dad,” because these are
the pillars of his entire identity.

* On the 2020 election: “Lefties in safe districts, centrists in swing districts” (by Paul Alan Levy) . . . Paul’s responsible and realistic solution speaks volumes and lays out a very simple and effective winning strategy for the Democrats to retain the U.S. House and to win back the U.S. Senate in 2020. BTW: Paul, a well-known and respected public-interest attorney, is also a life-long progressive.

* On the depths that Trump is willing to sink: “The public must loudly complain that Donald Trump is provoking a war—any war—as a cynical distraction in an effort to get reelected” (by Tom von Stein) . . . . Tom, a legendary former enforcement-division attorney for the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, warns that Trump wants to start a war somewhere, anywhere, so that he can claim the role as a wartime president and accuse the Democrats of not being patriotic while diverting attention away from his crimes and corruption. In other words, to Donald Trump, to be anti-Trump is to be anti-American. . . . Learning lessons from the Vietnam debacle and George W. Bush’s bogus war in Iraq, Tom believes that a concerned public has a responsibility to defy Trump and to foil his dreams and schemes which would place American military personnel at risk and further divide an already divided nation.

Additional comments by DEM

This story in the Washington Post about Trump and the illusions he has created during his career is certainly on-point:

* * *

Come on, Nancy. You are the goddess of Washington warriors. Don't take censure off the table. Please reconsider. Do one, then the other. https://www.politico.com/story/2019/06/19/nancy-pelosi-mueller-report-1369894

17: The arresting officer of the Watergate burglars, Carl Shoffler, would have turned 74 today

47 years ago today, five burglars broke into the headquarters of the Democratic National Committee at the Watergate office complex in Washington, D.C. The arrests of these five men led to the resignation of President Richard Nixon twenty-six months later.

One of the three arresting officers of the Watergate burglars was MPD Detective Carl Shoffler, a top intelligence officer and organized-crime expert who turned twenty-seven years old that same day. Others making the arrests were Carl’s partners that night, Sergeant Paul Leeper and Officer John Barrett . . .

Here’s a photograph of Carl—who was like a big brother to me, with his mitt on my left shoulder—at a party for my 1995 book about the murder of Senator Robert Kennedy. Sadly, a year later, at age 51, Carl died of pancreatitis.

By chance, I was present in the ICU stall with Carl’s wife and children, as well as MPD detective Tony Morris, at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore at the moment of Carl’s death. I felt honored to witness this sad event. Also, I delivered one of the five eulogies at his memorial service a few days later.

BTW: Years earlier, while dealing with a personal-security crisis, Carl brought a carload of his treasure-trove of secret intelligence and organized-crime files to my home and asked me to keep them safe. Entrusted by Carl, I kept possession of the legendary Shoffler files—without any drama—for about six months before his security problem was finally resolved. . . . The files are now rightfully with his oldest son, a police detective.
God bless Carl Shoffler on his 74th birthday. (June 17, 1945-July 13, 1996)

(Photo credit: Mimi)

Additional comments by DEM

Here’s the Washington Post’s obit about Carl’s death:
https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/local/1996/07/15/carl-shoffler-dies/d9f50a97-3788-408c-827f-89e8d6cafbba/?utm_term=.51ef0725cf81

* * *

Here’s the New York Times’s obit about Carl’s death:

* * *

Mike... That was a fun dinner last night with you and the old poker group. Carl was at our first game in December 1978. He was the one who assured us that we had a legal game as long as the house did not take a skim.

* * *

Notably, between 1972 and 1996, one of the worst-kept secrets in town was Carl’s role as a top confidential source for many investigative journalists who knew and respected this great cop.

12: On the 25th anniversary of the O.J. murder case

Twenty-five years ago today—believe it or not, it was that long ago—O.J. Simpson allegedly murdered his ex-wife, Nicole Brown, and her friend, Ron Goldman. Simpson was acquitted in his criminal trial but was held responsible for the murders by a Los Angeles County jury in the subsequent civil case.

In 1997, I co-authored the book, Evidence Dismissed: The Inside Story of the Police Investigation of O.J. Simpson, with the two lead detectives of the Simpson murder case: Tom Lange and Philip Vannatter, two of the finest investigators I have ever known... In the picture of us below, Linda Lange (left) and Rita Vannatter are standing behind their husbands. (Phil died in 2012.)

Additional comments by DEM
Here is the updated edition of the book we wrote, the best and most authoritative work about this complicated case:
https://www.amazon.com/dp/0692762108/ref=sr_1_8?ie=UTF8&qid=1477951137&sr=8-8&keywords=Evidence+Dismissed

* * *

A mere seven weeks after we signed our publishing contract with Simon & Schuster, Tom, Phil, and I flew to New York and hand-delivered our draft manuscript to our editor, Sue Carswell, who is sitting between Phil and Tom. . . . Our excellent literary agent for this project, Frank Weimann, is on the left. (Frank represented the two detectives. I was represented by agent/attorney Ronald Goldfarb, who is not in the picture.) The manuscript is on the table in front of me.

* * *

Well, Phil, as everyone painfully knows, he was acquitted by the jury in the criminal case which had to find him guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. . . . In the civil case, of course, the threshold for liability was much lower--a preponderance of evidence.

* * *

Next to OJ, the real villain of this caper was that racist, Fifth Amendment-taking rogue cop, Mark Fuhrman, who is a convicted perjurer and, appropriately, a regular on Fox News. Fuhrman's book about the Simpson murder investigation was pure garbage.

* * *

O.J. was guilty. Bet it. Book it. Take it to the bank. . . . The problem was that the defense team successfully took the racist behavior of that convicted perjurer, Mark Fuhrman, along with an inflated view of his minimal role in the investigation and turned the focus of the case into a police conspiracy against Simpson. . . . Nothing could be further from the truth—and Tom Lange’s dramatic attempt to save Simpson during the Bronco chase illustrates my point. But the jury bought this fairy tale, fell in love with the perpetrator, and acquitted him. . . . In short, O.J. did it, and he did it alone.

* * *

Here’s the video of the chase—with the audio of Tom Lange’s haunting exchanges with O.J. Simpson. I am so proud of Tom for the professional and compassionate manner in which he handled this deadly situation. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HcyyCi2b2AY.

11: Jon Oberg argues to censure first and then to open an impeachment inquiry

Our friend and colleague, the great whistleblower Jon Oberg, has proposed an interesting and workable strategy for U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Congressional Democrats. In lieu of one or the other, Jon believes that they should censure for “ample cause” sooner rather than late—and then open an official impeachment inquiry, based on all the accumulated evidence, for the common good.

Speaking of the process to censure first, Jon writes: “This review would provide an opportunity for ordinary Americans to form opinions on impeachment as it affects their everyday lives, their health and safety, their consumer protections, their human rights under law. Such opinions need time to ripen, once evidence is compiled. If the House censures the president on separation of powers and moral grounds, it will have done at least part of its duty and public opinion can solidify, or not, on impeachment. In the meantime, the House can get on with doing the legislative work expected of it.”
Additional comments by DEM

I think Jon is saying that GOP obstruction is expected—but that the Democrats have to do the right thing, starting with a quick censure even if the Republican-controlled Senate kills it. . . . Remember: There are 34 Senate seats that are up for grabs in 2020–22 of which must be defended by Republican incumbents. If the GOP overplays its hand—which it always does—control of the Senate is at risk for them.

5: The 60th dinner on the 30th anniversary of the biannual Authors Dinner Group

Tonight, we held our 60th dinner on our 30th anniversary of our biannual Authors Dinner Group at The Old Europe restaurant in Washington, D.C. Nearly 70 published authors were in attendance—an anthology of novelists, biographers, investigative journalists, poets, political pundits, op-ed columnists, sports reporters, entertainment writers, and war correspondents, among many others.

Ernest Hemingway, Gertrude Stein, and their fancy salon group in Paris, not to mention that pretentious crowd who cluttered the Algonquin Round Table in Manhattan, would have learned a lot more, had a lot more fun, and ate a whole lot better with us during the past thirty years.

Additional comments by DEM

Many thanks to Alex Herold and his family, the owners of The Old Europe, for their great food, the wonderful service, and kind hospitality for almost all of our thirty-year history.

http://www.old-europe.com/history.html

* * *

During the past thirty years, the Authors Dinner Group has hosted authors on the left, the right, and in the center—who are more inclined to compete with and even sabotage each other as part of their daily routines. But, for a few hours twice a year since 1989, The Old Europe restaurant becomes Switzerland, and this widely diverse group comes together to celebrate and cheer for each other and their published works. . . . The Authors Dinner Group still represents the civility that once defined Washington, D.C.

* * *

Denny: There were the usual differences of opinions at the dinner. Some believe that Trump is going down but will try to take the country down with him in the process. Others believe that Trump is unstoppable and, in lieu of repudiation, will be reelected. . . I think that we are just as confused as everyone else.

* * *

In thirty years, there have only been two actual fights—both of which were broken up quickly.

* * *

Whether as president of Washington Independent Writers, a co-chair of the Washington delegation to the American Writers Congress, a vice president of the National Writers Union, or as the host of our Authors Dinner Group, I have always felt honored and privileged to serve my friends and colleagues in journalism and publishing.
Thank you, Connie. . . . Hookers and muckrakers all become somewhat respectable if they live long enough.

Here's more about the Algonquin Round Table. . . . https://oxfordre.com/.../978.../acrefore-9780190201098-e-655

That's a little different than us. . . . At our biannual Authors Dinner Group in D.C., we buy each other drinks, help each other replace agents when necessary, and advise on how to sell and promote books. . . . Also, many of us stay in touch with each other between dinners. And some of our authors have even created smaller groups to deal with common interests and issues.

Here’s a picture Wendy Coakley-Thompson snapped of Robert De Niro, talking to several members of our Authors Dinner Group in 2014, including, left to right: Alex Herold (standing, the owner of The Old Europe), best-selling novelist Jeffery Deaver, me, De Niro, Joel L. Swerdlow (our master of ceremonies for the past 30 years), and Jane Rosenthal (with her back to the camera). . . . Along with De Niro, Martin Scorsese, and many others, Jane, the president of Tribeca Productions, is a co-producer of the upcoming film fantasy, The Irishman.

And here is my favorite photograph from our thirty years of the Authors Dinner Group: Author Sandra Bowman—front and center, taking the picture—with, left to right, authors Kimberly Joyce Dalferes, Diane Fanning, Dee Lawrence, and Betsy Ashton.

May 2019
The impeachment risk. . . . Nancy Pelosi—who obviously wants the Democrats to maintain their majority in the House and to remain as House Speaker—represents dozens of freshmen Democratic caucus members in the U.S. House who won in red-congressional districts in 2018. Refusing to be reckless and hoping to provide cover, she doesn’t want to put their seats, among others, at risk in 2020 by forcing them to vote prematurely for impeachment without a preliminary impeachment inquiry.

If that investigation leads to clear evidence of Donald Trump’s corruption and misconduct—which we already know exists from our reading of The Mueller Report—then the impeachment inquiry will evolve into official impeachment hearings, conducted by the House Judiciary Committee, after which a simple majority of the full House will likely vote to impeach Trump.

Then—with impeachment, which is like an indictment—the multi-count case against Trump will be handed over to the U.S. Senate for a trial, presided by Chief Justice John Roberts and prosecuted by attorney-congressmen from the U.S. House, aka “House Managers,” and/or their designated legal representatives.

Assuming that the process is not sabotaged by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell from the outset, two-thirds of the Senate, which is controlled by the Republicans, must vote to remove Trump, who will be represented by his own battery of defense attorneys.

Because so many Republican Senators fear retaliation from Trump’s loyal base, the likelihood of Senate conviction is slim, at best. But, notably, the Democrats aren’t the only ones at risk.

The 2020 elections will also decide the fate of 34 Senate seats—twenty-two of which are currently held and must be defended by the Republicans. As long as the Democrats in the U.S. House put up a strong public case with provable evidence, the greatest risk for allowing the corrupt and dishonest Donald Trump to remain in office will fall on the Republicans.

From what I can see—if Trump doesn’t resign after receiving some mythical comprehensive deal from federal prosecutors—the best-case scenario is that Trump, even after his acquittal at the Senate trial, will be exposed and badly damaged from the overwhelming evidence made public against him during the impeachment hearings and at the Senate trial, which will end in the midst of the 2020 presidential campaign.

Then, at the polls in November 2020, the American voters will have the opportunity to completely and totally repudiate Trump and the Republicans in the House and the Senate for their lies, excesses, corruptions, coverups, and cowardice.

In other words, the voters will have the final say.

It’s time for Nancy Pelosi, the greatest and most experienced warrior in Washington, to give her caucus cover by approving a preliminary impeachment inquiry before the main event starts. And, as part of that preliminary investigation, the Democrats need the unredacted version of The Mueller Report, as well as the public testimony of Robert Mueller, along with a repeat appearance by U.S. Attorney General William Barr, who clearly views himself as a member of Trump’s defense team and has already been caught lying to Congress about the contents of The Mueller Report.

Additional comments by DEM

Kathy. . . . I can’t imagine that the Democrats will be docile as this history unfolds. And I’d also bet on a serious split in Trump’s support after the evidence against him is revealed.

* * *
It must happen faster than that, Denny. *The Washington Post* revealed Bill Clinton's relationship with Monica Lewinsky on January 21, 1998. He was impeached on December 19, 1998, by the full House--after the House Judiciary Committee's vote on December 11-12. His Senate trial opened on January 7, 1999. And he was acquitted on February 12. . . . So, we're talking about a year-long process at the very least. . . . And the issues revolving around Trump are much, much more complicated than those issues that faced Clinton, who was accused of lying about sex.

* * *

Absolutely right, Kathy. . . . That is a huge concern. As the talk of impeachment ramps up, so, too, will the talk about the emergency use of the 25th Amendment.


* * *

Kathy. . . . Without formal hearings, how will the information come out in an orderly, easy-to-follow manner? Before the Watergate hearings, the majority of voters didn't want Nixon impeached. By the time the hearings adjourned--and all of its information was released in an orderly, easy-to-understand manner--the majority of voters wanted him gone. . . . With regard to Trump defying Congressional subpoenas, if that issue goes to the U.S. Supreme Court, I bet that the vote will be 9-0 against Trump.

* * *

Bill. . . . Well, I think many people, including me, believe that Trump is their worst fear realized. That was clearly felt by the voters during the 2018 midterms--which is why the Democrats, mercifully, took back control of the U.S. House. I think the voters get it.

* * *

AG William Barr has officially become Donald Trump's top bitch. . . .


* * *

Andrew. . . . Wow. Well done. . . . BTW: What's the deal with Mary Daly, Barr's oldest daughter who supposedly left her job at DOJ for a position at the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN), the Treasury Department's financial crimes unit? . . . And what about Tyler McGaughey, the husband of Barr's youngest daughter, who supposedly left the U.S. Attorney's Office in Alexandria, Virginia—aka “The Rocket Docket”—to take a position in the White House Counsel's Office at about the same time as Barr became Attorney General? . . . Are these two appointments true? And is there anything suspicious about them?

* * *

Just to be clear and as I wrote, Big John, I think Trump would be acquitted at the Senate trial. But I also believe that so much truth would come out during the process that the voters would have plenty of ammunition to repudiate him in 2020. . . . I would prefer to see the finale decided by us--the American voters.

* * *

I love how Robert De Niro--whenever convenient and/or necessary--plays to the crowd. . . . Notably, De Niro and Trump hang out and do business with the same Russian oligarchs. . . . The
elder Agalarov was/is Trump’s reported liaison to Vladimir Putin. The younger Agalarov, a Russian rock star, arranged the now-infamous June 2016 meeting among Donald Trump Jr, Jared Kushner, Paul Manafort, and the Russians and had allegedly offered supposedly “damaging information” about Hillary Clinton to the Trump campaign. . . . BTW: The Agalarovs didn't just pose for pictures with De Niro. They were/are also partners in two Moscow franchises of Nobu restaurant with De Niro, the co-owner of the Nobu chain.

* * *


29: Robert Mueller speaks

On Robert Mueller’s devastating statement this morning . . . Bravo. Thank you for the roadmap. It’s now up to Congress to follow the directions you and your talented team have provided. Well done.

Additional comments by DEM

Don't be misled by Washington-speak. . . With his respectful and underplayed statement, Mueller has guaranteed that an impeachment inquiry will move forward.

* * *

Here's a litmus test. . . Everyone on Fox News looks like their dogs have just died.

* * *

Mueller said that there wasn't enough evidence to indict on the basis of a Russian conspiracy with the Trump campaign. . . . He has essentially tasked the U.S. House to get that evidence. Meantime, he has given total legitimacy for Congress to move forward on the obstruction of justice charges.

* * *

In order for Trump to be denied a second term to further corrupt the presidency, he must be repudiated by American voters. Through an impeachment inquiry, a ton of information will be released. And--whether or not Trump is impeached—therein will be the foundation for that complete and total repudiation.

* * *

Notably, in 2020, elections will also be held for 34 Senate seats—twenty-two of which are currently held and must be defended by the Republicans. The Democrats only need to win three or four seats to take control—and, then, they can finally oust Mitch McConnell as the Senate’s majority leader.

25: Rep. Jamie Raskin: The man to watch during the upcoming constitutional crisis

The man to watch during the upcoming constitutional crisis will be our young friend, 56-year-old U.S. Representative Jamie Raskin (D-Maryland), whom many of us in Washington’s independent-writers community watched grow up. We cheered for him when he earned his undergraduate degree, magna cum
laude, from Harvard and then his law degree from Harvard Law School in 1987. A talented writer, like both of his parents, Jamie—now the author of two books and the co-author of two others—is a former editor of the *Harvard Law Review*.

After receiving his law degree and serving a two-year assignment with the Massachusetts Attorney General’s Office as an assistant attorney general, Jamie returned to Washington after accepting an appointment as a professor of constitutional law at American University where he taught from 1990 to 2017. Elected to the Maryland State Senate in 2006, Jamie served until 2016, including his last four years as the Senate's majority whip.

Jamie was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2016, replacing Rep. Chris Van Hollen, who was elected to the U.S. Senate that same year. Jamie was reelected to Congress in 2018.

Among other committee assignments, Jamie sits on the House Judiciary Committee, as well as the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, two committees that will be at the epicenter of the fast-approaching constitutional storm. . . .

In 2010, President Barack Obama nominated Jamie’s widely respected wife, attorney Sarah Bloom Raskin also a graduate of Harvard Law, as a member of the Federal Reserve Board. She was unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate. Sarah specializes on consumer protections and income inequalities. In 2013, President Obama named Sarah as the Deputy Secretary of the Treasury. After her confirmation by the U.S. Senate, she became the highest-ranking woman in the history of the Treasury Department.

Currently, Sarah is a law professor at the University of Maryland. She and Jamie have three children, and they live in Takoma Park, Maryland.

Jamie, a colon-cancer survivor, is the son of the legendary Marc Raskin, the co-founder of the Institute for Policy Studies who died in December 2017, and best-selling novelist and writers-rights activist Barbara Raskin, whom many of us loved and respected as a big sister. Barbara, a former president of both Washington Independent Writers and the National Writers Union, died in July 1999. I was honored to deliver one of the eulogies at her standing-room-only memorial service.

Once again, keep an eye on Jamie Raskin and watch the influence he will wield during the upcoming weeks and months as this drama unfolds.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2019/05/21/top-democrat-warns-if-we-dont-confront-trump-hell-grow-more-lawless/?utm_term=.e82ac9b682f9

*Additional comments by DEM*

Mitchell . . . Barbara, whom I met in late 1979, introduced me to Marc and Dick Barnet, who arranged for me to get a visiting fellowship at the Institute for Policy Studies in early 1981 after the election of Ronald Reagan. Marc also gave me a key grant which helped to launch my third book—*Dark Victory: Ronald Reagan, MCA, and the Mob*—which was released in 1986. . . . I know you remember that book, just as I remember your excellent 2003 book, *A Disturbance of Fate*.

* * *

I think that Speaker Nancy Pelosi, the greatest warrior in Washington, will be favoring Jamie—just like Jerry Nadler at Judiciary and Elija Cummings at Oversight. Jamie will be authoritative, as well as "the reasonable man in the room."

* * *
In early 1980, Barbara introduced me to Kitty Kelley, who, in mid-term, gave up her seat on the WIW board to me. I was elected to the board in my own right that spring and then elected president in 1981. Barbara and Kitty ran my campaign. . . You might or might not remember that I ran for reelection in 1982, hoping to unify WIW with the National Writers Union, which had been created at the American Writers Congress during the fall of 1981. (I co-chaired the DC delegation to the Congress, along with Ethelbert Miller. We were both founding members of the union.) The WIW membership didn't share my enthusiasm for the writers' union, and I lost my bid for reelection. . . During the campaign, I was falsely accused of being a communist because of my support for the writers' union, as well as my somewhat controversial role as a visiting fellow at the Institute for Policy Studies, widely red-baited during the Reagan presidency. Of course, IPS was co-founded by Barbara's ex-husband, Marc Raskin. . . As I wrote, Barbara was like a big sister to me.

* * *

Edward. . . I think "The Ear" was Diana McLellan, a really fun and interesting gossip reporter who died after a battle with cancer in 2014. She had the column until the Washington Star shut down in 1981. . . Also, I left IPS as an associate fellow in 1986, just before the publication of my book, Dark Victory about Reagan and the mob in Hollywood—long story. I'm not familiar with any IPS spinoffs.

* * *

I'm predicting that—in the midst of a national crisis—Jamie will perform with great distinction. He is a good man.

* * *


* * *


23: The Marcus Robert Trio does Gershwin with a little help from their friends

George Gershwin’s Piano Concerto in F, performed in 2003 by the Marcus Roberts Trio and the Berliner Philharmoniker in Waldbuhne, Berlin, conducted by Seiji Ozawa (43.12). . . I don’t know anything about classical music and even less about jazz, but I really like this:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i0ZLl3SkRw8

22: David Halperin will testify on Capitol Hill today about the for-profit-college scam

Our friend and colleague, attorney and investigative journalist David Halperin, will testify today at 2:00 P.M. in room 2247 of the Rayburn House Office Building before the U.S. House Oversight Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy. Among other subjects, David will discuss the for-profit college scam, a subject about which David is one of the world’s experts. In addition, he will criticize the public policies of
Betsy DeVos, the Secretary of Education, against whom David recently filed suit on behalf of Public Citizen. . . . Here is a transcript of David's testimony:


20: Allan Lengel reports on Tony and Vito Giacalone and their roles in the Hoffa caper

Our friend and colleague, veteran investigative reporter Allan Lengel, has just published revealing profiles of Detroit mobsters Anthony Giacalone and his younger brother, Vito, both of whom are now dead but were likely involved in the 1975 murder of Jimmy Hoffa. Basing his work on newly discovered documents obtained through the Freedom of Information Act, Allan, who formerly worked for the Detroit News and the Washington Post, released his report in Deadline Detroit, which he co-founded in 2012 with journalist Bill McGraw, formerly of the Detroit Free Press. Allan is also the executive editor of Tickle the Wire, a must-read publication that specializes on news about the federal law-enforcement community.

In his story today, Allan refers to the seminal work of another friend and colleague of ours, Scott Burnstein, perhaps the world’s expert on the Detroit Mafia, aka “The Detroit Partnership.” Allan writes that Scott “speculates that Vito Giacalone was in the car that picked up Hoffa at the Machus Red Fox,” the Bloomfield Hills restaurant where Hoffa was last seen. (Notably, Philip Moscato, the late owner of Brother Moscato’s landfill in Jersey City, New Jersey, thought by many to be the location of Hoffa’s body, suggested the same thing to me during my interviews with him.)

Both Allan and Scott have covered the Hoffa caper for years. Although we disagree on some of the details about the investigation, they are both honest reporters who have done important reporting about this case. Their work will receive more well-earned attention as the producers of the Martin Scorsese-Robert De Niro film fantasy about the Hoffa murder, The Irishman, prepare for its release this fall.

http://www.deadlinedetroit.com/articles/22359/the_secret_fbi_files_on_detroit_s_sopranos_-_the_giacalone_brothers_and_their_ties_to_jimmy_hoffa

Additional comments by DEM

Several of us will have much to say--and fully document--after this work of fiction is released.

18: Herman Wouk, corporate concentrations in the publishing industry, and me

The great novelist Herman Wouk—who won a Pulitzer Prize for his 1951 book, The Caine Mutiny, a year after I was born—has died at 103. . . . I met Mr. Wouk in 1977 when he was in his early 60s. He and his wife lived in a big, beautiful home at the corner of N and Potomac Streets in Georgetown. My girlfriend and I lived three blocks away in a little one-bedroom apartment at the corner of 34th and Prospect. . . . I occasionally saw Wouk walking in the neighborhood, and I always nodded and said hello. We also had the same barber on 35th Street.

Active in the Authors Guild, Wouk was heavily involved in the politics of book publishing and openly expressed his criticism of the increasing corporate concentrations in the book-publishing business. Prophetic in his beliefs, he appealed to the federal government to stop what he described as “the sinister process” of the growing numbers of mergers and takeovers in the industry which he believed would inevitably lead to censorship and suppression. . . .

In 1978, Little Brown published Wouk’s tenth book, War and Remembrance, the same year that I released my first book, The Hoffa Wars, which was initially under contract with the New Republic Book Company. However, even though the New Republic published its own books, the company had an exclusive
distribution contract with Simon & Schuster—which, by chance, was busy promoting its own book about Jimmy Hoffa and the Teamsters.

Because my book on Hoffa was arguably the better book, according to early speculation about the upcoming competition between the two books, S&S President Dick Snyder defiantly told the New Republic that his company would not distribute my book.

After my editor at the New Republic gave me the bad news, I angrily lawyered up, broke my contract with the New Republic, and found a small but aggressive publisher in England, which promised to keep my original pub date in the U.S. . . . Notably, my book—which received remarkable support from the New York Times in an article by Herbert Mitgang on June 29, 1978—came out on the same day as the S&S book in the late-summer of 1978.

Meantime, on the street in our neighborhood--during my one and only substantive conversation with Wouk--I told him about my nightmarish experience with corporate concentrations in the book-publishing business. And, considering his experience with this issue, he was aghast.

I never saw Wouk again after we left Georgetown and moved to Dupont Circle in 1979. However, he reportedly told my personal story of book suppression to the high command at the Authors Guild, which arranged for a formal hearing about corporate concentrations in the book-publishing industry before the U.S. Senate’s antitrust subcommittee on March 13, 1980.

I was invited to testify before the subcommittee, which was chaired by Senator Howard Metzenbaum (D-Ohio). My testimony is attached. . . Other authors who provided testimony were E.L. Doctorow, Archibald MacLeish, and Barbara Tuchman.

God bless Herman Wouk.

https://www.moldea.com/Senate-testimony_03131980.pdf

Additional comments by DEM


* * *


* * *

There was also the Cellar Door at 34th and M, Guncher’s just a few doors west on M, Rigo’s barber shop on 35th, the Tombs on 36th, and the steep steps from the Exorcist at 36th and Prospect.

* * *

BTW: I did free-lance investigative work for Jack Anderson from 1976-1979. Even though I was never an official member of his staff, I felt honored to be associated with Jack and his excellent crew. He had the best and most talented staff in town.

* * *
Know him? . . . Just to be clear, I briefly met the man and spent a few minutes talking to him on the street.

*          *          *

Well said, Bill . . . And, just to be clear, I became a writers’ rights activist in the aftermath of this horrible experience. After a year on the board of directors, I was elected president of Washington Independent Writers in 1981-1982. And, along with my great friend and colleague, Ethelbert Miller. I co-chaired the Washington delegation to the 1981 American Writers Congress in New York. And, later, I was elected as a national vice president of the National Writers Union.

17: Watergate editor Barry Sussman of the *Washington Post* on the Trump scandals

Last week, I arranged a lunch at Clyde’s Chevy Chase with two good friends: investigative journalist Jeff Stein and Barry Sussman, the former *Washington Post* editor who oversaw the newspaper’s legendary work on Watergate, principally reported by Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein who won a Pulitzer Prize and became two of the gods of journalism. . . . Today, Jeff, who usually writes for *Newsweek*, published a story about Barry and his authoritative views about the news media’s coverage of the Trump investigations for *The New Republic*, which has a new and very cool editor, Chris Lehmann.


17: The I Promise School in Akron, created with the help of the great LeBron James

On a Saturday afternoon—while I was in Ohio for the Easter weekend a few weeks ago—I visited my great friends, Bob and Kaye, who live near Highland Square in West Akron. When I left their home, I drove south on Aqueduct Street. Then, at the intersection of Aqueduct and West Market, I saw—right in front of me—the school that the great LeBron James helped to build, aka the “I Promise School,” a partnership of the LeBron James Family Foundation and Akron Public Schools. . . . I pulled into the parking lot and took a picture of this innovative and wonderful learning institution for children.

16: NYU media-studies professor Mark Crispin Miller has Lyme disease

Our friend and colleague, Mark Crispin Miller—author, journalist, and professor of media studies at New York University—is in the midst of an ongoing battle with Lyme disease and is now battling for his life. . . . If you can contribute to his care and treatment, please go to the GoFundMe page that has been created for him. . . . God bless Mark. https://www.gofundme.com/mark-crispin-miller039s-healing?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=fb_dn_postdonate_r&fbclid=IwAR3tls5_C6MFcuSa77qsMmV_pIF9A8Jh3qZWCQZ7AJeOyFN-P7CAei1uk
15: Turning on Cleopatra, then Moneyball, and then, the winner, Secretariat

In for tonight, working on my tenth nonfiction book with the television on in the background. I have no interest in the political talk shows and zero enthusiasm to watch the Washington Nationals play the New York Mets, so I decide to see a movie. . . . Ah, Cleopatra, a five-and-a-half-hour extravaganza with Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton. Never having seen the film from beginning to end, I turn it on but continue to search. On AMC, Moneyball is playing. If I can’t have the Nationals—or, better yet, the Cleveland Indians—I can have Moneyball . . . Still, the search continues. And then I come across the great motion picture, Secretariat, which is the clear winner. No contest.

Additional comments by DEM

I love the film for the horse and the music. Also, it’s about a brave and tough woman who, believing in her horse, put everything on the line, facing ruin. . . . BTW: Here’s the film of Secretariat winning the Triple Crown—choreographed to the music from this movie. . . .
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V18ui3Rtjz4&feature=related&fbclid=IwAR1gXUKJr4XGE2oq2iJZCJndNyhLukXmqllK9WFMJgPzd125_PVZOsrrz1Q

* * *

The Irishman will be a fact-challenged film about the murder of Jimmy Hoffa—yet another instance of Hollywood turning fantasy into reality. Regardless of its flaws—and considering its high-profile director, screenwriter, and cast—the film, expected to be huge at the box office and on Oscar night, will likely be widely accepted as the final solution to that case. . . . As one of the world's experts on the Hoffa caper, I have a problem with that. And, from the cheap seats, I will be pushing back. . . . And I'm waiting to see how the news media responds.

14: Taking another look at Senator Elizabeth Warren and liking what I see

Even though I still imagine her ringing a school bell, I gotta say that I am so impressed with Elizabeth Warren, especially her remarkable attention to detail with, among other issues, consumer rights, the student-loan program, health care, and her bold statement about Fox News, which she issued today. . . . This is a very accomplished, courageous, intelligent, and principled leader.

Additional comments by DEM

BTW: My friend and colleague, the great Jon Oberg, has written with authority about Senator Warren’s imaginative plan for higher education:
https://viewfromthreecapitals.blogspot.com/2019/05/assessing-warrens-higher-education-plan.html

8: The Washington Post on RFK Jr’s anti-vaccine stand while embracing his claim of Sirhan’s innocence

The Washington Post--which stubbornly continues to embrace RFK Jr's ridiculous conspiracy theory that Sirhan Sirhan did not kill his father--reports on the Kennedy family's view of RFK Jr's ridiculous anti-vaccine conspiracy theory. . . . When is the New York Times going to clean up the mess that The Post has created with the RFK murder case?
6: What spell has Trump cast on his aides, appointees, and associates?

Michael Cohen, Donald Trump’s former personal attorney and fixer, went to jail today. Trump’s former campaign manager, Paul Manafort, is already in prison while his protégé, Rick Gates, Trump’s former deputy campaign manager, awaits sentencing, as does Michael Flynn, Trump’s former national security advisor. . . . On deck, there is the defiant Roger Stone, Trump’s trusted confidante, who is preparing for his own upcoming criminal trial.

And then, attached, is a breathtakingly long list of Trump administration officials who have been dismissed or resigned from their positions—many of whom Trump trashed while they were in office, like former Attorney General Jeff Sessions and former DHS Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen, or on their way out the door, like former White House Chiefs of Staff Reince Priebus and John Kelly.

All of this begs the question: What mysterious spell has Donald Trump cast on so many of his aides, appointees, and associates who willingly become his bitches, shills, and stooges—and remain so even after he mistreats and abandons them?

Cohen, Gates, and Flynn, exceptions to this phenomenon, all made deals to save themselves. Many of us are hoping that former White House Counsel Don McGahn, who cooperated with Robert Mueller’s investigation and is not facing any charges, will testify before Congress against his ex-boss on principle.


Additional comments by DEM

“More than 450 former federal prosecutors who worked in Republican and Democratic administrations have signed on to a statement asserting special counsel Robert S. Mueller III’s findings would have produced obstruction charges against President Trump — if not for the office he holds.”

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/trump-would-have-been-charged-with-obstruction-were-he-not-president-hundreds-of-former-federal-prosecutors-assert/2019/05/06/e4946a1a-7006-11e9-9f06-5fc2ee80027a_story.html?utm_term=.31d668b73fd0

* * *

Here is the letter signed by the former federal prosecutors, which was released by Medium . . .

https://medium.com/@dojalumni/statement-by-former-federal-prosecutors-8ab7691c2aa1

* * *

Step up, Don McGahn. Do the right thing.


1: DEM: “I’m still with Hillary”


Hillary Clinton was so great tonight on Rachel Maddow. There is no one in the current Democratic field of Presidential candidates who comes anywhere close to her ability to take the fight directly to Donald Trump.
... At the end of the 2016 campaign, Hillary, who kicked his arrogant ass in all three Presidential debates, was defeated by the Russians and James Comey—not necessarily in that order. And she still won the popular vote against the man who would quickly become the most corrupt and dishonest president in American history. . . . Delusional or not, I’m still with Hillary.

UPDATE (May 2): Here’s Rachel's full interview with Hillary last night (27.47):
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LRp1lfZpR8I

Additional comments by DEM

James. . . . Thank you for that well thought out response. Personally, I just want to beat the corrupt and dishonest Donald Trump with the best Democratic candidate possible—regardless of his/her race, color, or creed. And I don't trust an “Independent” who runs in the Democratic primary but refuses to run as a Democrat, especially when so many of his supporters have a history of refusing to support the Democratic nominee, as happened in 2016 . . . . As my friend, attorney Paul Alan Levy of Public Citizen, would say: “Lefties in safe districts. Centrists in swing districts.”

Nationally, you need someone who can take Florida and Ohio.

* * *

Here is Hillary Clinton’s excellent April 24 op-ed in the Washington Post:

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April 2019

30: Jim Grady’s new Condor book, Politics & Prose, Comet Ping Pong, and screwballs

Tonight, our friend and colleague, the legendary James Grady, gave a riveting reading of his new book, Condor: The Short Takes, the latest in his series of books since the first—upon which the 1975 motion picture, Three Days of the Condor, was based. Jim, who turned 70 today, appeared before a standing-room-only crowd at Politics and Prose here in Washington, D.C.

Prefacing his remarks, Jim expressed support for the bookstore which was suddenly invaded by a group of white nationalists on Saturday during an address by another author who had written about the institutional damage caused by racial resentment. The racist group, whose leader had a megaphone, briefly took over the event, shouting and singing slogans, before leaving abruptly.

After Jim’s reading, a group of us went to dinner at the nearby Comet Ping Pong, which, shortly after the 2016 General Election, was the target of a right-wing screwball who entered the restaurant with an AR-15 and fired a shot. He reportedly believed a ridiculous conspiracy theory that the restaurant was housing a child-abuse ring that was directed by Hillary Clinton.

Welcome to Donald Trump’s Washington.

22: Ray Donovan, his reputation, and the murders of two key witnesses against him
Pretending to be innocent and expressing manufactured outrage by any suggestion to the contrary after the release of The Mueller Report, Donald Trump, via his spokespeople in the wake of receiving absolution from Attorney General William Barr, is busy conjuring up the memory of Raymond Donovan, Ronald Reagan’s former secretary of labor, who was prosecuted for fraud and grand larceny, along with seven alleged co-conspirators, including Mafia figure William Masselli of the Vito Genovese crime family in New York.

In the immediate aftermath of their acquittal in May 1987, Donovan, now 88, bitterly told news reporters outside the courtroom, “Which office do I go to get my reputation back?”

Few remember that two of the key government witnesses against Donovan—New Jersey labor racketeer Fred Furino and Masselli’s son, Nat Masselli—were earlier murdered in gangland slayings. . . . That would put a crimp in any prosecutor’s case.

Hey, Ed Barnes, legendary mob investigator, weren’t you involved in this investigation?

19: Donald Trump and the Fox News Alternative Universe: Out for blood

What’s next? . . . Publicly appealing to the Democrats to “move on” but still caught in a time warp and now out for blood, Donald Trump, the Fox News Alternative Universe, and the sheep in their common flock will attempt to round up the usual suspects—Barack Obama, Bill and Hillary Clinton, Loretta Lynch, Fusion GPS, and Christopher Steele, among others—and place them in a convoluted conspiracy to collude with the Russians, as well as with, inexplicably, James Comey and a handful of other DOJ officials, to elect Mrs. Clinton and to deny Mr. Trump the presidency in 2016. Then, after the election, this same cast and crew supposedly plotted to sabotage Trump’s presidential agenda by putting him in bed with Vladimir Putin.

This aggressive investigation, already the subject of an ongoing probe by the DOJ’s Inspector General, will receive the full support of Trump’s top bitch in the Senate, Lindsey Graham, and Trump’s key stooges in the House: Jim Jordan, Mark Meadows, and Devin Nunes.

More importantly, Attorney General William Barr, who has now proven that he is willing and able to debase and disgrace himself for Trump, will supercharge this entire initiative within the DOJ.

If this conspiracy theory actually receives traction, it will inevitably lead to a reconvened U.S. House Un-American Activities Committee and yet another dark period of red-baiting in which targeted Democrats will be identified as “Socialists,” forced to “name names,” and required to inform on their friends.

Additional comments by DEM

Bill. . . You’re right. The Steele Dossier was originally contracted by the Washington Free Beacon, a right-wing publication here in D.C. that was doing opposition research on Donald Trump during the GOP primaries. https://www.politico.com/story/2017/10/27/trump-russia-washington-free-beacon-fusion-gps-244265

* * *

We gotta hear the public testimonies of Barr and Mueller. And we have to see the redacted portions of the Mueller report. As the New York Times Editorial Board said today--Barr's redactions can't be trusted. https://www.nytimes.com/.../mueller-report-barr.html...

* * *
If you don’t already have one, here is a searchable version of the Mueller report: https://documents.theblackvault.com/documents/doj/themuellerreport-searchable.pdf

In this story, the New York Times explains the foundation for the upcoming “investigate the investigators” counterattack: https://www.nytimes.com/2019/04/19/us/politics/steele-dossier-mueller-report.html

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James Baker of the FBI. . . . Trump's claims about the illegitimacy of the origins of the FBI’s probe of Trump-Russia is "BS." https://beta.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/there-was-no-attempted-coup-fbis-former-top-lawyer-defends-russia-probe/2019/05/10/bff7b6a2-733b-11e9-9eb4-0828f5389013_story.html?outputType=amp

18: We were right. The Mueller Report is devastating to Donald Trump. https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=2265866956964503&id=100006236621784

On the morning of March 24—just hours before Attorney General William Barr shamelessly started running interference for Donald Trump—many of us predicted that The Mueller Report, which was released today, would be “devastating” to the president. . . . We were right. It is devastating.

Well done, Robert Mueller. Thank you for the roadmap. We await your public testimony, as well as further Congressional action.

Additional comments by DEM

Read pages 156-158 of Volume II. . . . Devastating, proving, yet again, that Trump is not only corrupt and dishonest--but unfit for the Presidency.

* * *


* * *

One of the most striking takeaways from The Mueller Report is the complete and total vindication of the fair and accurate reporting of Donald Trump’s words and deeds, especially as practiced by those investigative journalists at the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Wall Street Journal (news, not editorial), Mother Jones, Newsweek, and NBC News, among others.

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The New York Times Editorial Board discusses the Mueller investigation of Donald Trump, a corrupt, dishonest, and illegitimate president.

* * *

If you don’t already have one, here is a searchable version of the Mueller report:

* * *

The Washington Post compares what Barr claimed the Mueller report said versus what the report actually said:

* * *

The coverup continues. Trump claims executive privilege over The Mueller Report. . . .

17: On the 50th anniversary of Sirhan’s conviction, the Washington Post remains out on the limb

On April 17, 1969—50 years ago today—Sirhan Sirhan, the confessed killer of Senator Robert Kennedy, was convicted of first-degree murder in Los Angeles. . . . Meantime, in the midst of 2019, the Washington Post continues to give legitimacy to a slew of new but still ridiculous conspiracy theories, all claiming that Sirhan is an innocent man, wrongly accused. . . . Once again, when will the New York Times—or, at the very least, the Columbia Journalism Review—clean up the mess and the “fake news” that the Washington Post has created?

BTW: Here’s something—one of many things—that reporter Tom Jackman of the Washington Post omitted from his irresponsible reporting about this case: Sirhan, on videotape, confessing to committing the murder and acting alone in the process: https://www.insideedition.com/sirhan-sirhan-reveals-why-he-killed-robert-f-kennedy-1989-jailhouse-interview-43884?fbclid=IwAR19xkFP81enCxi6nv95cS-A8Ja-CL6IfXiC5xFCI9TITH9sLy4SXM0yf8

Additional comments by DEM

I hear you, Rich. But we’re talking about the Washington Post, one of the greatest newspapers in the world. Its decision to run the series of screwball stories about the RFK case simply makes no sense. These articles have served no other purpose than to embolden, encourage, and energize the
pro-conspiracy crowd, many of whom believe that the CIA is to blame when a cat gets caught in a tree.

* * *

I'm hip, Barb. . . . But the Post is a responsible news operation. Why put its reputation at risk with this nonsense about the RFK case? I don't get it.

* * *

I love the *New York Times*--the newspaper that gave birth, death, and resurrection to me. But you are 100 percent right, my friend. The reckless and malicious smear campaign against Hillary Clinton started with the *New York Times*, specifically its sloppy sourcing and reporting about Whitewater during the 1992 Presidential campaign--and it only intensified after Vincent Foster committed suicide in July 1993. That was bad enough. But what the *Times* did to Hillary in or about March 2016--in the midst of that Presidential campaign--was sheer journalistic malpractice.

* * *

Geoff: I completely agree with you about Marty Baron. But the first story in the Jackman series was on the front page of the *Washington Post*, meaning that Baron had to personally approve. We are now in the aftermath of part six of the series . . . The Post is circling the wagons, taking a page from the Donald Trump playbook--don't admit errors in judgment, don't take responsibility.

* * *

Bob, I love the big picture that you draw. Well done. But, with regard to this killing, I am mostly concerned with what happened in that small and cluttered kitchen pantry at the Ambassador Hotel on that terrible night. The LAPD, in spite of all of its screw ups, got the right man. They solved this murder. . . . However, because--for the first time in my 1995 book--I explained why the evidence falsely appeared to show that two guns had been fired at the crime scene, I, in fact, solved this case. That is provable. . . . And that's why I'm taking this bullshit in the *Washington Post* so personally.

* * *

Mel Ayton is my trusted friend and colleague. I view him as the world's expert about the latest conspiracy theories in the RFK case.

10: DEM discusses the Hoffa murder case with Eric Shawn at Fox News


Luca Brasi, aka “Ahah,” discusses the Jimmy Hoffa murder case, aka his “white whale,” with Eric Shawn at Fox News, which is sad, the only news organization addressing the issues surrounding the killing as a prelude to the highly anticipated release of “The Irishman,” the upcoming film fantasy about Hoffa’s 1975 disappearance, featuring, among others, Martin Scorsese, Robert De Niro, Al Pacino, Joe Pesci, Harvey Keitel, Ray Romano, Anna Paquin, and Steve Zaillian. . . . The audio interview lasts for 36 minutes, but it is as revealing as anything out there about this unsolved mystery. (h/t to Larry Henry)

https://radio.foxnews.com/2018/11/30/dark-forces/?fbclid=IwAR0zUzO4RZyjeCfBesbUGT56GpQwYxma-kBeXyqXc_0aWnV2W87NZJBTI78

9: David Halperin and Public Citizen file suit against Education Secretary Betsy DeVos

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=2260993604118505&id=100006236621784&__xts__[0]=68.ARApU_i2Ml42z2bpCxlUaJelAfFL0gZgciYhK-BVHOXB1hylcZrkCmbhMyPosCDRbO6bLWhEe4v3oefJfoeZWtKENWOBUpbDKBmXOzpZEBAlI0Hgki87HPfi6C6l_gL1MkoOovT
Today, our friend and colleague—attorney and investigative journalist David Halperin—filed a major First Amendment case in federal court against the Department of Education and Secretary Betsy DeVos. David is also a member of the board of directors of Public Citizen, which joined him in the formal complaint. . . .

Go, David!  

Additional comments by DEM

Here’s the formal complaint:
https://www.citizen.org/system/files/case_documents/final_complaint_pc_v_devos.pdf?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=c9e709c4-5783-45b6-8e5c-a795a633d808

3: Another look at William Barr’s conclusions about The Mueller Report

If tonight’s story in the New York Times is true, then I will reconsider my indefinite, self-imposed suspension for being wrong about The Mueller Report, which led to my personal mea culpa on March 24, as well as my accompanying decision not to write anything further about Donald Trump’s legal problems. . . . In fact, after completing my current book project about heroic whistleblowers, I might make Trump the subject of my eleventh nonfiction book—and I do have an untold story to tell. . . . I hope and pray that the New York Times article is accurate—as they usually are—and that I may return to the fray.

Additional comments by DEM

This morning’s edition of the Washington Post appears to confirm last night’s story in the New York Times . . . and adds some new details.  

*  *  *

Dennis and Bill: For the past two years, I have predicted that Bob Mueller and his team were going to use RICO against Trump and his stooges. In the end, they didn’t—even though I came to believe that Mueller and this team were delegating these prospective prosecutions to other jurisdictions, such as to the USAOs in DC, NY, and Alexandria, Virginia. I still believe that these RICO cases are en route. Also, I believe in a Trump-Putin conspiracy—with the Russian mob at its epicenter. From what I’ve seen, the evidence of this is pretty overwhelming. Craig Unger wrote an excellent book about it. . . . But, when AG William Barr’s letter on March 24 appeared to dismiss all of that, I decided that I had a responsibility to admit that I was wrong. . . . However, if what the New York Times, the Washington Post, and other media groups are now reporting is true—that Barr has unwittingly understated the contents of the Mueller report—then I will wait to get a more trusted version of Mueller’s work before I fold my cards. . . . Until then, I am still abiding by my self-imposed suspension from writing about Trump’s legal problems.

*  *  *
Nancy Pelosi goes after Barr but stands by Mueller: 
https://apnews.com/c1e53f17e84b4bd285b01b53f657ce7e?fbclid=IwAR2m04cK4u_0kDylDhn56Dht67OYWhhKPBFQF2aWVC8d_bJLnKOPHbNuYDM.

* * *

Significantly, POGO has called for the resignation of AG William Barr . . . .

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**March 2019**

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### 31: *The Irishman*: “Good cinema, bad history”

The great crime reporter, Larry Henry, has done the best reporting about the upcoming motion picture, *The Irishman*, a chronicle of the murder of ex-Teamsters boss Jimmy Hoffa, featuring superstars Martin Scorsese, Robert De Niro, Al Pacino, Joe Pesci, Harvey Keitel, Anna Paquin, Ray Romano, and Steve Zaillian, among others. . . . Here is his latest article about the controversies over this highly anticipated movie, including my comments about its veracity in which I said, in part:

“I believe that the film fantasy, *The Irishman*, is the result of an initial con job, perpetrated by a labor racketeer, Frank Sheeran, which led to a heavily-fictionalized one-source book that then metastasized into a major-motion-picture project on which Netflix is now betting somewhere between $140 to $175 million (or even more) that Sheeran told the truth . . . when, in fact, there is an enormous amount of evidence that he didn’t. Essentially, this film will be Martin Scorsese and Robert De Niro’s homage to Oliver Stone’s ridiculous movie, *JFK*—good cinema, bad history.”

[https://themobmuseum.org/blog/new-movie-rekindles-debate-over-jimmy-hoffa-killing/?fbclid=IwAR0TGbWHd7R7nHevyYB_e-X4I4RqKWFIsmR2Qi_khtO0Y0WQzR06hn_8few](https://themobmuseum.org/blog/new-movie-rekindles-debate-over-jimmy-hoffa-killing/?fbclid=IwAR0TGbWHd7R7nHevyYB_e-X4I4RqKWFIsmR2Qi_khtO0Y0WQzR06hn_8few)

*Additional comments by DEM*

As always, great job, Larry . . . It's wonderful to see someone writing about this film who isn't owned by the motion-picture industry.

### 25: On accident-and-injury reports to prevent insider trading in sports gambling

To prevent the equivalent of insider trading and even game fixing, all sports operations—colleges and the professional leagues—are regularly required to release accident-and-injury reports about their players. This week’s edition of “Legal Sports Report” notes that some sports are better at this than others and highlights my work in its discussion, stating:


Moldea quotes G. Robert Blakey, formerly of the Justice Department, who stated: “The Mafia wants an honest game because they know they have the contacts within the NFL teams to determine how to bet as
accurately as possible. That’s the only edge they need. Providing inside information happens every week of the season. And that’s what goes to the heart of the integrity of the NFL.” . . .

According to Moldea’s interview with an unnamed NFL executive: “It’s just a matter of making sure that the gamblers and the bookmakers don’t have a monopoly on this kind of information. We publish injury reports so that it becomes common knowledge, taking the edge away from professional gamblers.”

(h/t Hil Anderson, aka Kristina)

https://www.legalsportsreport.com/30569/injury-report-pro-league-policies/

24: My mea culpa in the aftermath of the Barr summary of the Mueller report

Robert Mueller and his top tier of talented prosecutors and dogged investigators—all of whom I admire and respect—have spoken. I can’t believe that they didn’t do their absolute best to get to the bottom of the Russian-conspiracy matter. . . . Even though the issue of obstruction remains unresolved, there will be a lot of crow eating in Washington tonight. I will be having mine sautéed with a side order of humble pie. . . .

Regardless, I continue to insist that Donald Trump is both corrupt and dishonest and provably so. I await the results of the ongoing investigations by the U.S. Attorneys’ Offices in D.C. New York, and Alexandria, Virginia, as well as the State Attorney General in New York and the District Attorney’s Office in Manhattan, along with the Intelligence, Judiciary, and Oversight Committees in the U.S. House. . . .

Meantime, Trump and the Fox News crowd will be dancing on our heads.

Additional comments by DEM

No gnashing. I am just admitting that I was wrong about what to expect from the Mueller investigation. . . . I am very hopeful about the other anticipated DOJ investigations of Trump and his people. . . . Once again, your earlier prediction was on target. Well done.

*   *   *

For the past two years, I have predicted that Bob Mueller and his team were going to use RICO, among other prosecutorial weapons, against Trump and his stooges. In the end, they didn’t. So, in short, I was wrong, and I believe that I have a responsibility to admit it. . . . Notably, though, I still believe that RICO will be used against Trump—by the U.S. Attorneys Offices in D.C., NY, and Virginia. I still insist that Trump is both corrupt and dishonest, and I believe it will be proven—just not by Bob Mueller and his team.

24: My bet: The Mueller Report will be devastating to Donald Trump

While waiting like everyone else, I’m going to place my bet. . . . I believe in Robert Mueller. And I believe that his report will be absolutely devastating to the corrupt and dishonest Donald Trump. And I will be very disappointed if it is anything short of that. . . . In my opinion, RICO is very much in play, except that it will not be prosecuted by the Mueller team, as many of us previously believed. Our focused attention will turn to the U.S. Attorneys’ Offices in D.C., New York, and Alexandria, Virginia, as well as to the State Attorney General in New York and the District Attorney’s office in Manhattan.

Additional comments by DEM

I hear you, Eric. I'm hoping that the "no indictments" thing that has thrown us for a loop is nothing more than Mueller's rope-a-dope on Trump and the Fox News crowd. And that his final report will part the seas and make the heavens sing.

*   *   *
I would say that I have lost my bet. . . . And I couldn't be more disappointed.

* * *

Here's the Barr summary of the Mueller report:

* * *

Patricia. . . . I feel somewhat diminished--although I stand by my words and deeds about Trump, whom I continue to believe is both corrupt and dishonest. I certainly don't fault Mueller. I can't imagine him not doing his best.

* * *

Mike: Because Mueller is an honest and very diligent guy. . . . Although I don't know him personally, I trusted him when he was appointed. And I trust him now--even though I am so disappointed by the result. . . . Also, I am familiar with some of those who served on his team--all of whom are honest and talented people.

* * *

For the past two years, I have predicted that Bob Mueller and his team were going to use RICO, among other prosecutorial weapons, against Trump and his stooges. In the end, they didn't. So, in short, I was wrong, and I believe that I have a responsibility to admit it. . . . Notably, though, I still believe that RICO will be used against Trump--by the U.S. Attorneys Offices in DC, NY, and Virginia. I still insist that Trump is both corrupt and dishonest, and I believe it will be proven--just not by Bob Mueller and his team.

23: German expressionist artist Günther Gumpert dies at 99

Our long-time friend, the great German expressionist artist, Günther Gumpert, died last night in Washington, D.C., a month short of his 100th birthday. His final show was last April at the Gregory Gallery in New York. . . . Gunther’s dear wife, award-winning journalist Anita von Kahler Gumpert, also a great friend, died six years ago. She was a Washington correspondent for Agence France-Presse. . . . Both were like godparents to Mimi.

https://youtu.be/XAfhkKKhDzM

Additional comments by DEM

Here’s a photograph I took of Günther: https://www.moldea.com/Gumpert.html

20: With eight of my nine books under siege, I only want to come out of 2019 in one piece

Thoughts and prayers, please. . . . A remarkable eight of my nine published books and I are in the midst of a boatload of controversies, including—with the books in parenthesis:

a) litigation against the powerful Michael Ovitz in federal court over a contact we signed, spinning off from the Anthony Pellicano wiretapping caper. Notably, Pellicano is expected to be released from federal prison after fifteen years behind bars this Saturday, March 23 (Hollywood Confidential, 2018);
b) an upcoming fight over the fantasy film, *The Irishman*, that will pit a handful of us against its all-star cast and crew: Martin Scorsese, Robert De Niro, Al Pacino, Joe Pesci, Harvey Keitel, Anna Paquin, Ray Romano, and Steve Zaillian, among many others, including Fox News and Netflix. The movie, which is about the murder of Jimmy Hoffa, is due for release this fall. (*The Hoffa Wars*, 1978, and *Confessions of a Guerrilla Writer*, 2015); 

c) a dispute with the Washington Post over its ridiculous series of articles, irresponsibly suggesting that Sirhan Sirhan did not murder Senator Robert Kennedy (*The Killing of Robert F. Kennedy*, 1995); 

d) a spirited defense of my 30-year-old prediction that NFL team owners, despite their public anti-gambling positions, will directly benefit from the Supreme Court’s recent decision, legalizing sports gambling nationwide (*Interference*, 1989); 

e) the 25th anniversary of the O.J. Simpson murder case on June 12, which will spotlight, among others, the book I co-authored with the two lead detectives of the official investigation, Tom Lange and Phil Vannatter, and place our version of events against those of the convicted perjurer and poster boy for police racism, Mark Fuhrman, now of Fox News (*Evidence Dismissed*, 1997); and 


In addition: 

g) I am completing a book I am very proud of—my tenth—dealing with corruption in the federal bureaucracy, including my homage to and celebration of America’s whistleblowers—and, of course, 

h) I am still looking for Jimmy Hoffa and currently pursuing a promising lead. 

As we approach the end of the first quarter of 2019, my simple goal for this year is to come out of it in one piece.

*Additional comments by DEM*

I am getting too old for this shit. 

* * *

Eric. . . . I forgot the revelation in your wonderful book last year about the favor I did for our mutual friend, a retired CIA officer, on behalf of an imprisoned and endangered former KGB agent who had supposedly tipped off the FBI that it had a spy in its midst, aka Robert Hanssen, who pleaded guilty to espionage—after the creepy CIA, at first, refused to get involved. . . . Although I’m still taking grief for willingly getting involved in that drama, I’m really proud of what Ron Fino and I did. . . . Thanks to you and Gus for telling the story accurately. 

* * *

Cue: St. Ignatius? Some of the finest people I know graduated from that wonderful school, including but not limited to Mafia experts Jim Neff, John Sopko, and the late, great John Sikorski. 

* * *

Overcommitted and underfinanced throughout my career, I continue to self-finance. 

* * *
Jesus, Joel. . . One of these days, please explain why your buddy, Sherrod, dropped out. Of course, he was my early pick.

* * *

Juli: On some, I have a chance. . . . On the others, I'm gonna get creamed.

* * *

Sadly, Suze, I don't own Absolute Truth, but on the Hoffa and RFK murder cases, the facts are on my side.

* * *

I know you love Paul--and so do I. But he's wrong--and he's been wrong all along--as are all of the people he has persuaded to his point of view. . . . Regardless, as you already know, I think the world of you, who you are, and all you have accomplished. Believe what you want to believe, but, like Paul, you will always be aces in my book.

* * *

John: Thank you, my friend. High praise coming from you. . . . As you know, I've had lots of experience, previously going up against the Teamsters and the mob, MCA, the Reagan White House, the NFL and its front-line of defense (loyal sportswriters), the legal and illegal gambling communities, the FBI, the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Wall Street Journal, Fox News, the LAPD, Kenneth Starr and the OIC, and the RNC and right-wing Republicans during the Clinton impeachment drama, along with a variety of murderers, white-collar criminals, and organized-crime figures, as well as the "Sirhan-didn't do it," the "OJ-didn't-do-it," and the "Vince Foster-didn't do it" crowds. . . . I'm hardly undefeated, but I'm still here.

* * *

The New York Times on the release of Anthony Pellicano after over fifteen years in prison.

* * *

Here is one of the upcoming battles over the RFK murder case. The battlefield will be The Mob Museum in Las Vegas on April 6. . . .
https://themobmuseum.org/events-posts/rfk-assassination-separating-fact-fiction/

* * *

My work is cited in “Legal Sports Report” this week in a story about accident-and-injury reports and why they are necessary to prevent the equivalent of insider trading in sports gambling:
https://www.legalsportsreport.com/30569/injury-report-pro-league-policies/

* * *

The great crime reporter, Larry Henry, has done the best reporting about the upcoming motion picture, The Irishman, a chronicle of the murder of ex-Teamsters boss Jimmy Hoffa, featuring superstars Martin Scorsese, Robert De Niro, Al Pacino, Joe Pesci, Harvey Keitel, Anna Paquin, Ray Romano, and Steve Zaillian, among others. . . . Here is his latest article about the controversies over this highly anticipated movie, including my comments about its veracity:

We’re getting ready for the upcoming 25th anniversary of the OJ Simpson murder case on June 12, along with more love from our readers. . . . https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=2043040459247155&set=a.1406746079543266.1073741831.100006236621784&type=3&theater

**15. Watch as Trump diverts national attention away from RICO**

Everything old is new as the very real chance that Donald Trump is facing multiple RICO indictments, sealed and/or unsealed, gains momentum. In response, he is cynically diverting the public’s attention to the lesser threats of socialism and foreign terrorism which masks his mob ties, as well as the enormous amount of damage caused by increasingly unregulated capitalism and domestic terrorism carried out by white nationalists. These scare tactics are just part of a common playbook used by right-wing enforcers to protect mobbed-up occupants of the White House.

In May 1981—five years before I published *Dark Victory: Ronald Reagan, MCA, and the Mob*—I delivered a speech about the links between the Reagan Administration and the Mafia at the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, D.C., where I was a visiting fellow. Among those doing stories about the event was the right-wing *Executive Intelligence Review*, one of the publications owned and operated by Lyndon LaRouche’s alleged criminal enterprise—a print forerunner to Fox News. (LaRouche died last month at 96.)

In the introduction to this article about my Reagan-and-the-mob talk, *EIR* falsely connected IPS to “the Weather Underground, the Baader-Meinhof Gang, and other terrorists worldwide.” Simultaneously, IPS critics were accusing those of us at IPS with plotting to overthrow the United States Government.

As I recall, IPS—a benign and truly noble anti-war, pro-peace organization—always had difficulty fielding a summer softball team. Trust me, the government was never in any danger from us.

Everything old is just new again.


**Additional comments by DEM**

See Craig Unger’s important book: https://www.amazon.com/House-Trump-Putin-Untold-Russian/dp/152474350X/ref=sr_1_1?keywords=Craig+Unger&qid=1552683801&s=books&sr=1-1

14: When a Mafia guy gets whacked in New York

The whacking of a Mafia guy in New York, especially when he’s a boss of one of the Five Families, is always big news.

I remember when Paul Castellano, the reputed boss of the Carlo Gambino crime family, was murdered on December 16, 1985, at the direction of mobster John Gotti on the sidewalk in front of Sparks Steak House on East 46th Street, between Second and Third, in Manhattan. In the wild aftermath of the avalanche of news reports, diners had to wait for weeks to get reservations at Sparks, which immediately became the most popular restaurant in town. After all, according to folklore, Mafia guys know the best places to eat. One of the local newspapers reported that the owner of a restaurant near Sparks lamented that—if the murder had occurred while he was at work—he would have run outside and dragged Castellano’s dead body in front of his place. . . .

Last night, Frank Cali, the latest reputed boss of the Gambino crime family, was murdered outside his home in Staten Island. There is no reporting yet as to whether he had just come from or was en route to some lucky restaurant, just waiting for all that publicity.

(H/T to the great Dave Stater for reminding me.)


11: The Democrats accept the smearing of Hillary Clinton

The GOP, Fox News, the Russians, Wikileaks, the Bernie-or-bust crowd, and James Comey recklessly, maliciously, and falsely smeared and trashed into submission one of the finest and most talented leaders in American history. Then, after her Electoral College defeat in 2016 to a proven liar and an alleged traitor—even though she won the popular vote by a wide margin—the members of her own party responded by distancing themselves from her. . . . Sadly, in this age of political treachery, the Democrats have conceded that smear campaigns work.

God bless Hillary Clinton.

Additional comments by DEM

I remember that you and your family did the right thing, Mitchell. I'm not criticizing you. . . . But Bernie Sanders, a registered Independent, didn't become a Democrat until fairly late in the game during the 2016 primary election campaign. And, then, after the election, he returned to his Independent status. All the while, the Bernie people were complaining that the Democratic Party was giving Bernie short shrift, deriding the Democratic leadership for supporting a beloved Democrat for President—in lieu of her Independent nemesis. . . . Also, hearken back to the Democratic National Convention during the summer of 2016 and the boos that Hillary received from the “Bernie-or-bust” crowd, so much so that Bernie supporter, Sarah Silverman, admonished
them from the podium, saying, “You’re being ridiculous.” . . . To me, "Bernie-or-bust" doesn’t conjure up thoughts of "progressive Democrats". In my opinion, they were/are a bunch rudderless insurgents who helped elect Donald Trump—and are poised to help him get re-elected. . . .


* * *

Are you saying that Bernie Sanders gave Hillary the same quality of support in 2016 that Hillary gave Obama in 2008?

* * *

What’s so hard to understand? The Democratic Party prefers to support Democrats, not registered Independents.

* * *

I have friends who were in the 2016 Bernie campaign. They say that Bernie’s support for Hillary, post-primary, was grudging, at best. . . . It was not unlike Jon McCain’s tepid support for George Bush, who had smeared him, in 2000. The difference is that both men were members of the same party.

* * *

Reagan was a Republican, fighting with Republicans. Bernie was not a Democrat. He was an insurgent, fighting the party outside the party, not within. And, thus, he was treated as an insurgent. . . . And I do believe that Mueller will show that the Russians had more to do with Hillary’s defeat in Wisconsin, Michigan, and Pennsylvania than any other factor.

* * *

Burt. . . . I completely agree with you. Let's get through the bloodletting among the Democrats this year rather than next year.

* * *

Hillary Clinton on the Mueller report and what must be done in its aftermath. . . .

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/hillary-clinton-mueller-documented-a-serious-crime-against-all-americans-heres-how-to-respond/2019/04/24/1e8f7e16-66b7-11e9-82ba-fcfeff232e8f_story.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.e996455e2c01

11: Wisdom from Marty Lobel, respected tax attorney


Wisdom from our friend and colleague, tax attorney Martin Lobel: “Eliminating tax subsidies to the rich is not socialism; it is a return to capitalism where competition picks the winners and losers, not the government.”

http://www.lnllaw.com/martin-lobel

Additional comments by DEM

Harriet. . . . Yes, that was a different time--and a different Republican Party. With the far right's complete takeover, the GOP has lost its soul, assuming that it ever had one. . . . The Democrats
need to take note--and reject a similar takeover from extremists, many of whom aren't even members of the Democratic Party.

9: Anthony Pellicano is scheduled for release from a federal prison on March 23


Two weeks from today, March 23, the controversial private investigator, 75-year-old Anthony Pellicano, aka “The Sleuth to the Stars,” is scheduled for release from federal prison after over fifteen years behind bars. Among other crimes, a federal jury in Los Angeles convicted him for his role in a RICO conspiracy case which included 78 counts of illegal wiretapping, wire fraud, and racketeering. . . . Remarkably, despite all of the publicity generated about Pellicano’s real-world capers—as well as all of the proposed book projects that were ignored, suppressed, or killed by New York publishers—this is the only published book, sixteen years in the making, that details the case from soup to nuts. And, in order to tell this story, I had to publish it myself. . . . https://www.amazon.com/Hollywood-Confidential-Wiretapping-Friendship-Betrayal/dp/0692383409/ref=tmm_pap_swatch_0?encoding=UTF8&qid=&sr=

Additional comments by DEM


* * *


7: Prediction #2: The Trump presidency could just suddenly end

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=2242890965928769&id=100006236621784&notif_id=1552019508122419&notif_t=feed_react...
trashed the New York Times, the Washington Post, CNN, NBC, and the mainstream media, in general, calling them “enemies of the people.” Among world leaders, he is a laughing stock.

Trump cannot survive the withering RICO attack poised to declaw and defang him. Sooner or later, if it hasn’t happened already, Trump and his attorneys will attempt to negotiate a comprehensive deal which will allow him and the members of his family to escape prosecution and prison.

In other words, this entire situation could just end quite suddenly.

Additional comments by DEM

Harris. . . . As you already know, he is terrified of the outstanding work by numerous investigative journalists, led by the New York Times and the Washington Post. . . . And he should be. The screw has turned.

* * *

Rich. . . . I believe that the creepy Mike Pence is on Mueller's plate. Many of us hope, a la Spiro Agnew, that he will be the first to go.

* * *

Rich and Douglas. . . . I just don't think that anyone can survive the legal and political onslaught that Trump is about to face.

* * *

Roger that. It's a mind-blowing situation. . . . But I still trust America's institutions to deal with people, like Trump, who are at war with orthodox society.

* * *

After I get off a deadline that I'm facing, I want to have this exchange with, Richard Stavin, a good and trusted friend of mine who is uniquely qualified to weigh in on this subject. Rich's battles with the DOJ are legendary and were featured on CBS's Sixty Minutes. . . . When Rich talks, people listen.

* * *


* * *


* * *

7: Prediction #1: Legal wiretaps—and RICO—will end the Trump presidency


It is a good bet that many of Donald Trump’s business operations are now viewed by the law-enforcement community as likely criminal enterprises . . . that will inevitably lead to a series of breathtaking RICO prosecutions in the coming months.

To be sure, Robert Mueller’s team of well-trained and battle-hardened federal prosecutors of Italian/Sicilian and Russian organized-crime groups have effectively used evidence of perjury as their cudgel to force perpetrators to plead guilty and then become cooperative witnesses. Their delayed sentencing agreements have been determined by the quality of their information to the prosecution about much greater crimes of which they have knowledge or in which they have participated.

Whether using this strategy as the foundation for RICO indictments against the Mafia or Trump’s alleged criminal empire, prosecutors will not permit the testimonies of convicted perjurers to stand alone. As in most Mafia cases, along with producing corroborating documents and testimony, prosecutors in Washington and New York will likely shock the world by producing recordings of court-authorized wiretaps.

Along with several major Mafia figures, incriminating tapes also brought down Richard Nixon. And I’m predicting that legal wiretaps will contribute to the final destruction of Donald Trump’s presidency, too . . . .

People lie. Tapes don’t.

Additional comments by DEM

RICO. RICO. RICO. . . . From August 1, 2017:

* * *

James . . . I think that Trump has already been named as an unindicted co-conspirator in at least one sealed indictment related to the Cohen case . . . . I wouldn’t be at all surprised if some law-enforcement entity--federal, state, and/or local--moves forward and names Trump in an upcoming RICO indictment.

* * *

I think that Trump and his attorneys are already considering a pitch for a comprehensive deal to spare the Trump crime family from prison in return for sparing America from further Trump antics . . . . I have mixed feelings as to whether I want that to work or not. I want to see him prosecuted, as soon as possible.

* * *

#wwg1wga(?) I had to look that one up . . . “Where We Go One We Go All.” . . . I’ve just learned a little more about the sheep in Trump’s flock. QAnon? It’s pure Lyndon LaRouche. What do you think, Dennis King? https://medium.com/@martingeddes/wwg1wga-the-greatest-communications-event-in-history-698ba926df64

* * *

I can’t imagine this situation going that far. America’s greatest institutions are taking this situation in hand, recognizing that this is an all-hand-on-deck moment in American history . . . . In fact, I think that all of this could just end, very suddenly.
Steve. . . . As you know better than I, we are in the midst of an all-hands-on-deck moment in American history. And I believe that our law-enforcement community on the federal, state, and local levels will respond to the very direct threat to America, posed by the corrupt, dishonest, and, possibly, treasonous Donald Trump.

Karen. . . . I think that the evidence will become so overwhelming that this entire situation could just end, very suddenly.

And, in my delusional state, I also believe that Mueller has Mike Pence--and that Pence will be forced out first.

4: Before Chrissie Hynde, there was her inspiration, Pam Johnson
https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=2241084396109426&id=100006236621784&__xts__[0]=68.ARDkrQfXQlmaHGTPszNjQRuoqKqawbLSW0zP3Bq8FEYxB5Bsg6HK7O22BjszZKZBKsk67o_3nGnZXEUsvwIqVh00nXqQTbZSO10iEJLGYGaQc11kHcxHdkyElY R_yQ7jU-FiU55sDHQPLWOSZ-UFo3nXICcSHNCp-F0rppV1Wp5t6 Nixon12oHU6vbn6TUEbFQVRUb1WlwipY1X95R8i5Up10OnXGDTGEVbjIFp0t6PHhEvuyNqzMwvtozBs91Gq1f3bfGL0i1 b4pHsXOPuYFvugFdzGsUa-PLO5wsrrvSapKjxS2BubGEUWljLOmNKnVbKlH46f50W1k&__tn__=-R

Before Chrissie Hynde, there was her inspiration, our long-time friend, the fabulous Pam Johnson, (second from the left), . . . two great rockers from Firestone High School in Akron, Ohio.

3: Fox trashes convicted liar Michael Cohen; Fox gives convicted liar Mark Fuhrman his own show

Trump State Television, aka Fox News, the whorehouse of American journalism, is in the midst of a frenzied, full-throated attack on Trump-attorney-turned-Trump-accuser Michael Cohen, trashing him for pleading guilty to lying to Congress. . . . Meantime, Fox has given Mark Fuhrman, another convicted perjurer, his own television show.

https://nation.foxnews.com/the-fuhrman-diaries/

Additional comments by DEM

Sadly, when it comes to the Jimmy Hoffa murder case, Fox News is the only game in town. Thus, I exempt Eric Shawn, who has kept that caper alive, from the Fox News whorehouse.

2: My statement in commemoration of the 1,096 journalists killed in the line of duty
A program designated to protect writers and journalists—and to commemorate the 1,096 who have been killed in the line of duty worldwide—will be held tomorrow in Takoma Park, Maryland.

I have been asked by Dr. Helen Frederick, one of the event’s organizers, to contribute a written statement for the event, which will be read by my friend and colleague, Ethelbert Miller, one of the principal speakers. Here is what I wrote:

“With the rise of nationalism throughout the world, one inevitable consequence is a horrifying assault on journalists and their investigative works. We are in the midst of that situation right now, even in America where a corrupt and dishonest president—who has been under relentless investigation—has retaliated with his cynical mantra that our media organizations and their reporters and editors are ‘enemies of the people.’

“All civilized societies must stand up and resist this dangerous tactic as part of a necessary crusade to preserve and protect a worldwide free press and those reporters and editors who place their lives on the line to bring the public the news.”

https://www.busboysandpoets.com/events/th-evt-7654315/

February 2019

28: Wishing Bryce Harper well as he leaves Washington for Philadelphia

When I was a young boy in Akron and the Indians were playing the Yankees, my Dad would give me a big thrill by getting tickets and driving us to Cleveland Stadium to watch Mickey Mantle play baseball. Years later, I felt that same thrill watching Bryce Harper play for the Washington Nationals. . . . Still a Cleveland Indians fan, I am among those in Washington who wish Bryce Harper well in Philadelphia.

Additional comments by DEM

And then Dad would always take us to Captain Frank’s for dinner.

* * *

Last night, the Washington Nationals fans were no better than the Philadelphia fans who pelted Santa Claus with snowballs during an Eagles game in 1968. . . . But, in the end, Bryce Harper had the last word—and he will, no doubt, always remember how he was received upon his return to Washington and make it his business to haunt Nats fans for their incredibly bad and classless behavior. . . . As the big sign said at the old Rubber Bowl in Akron, "If you can't be in a sport, be one." https://www.washingtonpost.com/sports/nationals-fans-get-their-boos-in-but-bryce-harper-has-the-last-word/2019/04/02/d65e4430-5561-11e9-814f-e2f46684196e_story.html?utm_term=.4e6fec2b57bf

27: In the aftermath of Michael Cohen’s testimony

The dishonest but repentant Michael Cohen did not take down a dishonest and defiant Donald Trump today during Cohen’s testimony before the U.S. House Committee on Oversight. But he has set the stage for Robert Mueller, along with the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of New York, to perform this necessary task. With critical and dangerous challenges from among others, China, Russia, and North
Korea—as well as from the most perilous situation in the world between India and Pakistan—the United States needs a courageous and an experienced leader and statesman in the White House. . . . For the sake of America, Donald Trump, an accomplished bully but a shameless coward, and Mike Pence, his Bible-thumping stooge, cannot be gone too soon. . . . RICO. RICO. RICO.

Additional comments by DEM

I was surprised that only one congressman asked Cohen about Trump's connections to the Russian Mafiya. And no one asked Cohen about Trump's connections to the Mafia in New York.

* * *

A nuclear war between India and Pakistan could lead to the end of the world. . . . BTW: What would have happened if Donald Trump had been President during the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis?

* * *

In Donald Trump's case, I'll bet heavily that he knew Tony Salerno, the late boss of the Vito Genovese crime family in New York. During one of his appearance on my FB page on October 17, 2015, Roger Stone wrote, “I knew Tony Salerno well--a total sweetheart.” . . . If Roger knew Salerno, then Trump knew him, too.

* * *

Here's my October 2015 FB thread about Trump and the Mafia, which includes Roger Stone's statement about Salerno. . . .

* * *

Robert: I will have to live with that prediction for the rest of my life. . . . No doubt, I was the only person in America in October 2015 who believed that Donald Trump had no chance to win the presidency--while Roger Stone, with all of his inside information, was betting the ranch that he would.

* * *

I completely disagree with your use of the word, "rat." . . . Here's a blog I did on "when a rat is not a rat.

* * *

Absolutely right, Dennis. If the House Democrats have no chance of winning a two-thirds vote for conviction in the Senate, they shouldn't even consider impeachment. As we all know, if the Dems shoot high and miss, Trump, who will wear impeachment like a badge of honor, will emerge stronger and even more defiant. . . . Sooner or later, Trump will fall under the weight of all the evidence that is mounting against him.

* * *

Dennis: I totally agree with you, except for the Joe Biden part. I'd like to see another centrist among the Democrats who can actually win a national election. . . Also, I agree that Trump would
feast off an unsuccessful attempt to impeach him in the House and remove him in the Senate. On the contrary, I would love to see Bob Mueller or the USAO in Manhattan indict him. . . . If he loses his 2020 reelection bid, it will be viewed as a public repudiation.

22: **Bob Zangrando, author and scholar of the civil-rights movement, has died**


I had the honor of sitting in the classrooms of three great professors who taught Black History: Robert L. Zangrando while I was an undergraduate at the University of Akron, as well as both August Meier and Elliott M. Rudwick while I was in graduate school at Kent State. Dr. Rudwick died in 1986. His long-time associate and frequent co-author, Dr. Meier, died in 2003. Among other books, Meier and Rudwick wrote, *Black Detroit and the Rise of the UAW*.

This morning, Bob Zangrando, 86, passed away peacefully at a seniors’ facility in Hudson, Ohio, a suburb of Akron. I just received the news from Bob’s dear wife, Lisa Ann Pace, who was with him when he died.


His final book, *Walter F. White: The NAACP’s Ambassador for Racial Justice*—which he wrote with Ronald Lewis—was released last month.

God bless Bob Zangrando—American scholar and relentless citizen activist. He was a fighting man of high principles and tremendous integrity.


**Additional comments by DEM**

Paul. . . . Dr. Meier and Dr. Rudwick—which is what I called them—were superstars when I had them in grad school in 1973-74--after which I never saw or heard from them again. But I would really like to hear your stories about the legendary Augie Meier. I'm proud to have taken his class . . . Bob Zangrando, I knew, admired, and respected. I considered Bob a friend, and I'm sure he viewed me as a friend of his, too.

* * *

Kaye. . . . It'll probably take a day or two. I think the *Beacon Journal's* daily deadline for obituaries is noon. And, within a week or so, I expect to see something about Bob's death in the *New York Times*. . . . Here was Dr. Meier's 2003 obit in the *Times*:


* * *

And here was Dr. Rudwick's 1986 obit in the *Times*:


* * *
21: Here’s what Special Prosecutor Robert Fiske’s report looked like in 1994


Additional comments to DEM

For the purposes of this report, Fiske was identified as an "independent counsel." However, he was appointed by Attorney General Janet Reno as "special prosecutor." . . . As I understand the distinction, an independent counsel, under the now-defunct act, was appointed by a three-judge panel.

20: ESPN’s breathtaking account of the Tim Donaghy-NBA game-fixing scandal

Thirty years ago, I published a book about the Mafia’s penetration of and influence on the NFL, which included, among other revelations, evidence of alleged game fixing, featuring a notorious bookmaker who confessed to me on tape that he had personally fixed no fewer than 32 NFL games. . . . Yesterday, reporter Scott Eden of ESPN published a breathtaking account of corruption in the NBA, revolving around the horrific case of Tim Donaghy, the notorious NBA referee who confessed to participating in plots to fix NBA games. . . . Of course, the Mafia was involved.

Yeah, yeah, yeah. Sure, sure, sure. . . . Let’s have more legalized sports gambling, which will do nothing more than make the Mafia—which has already gone high-tech, online, and off-shore—even stronger, placing the integrity of all sports at risk. (h/t Jeff Goldberg)


Additional comments by DEM

Okay. Here we go. . . . The NBA is disputing ESPN’s findings: https://sports.yahoo.com/nba-disputes-findings-game-anecdotes-conflicting-quotes-espns-tim-donaghy-report-193821436.html

* * *

Billy Walters? I wrote about him and his connection with Dr. Ivan Mindlin in the Computer Group scandal in my 1989 book, Interference: How Organized Crime Influences Professional Football, pages 378-383. . . . In fact, I was subpoenaed in the Mindlin civil case and was deposed about Mindlin and Walters. . . . After the release of my book, Ira Rosen of Sixty Minutes and I were at the Las Vegas Country Club with the notorious Detroit bookmaker, Don Dawson, who introduced us to Walters. He was hitting shags next to us at the driving range. Walters, who was a helluva golfer, gave us a quick lesson about hitting ‘em long and straight.

19: Why isn’t the Big Media reacting to the Washington Post’s garbage on the RFK case?
I don’t get this. . . . The Washington Post has given false legitimacy to a ridiculous theory that Sirhan Sirhan is an innocent man wrongly accused. If true, this is a huge story. But the Big Boys and the Big Girls in the Big Media are staying silent when they should be weighing in. . . . Is the Post right or wrong? As one of the world’s experts on the RFK murder case, I say that they’re flat-out wrong, and they must be held accountable.

Additional comments by DEM

Alec: The conspiracy theorists, I understand. But the Washington Post making that case? At the very least, the Columbia Journalism Review should be examining this--although I would prefer the New York Times accept this task.

* * *

With respect, Suzanne, I'm going to disagree. . . . The Washington Post, along with the New York Times, is at the epicenter of some of the finest reporting about the wholly corrupt and dishonest Donald Trump. . . . However, the Post's almost laughable series about the RFK case gives its critics, like you, the ammunition to claim, "fake news."

* * *

Suzanne. . . . It's pretty clear where we're coming from politically. We should probably just agree to disagree. But I do agree that political activists should not be news reporters. It just further blurs the line between news and opinion.

* * *


* * *

Juli . . . Put this Sirhan confession in context with what you read in the Washington Post--which didn't even mention the confession, one of many Sirhan has made: : https://www.insideedition.com/sirhan-sirhan-reveals-why-he-killed-robert-f-kennedy-1989-jailhouse-interview-43884?fbclid=IwAR00HluFXeX4EuIJa3h6o3ss-HzncaXL9kJdHVJagX_WF2sltL5dMOM_M

* * *

Suzanne. . . . Of course, you remember that I was also an expert witness for the defense against your late husband in Jack Kent Cooke v. Washingtonian. As warriors, we are relentless.

* * *

I feel bad for what you and your daughter have been through. I'm not unsympathetic to victims of media abuse. Remember, I was the plaintiff in Moldea v. New York Times, a major libel case that lasted longer than World War II--which I lost only after an unprecedented moment taken by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. . . . But the New York Times--which created, destroyed, and then resurrected me professionally--is the greatest newspaper in the world. Regardless of what happened to me, I continue to be one of its biggest fans. . . . https://www.moldea.com/Chron-NewYorkTimes.pdf.
Remember that Jack Kent Cooke allegedly admonished Harry Turner not to bet on NFL games, "because sometimes they can be fixed." . . . That was one of the counts in Cooke's libel case against Washingtonian. Then, when Turner self-destructed as a witness--after claiming that he had been kidnapped by space aliens and taken to another planet--the defense attorneys brought me into the litigation as an expert to lay out the case for game-fixing in the NFL. . . . After I provided numerous documents to Cooke's attorneys and sat for a day-long sworn deposition, the trial judge in the case reviewed the evidence and dismissed the NFL game-fixing count from the libel case. . . . Still, inexplicably, Washingtonian settled with Cooke for a reported $50,000, which was given to charity.

* * *


* * *


18: Five years later: On the death of Philip “Brother” Moscato

Here is the story I did about the Jimmy Hoffa murder case. . . . a year after Brother Moscato's death: https://www.moldea.com/Hoffa-40.html.

Additional comments by DEM


* * *


13: Lyndon LaRouche, who weaponized political disinformation, has died

Lyndon LaRouche—the man who weaponized the cynical and nefarious use of political disinformation, serving as a principal role model for the modern-day Tea Party in the process—has died.

The two greatest experts on this very evil man are Dennis King and Chip Berlet. For years, both men—courageous and talented authors and researchers—have sounded repeated warnings about LaRouche and his reckless and malicious tactics, as well as his destructive legacy.


Additional comments by DEM
Here is Dennis King’s classic study of Lyndon LaRouche:  https://www.amazon.com/Lyndon-Larouche-New-American-Fascism/dp/0385238800/ref=sr_1_2?keywords=American+Fascism+King&qid=1550096769&s=books&sr=1-2

*          *          *

Dennis: When McMaster discovered that I was cooperating with a federal grand jury in Pittsburgh that was investigating him and his goon squad in 1976—my retaliation after McMaster threatened my Dad in Ohio--Mac put a $1,500 contract on me. . . . I was more embarrassed by that number than concerned with getting whacked. . . . Mac gave the task to Larry McHenry. Do you remember him from the LaRouche crowd, too? And do you remember McHenry's sidekick, Jim Shaw, who was a driver for Gateway Transportation? I still believe that McMaster and Shaw--and possibly McHenry, along with Tom Andretta, Sal Briguglio, and Brother Moscato/Vinnie Ravo--were directly involved in the disposal of Hoffa's body in 1975.

*          *          *

BTW: It was McHenry and Shaw--on the orders of McMaster--who bombed Dick Fitzsimmons's union car at Nemo's Bar near Tiger Stadium on July 10, 1975--twenty days before Hoffa disappeared.

13:  Ethelbert Miller’s “Baseball”

Our long-time friend and colleague—the legendary author, poet, and citizen activist E. Ethelbert Miller—has written much about the game of baseball. In fact, there is nothing quite like attending a Washington Nationals game with Ethelbert, who makes non-stop predictions about the on-field play. And, according to my calculations, he is amazingly right about 75 percent of the time. . . . Here is Ethelbert’s latest, simply called, “Baseball.”

I need the game more than poetry.
The stretch before the swing.
The stare before the pitch.

Baseball is food that follows the fast.
It blooms with spring and runs to first base.

There is beauty to be discovered inside every diamond.
No game comes closer to prayer than baseball.

BTW: Ethelbert used a photograph I took of his family for the cover of his wonderful 2009 memoir, “The 5th Inning,”

https://www.amazon.com/5th-Inning-Busboys-Poets/dp/1604860626/ref=tmn_hrd_swatch_0?_encoding=UTF8&qid=1550087505&sr=1-1-catcorr

7:  Mimi Wolford and some of the world’s great artists
Tonight, at the packed-house opening of the fabulous new art exhibition, “Powerful Voices: Africa and the Americas,” beloved art curator Mimi Wolford, in the white outfit, poses with some of the greatest artists in the world at the Pepco Edison Plaza Gallery in Washington, D.C. (Photo: DEM)

6: U.S. District Judge Christopher Cooper rules in Moldea v. Ovitz

On March 12, 2018, I sued Michael Ovitz in federal court in Washington, D.C. for breach of contract. For the past year, I have remained silent as the lawyers in the case exchanged legal briefs for this litigation, including Ovitz’s motion to dismiss. . . . Today, a U.S. District Judge, the Honorable Christopher R. Cooper, denied Mr. Ovitz’s motion to dismiss on all points, allowing this lawsuit to proceed.

God bless my wonderful attorneys, Roger Simmons and Susan Eisner at Gordon & Simmons in Frederick, Maryland.

Here is Judge Cooper’s well-written decision which also lays out the facts of the case. In the opening sentence of his opinion, Judge Cooper wrote: “This case is the contractual companion to a classic film noir tale of revenge, shifting alliances, and relationships gone bad.” See: https://www.moldea.com/Moldea-v-Ovitz-02062019.pdf.

Additional comments by DEM

I am not going to say much about this excellent decision, . . . but I will note that Anthony Pellicano is scheduled to be released from prison next month, which should thicken this plot.

* * *

The court docket in Moldea v. Ovitz:
https://www.pacermonitor.com/public/case/23917114/MOLDEA_v_OVITZ.

* * *

Ovitz responds: https://www.moldea.com/Moldea-v-Ovitz-02202019.pdf

5: Mimi Wolford curates “Powerful Voices: Africa and the Americas.”

The fabulous Mimi Wolford, one of the world's experts on contemporary African art, is the curator of the wonderful new art exhibition, “Powerful Voices: Africa and the Americas.” This remarkable show opens with a public celebration on Thursday night, February 7, from 6:00 to 8:30 P.M at the Pepco Edison Place Gallery, 702-8th Street NW in Washington, D.C. 20068. The exhibit—which runs from February 7 to February 28—is presented by the Howard University Alumni Association and Pepco. Admission is $35—with proceeds to benefit the HUAC GWDC Scholarship Fund. . . . https://www.taoievent.com/
Additional comments by DEM

Here is the beautiful catalog of the featured artists and their works on display—including the legendary Michael Platt, who tragically died on January 20:
https://issuu.com/artimpactusa/docs/powerful Voices_art_exhibition_catalog

* * *

And here is an excellent video, featuring the artists and their works:
https://youtu.be/yjGjHf1ZsQQ

1: Larry Leamer’s new blockbuster: Mar-a-Lago


If you want to understand what Trump is truly like and how he became what he is as president, you must read Mar-a-Lago. In his book, Larry reveals:

* “How Donald Trump bought a property now valued by some at as much as $500,000,000 for less than three thousand dollars of his own money.

* “Why Trump was blackballed by the WASP grandees of the island and how he got his revenge.

* “How Trump joined forces with the National Enquirer, which was headquartered nearby, and engineered his own divorce.

* “How by turning Mar-A-Lago into a private club, Trump was the unlikely man to integrate Palm Beach’s restricted country club scene, and what his real motives were.

* “What transpires behind the gates of today’s Mar-A-Lago during ‘the season,’ when President Trump and assorted D.C. power players fly down each weekend.”

Larry: Now get out there during your book tour and make us smarter. (Photos by DEM)

January 2019

30: Jimmy Hoffa-murder suspect, Tom Andretta, has died

Thomas Andretta, one of the alleged co-conspirators in the 1975 Jimmy Hoffa murder case, died in Las Vegas on January 25, 2019. . . . I interviewed Andretta by phone on October 25, 1976, in Union City, New Jersey, while I was doing an exclusive face-to-face recorded interview with three other top suspects in the Hoffa case, including Thomas’s brother, Stephen Andretta, who put me on the phone with Tom during our interview. I also interviewed Gabriel Briguglio and his brother, Salvatore Briguglio, who is widely believed to be Hoffa’s actual killer. . . . In addition to the suspects, those present for my interview were their attorney William Bufalino, and Salvatore Provenzano, the brother of Tony Provenzano, who reportedly
engineered the murder, selecting Sal Briguglio, who was shot to death in 1978, to do the hit on Hoffa and featuring Tom Andretta in a key supporting role.

(Tom Andretta (left) and Steve Andretta. Photo credit: Getty Images)

Additional comments by DEM

I recently revealed during a television program that Steve Andretta is alive--after many years of the "Frank-Sheeran-did-it" crowd claiming that he was dead. . . . Also, I'm pretty sure that Gabe Briguglio is alive, too. https://video.foxnews.com/v/5980175029001/#sp=show-clips

* * *

My belief is that Tom Andretta was an eyewitness to the Jimmy Hoffa murder, which was committed by Sal Briguglio. After the killing, Andretta helped to facilitate the disposal of Hoffa's body--with the complicity of Rolland McMaster of Detroit. (For those who appreciate the significance of this, Andretta was the Local 560 shop steward for Gateway Transportation in New Jersey. McMaster's alibi for the day of Hoffa's murder was that he was with his brother-in-law, Stanton Barr, the head of Gateway's steel division) . . . However, I also believe that Steve Andretta's role was limited to serving as nothing more than Tony Provenzano's alibi witness in New Jersey. (Frank Sheeran, who falsely claimed in his one-source book that Steve was dead, also alleged that Steve was at the Hoffa crime scene. Along with many other details, Sheeran was wrong about that, too.) . . . Through two of my sources, Don Wells and Phil Moscato, I have exclusively established the likelihood that Tony Pro was in Detroit with McMaster and Barr, among others, on the night before Hoffa's murder and, possibly, on the day of the murder.

* * *

After my initial face-to-face interview with Sal Briguglio and his alleged coconspirators on October 25, 1976, I interviewed Briguglio three more times on the telephone. The dates of those interviews were October 13, 1977; January 11, 1978; and February 20, 1978 . . . . Briguglio was murdered on a sidewalk in New York's Little Italy a month after my final interview with him on March 21, 1978. (Salvatore Briguglio - Photo credit: Getty Images)

* * *

Jason: Who murdered Sal Briguglio? Not Frank Sheeran . . . who, for money, confessed to murders he didn't commit, such as Sal's, Joey Gallo's, and Jimmy Hoffa's. From his grave, Sheeran conned Robert De Niro into believing that he did. Thus, the upcoming film fantasy, "The Irishman."

* * *

Jerry Stanecki, my friend and colleague . . . . You are one of the gods of the Jimmy Hoffa investigation. Your final interview with the ex-Teamsters boss, published in Playboy in its December 1975 edition, was and continues to be a classic piece of modern American journalism . . . . I hope you and your family are well. http://jerrystanecki.com/?page_id=308

* * *

The great crime investigator, friend and colleague Ed Barnes, and I are tentatively scheduled to appear on Fox News during the noon hour this Sunday, February 3, to discuss the death of Tom Andretta. News anchor Eric Shawn, one of the good ones at Fox, will conduct the interview.
Eric Shawn just sent me the link to the segment this afternoon, which was a little contentious--although ultimately friendly and respectful. Both Ed Barnes and I have very strong feelings about this caper. . . . https://video.foxnews.com/v/5997992897001/#sp=show-clips

On February 10--sixteen days after the death of her husband, Thomas Andretta--80-year-old Margaret Maureen Andretta died in Las Vegas. The Andrettas were married for 60 years. https://www.costamemorialhome.com/obituary/margaret-andreta


I am still waiting for the New York Times to clean up the mess that was created last June by the Washington Post and its misguided reporter, Tom Jackman, who fell in love with the man who murdered Senator Robert Kennedy, believing instead the fantasy claims of a group of conspiracy theorists, who have also managed to con a group of celebrities—such as Robert Kennedy Jr., Alec Baldwin, and Rob Reiner, among others—into believing that Sirhan Sirhan is an innocent man, wrongly accused. . . . Like it or not, Sirhan— with whom I had three long interviews—did it, and he did it alone.

Additional comments by DEM


Last spring, RFK Jr. called and told me that he had met with Sirhan for a couple of hours during which he became convinced of his innocence. I admonished RFK Jr. that he was taking the side of the assassin who had murdered his father.

The NYT led the defamation effort against the Clintons in its bogus coverage the Whitewater matter in 1992, and then it smeared Hillary into submission during the 2016 campaign, doing almost as much damage to her as the Russians and James Comey. . . . I love the NYT, but sooner or later, it, too, must atone for its sins.

BTW: Here's the infamous "Hey Punk" letter that Sirhan wrote. The conspiracy crowd likes to pretend it doesn't exist. . . . https://www.moldea.com/Sirhan-HeyPunk.html

And here's the signed statement that Mike McCowan, the official investigator for Sirhan's defense team, gave me--another troublesome piece of evidence for the conspiracy crowd. . . . https://www.moldea.com/McCowanLetter.html

Jeff: Don't forget Mel Ayton. Nobody knows more about the RFK case than Mel, who is a friend and colleague.
Oh. . . . and let's not forget the filmed confession that Sirhan gave to David Frost--another extraordinary piece of evidence that the conspiracy clowns don't share with others: https://www.insideedition.com/sirhan-sirhan-reveals-why-he-killed-robert-f-kennedy-1989-jailhouse-interview-
43884?fbclid=IwAR0M5Jm8MKDjx0VfdWpqJRF2rYvrLF9t_Tbw7fu6TWsbe5kXb3_wlad2aZ0

RFK Jr. has disgraced himself with his support for Sirhan, the man who murdered his dad. . . . In this Boston Globe article, I took off the gloves. https://www.boston.com/news/history/2018/05/31/rfk-assassination-conspiracy-theory-second-shooter

Tom Jackman is a Pulitzer Prize winner, as well as a good guy, but he must be held to account for his RFK-series debacle. I'm shocked to see that, so far, I am the only journalist publicly challenging him. . . . And I am doing so with high confidence that I am completely right, and he is just flat-out wrong.

Phil: Of course, several times--but not since last June. At first, in my opinion, he was merely delusional, buying into the fantasies of RFK Jr. and a handful of conspiracists, led by the relentless Paul Schrade. But then, while ignoring some of the best evidence of Sirhan's clear guilt, he inexplicably became embolden. And now, well aware of my criticism, he has become defiant. . . . Jackman has put his reputation on the line, believing that poor Sirhan Sirhan is both misunderstood and innocent.

From Jim Hougan’s FB page: https://www.facebook.com/jim.hougan/posts/2539506206077093

Comments by DEM

Come on, Jim, get real. . . . I'm still waiting for the New York Times to clean up the mess that Tom Jackman and the Washington Post created with the RFK case last June. Jackman's work has been a disgrace to American journalism. . . . BTW: I am the only person in the world, dead or alive, who has interviewed Sirhan Sirhan, Thane Eugene Cesar, and our old friend, Bob Maheu. . . . Bet the ranch. Sirhan did it, and he did it alone.

What are you suggesting, Bill? . . . . Four years after the publication of my 1995 book about the RFK case in which I concluded that Gene Cesar was an innocent man wrongly accused, he asked me to be the godfather of his son--an honor I accepted from a man falsely accused of murder for many years. BTW: He also gave me his power of attorney. . . . So, once again, Bill, what are you suggesting?

I love the legacy of RFK, but you're right, Jim. For good reasons or bad, he was complicit. He remained silent about what he learned about the CIA-Mafia plots against
Fidel Castro. . . Had the Commission formally received that information--especially from Allen Dulles--a whole new avenue of investigation would have been demanded.

**19: BuzzFeed has walked into a buzzsaw, but fret not**


*BuzzFeed* has walked into a buzzsaw, and the Trumpsters are rejoicing. . . . Fret not, moments like this happen in major long-term investigations, especially when the principal prosecutor—Robert Mueller in this case—is operating with integrity and refusing to leak. . . . I don’t know whether the *BuzzFeed* story is essentially true with some minor errors or wholly wrong and not worth the print used to publish it. . . . But I do know that something like this has happened before—during Watergate. And the two reporters who made the mistake—Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein of the *Washington Post*—continued to work hard, recovered, and became the gods of investigative journalism. . . . Trust me, it will take more than an erroneous story by *BuzzFeed* to derail all of the legitimate and righteous investigations into the provable corruption and alleged treason of the dishonest Donald Trump.


**Additional comments by DEM**

Sorry, Len. I should have known that I was going to strike a raw nerve with you with the latest installment of my career-long praise for Bob Woodward. . . . For what it’s worth, in my 1978 book about Hoffa, I speculated that Alexander Haig was Deep Throat. . . . Also, I put Seymour Hersh in the Woodward-and-Bernstein category as the gods of our business. And I know you respect Hersh.

*          *          *

For those into the minutia of this story about the story, today's edition of "Reliable Sources" is must-see . . . https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dovxQDLolxs

*          *          *

Cormier and Leopold are, no doubt, talented reporters. And, in my opinion, there is no crime that Trump is alleged to have committed for which he is not guilty. . . . For instance, I still believe that, in the end, Brian Ross will be vindicated.

**18: David Vitter, lobbyist for Oleg Deripaska**


In 2007, I nailed Bible thumper and sanctity-of-marriage advocate U.S. Senator David Vitter (R-Louisiana) for his association with my late friend and source, Jeane Palfrey, aka “The D.C. Madam.” . . . Now, twelve years later, still a flag-waver and chest-beating patriot, Vitter has been exposed as a lobbyist for Russian oligarch Oleg Deripaska, who has alleged ties to the Russian Mafiya, Vladimir Putin, and Putin’s chief stooge, Donald Trump.

Predictably, after Trump is finally gone—and that could happen quite suddenly—the GOP will return to its former incarnation as self-appointed moral watchdogs, advocates of Constitutional government, and deficit hawks, pretending that the corrupt and dishonest Trump and their inexplicable blind support for him never happened. . . .

(h/t Kathy Kadane)
Additional comments by DEM

The Cohen testimony really concerns me, Burt . . . I keep thinking about “Frankie Five Angels” in The Godfather, Part II, who saw his brother from Sicily in the back of the Senate hearing room, sitting ominously next to Michael Corleone. . . . Frankie then tanked his testimony and the investigation of Corleone collapsed. . . . Also, Cohen is far from the sharpest knife in the drawer. But I have to assume that Mueller knows what he’s doing—and that he has full documentation for anything that Cohen alleges.

* * *

I couldn’t care less what BuzzFeed has reported. . . . From the outset, I have been skeptical of Michael Cohen, now a convicted liar. Michael Avenatti had him pegged as well as anybody to date. . . . However, I do believe in Robert Mueller. I believe in the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of New York. And I believe in the Attorney General for the State of New York—all of whom have varying degrees of confidence in Cohen. . . . They are not going to send this guy into the arena to be torn apart. If he says something, I am assuming that he will be able to support it with considerable evidence.

* * *

I don’t know either man—both of whom I’m sure are fine reporters. But, on the Trump caper, I have learned that if it doesn’t appear in the New York Times or the Washington Post it simply doesn’t exist—although I am a huge fan of Newsweek, Mother Jones, Politico, and Yahoo. . . . Sadly, BuzzFeed has unwittingly walked into a buzzsaw.

12: The inexplicable, perceived nobility of Trump’s war against the poor and powerless

I admire and respect people who use their fame, money, and power to defend those who cannot defend themselves. Some of America’s greatest leaders have possessed this noble society-serving trait. . . . Remarkably, the supporters of the self-serving Donald Trump, their roguish Lord and Savior, find an inexplicable nobility in his ability and willingness to wage war against the poorest and the most powerless among us.

Additional comments by DEM

I want Trump to live a long and healthy life . . . so that he can fully suffer the consequences and public humiliation of his overall bad behavior, as well his specific corruption and alleged treason.

* * *

Trump will get the granddaddy of all comeuppances, and the rest of us will get the motherlode of all consequences. . . . We will wind up paying dearly for his sins.

9: Cut out the middleman. End the shutdown.

The only way for the government shutdown to end is for the Democrats to cut out the middleman and open negotiations directly with Rush Limbaugh, Ann Coulter, and Sean Hannity.

Additional comments by DEM


* * *


8: Fearless war correspondent/filmmaker Don North dies

Sad news. . . . Our friend and colleague, Don North—a fearless war correspondent, an award-winning independent filmmaker, and a published author—died yesterday. Known as “The Indiana Jones of Journalism,” Don, who was 80 and lived in Fairfax, Virginia, leaves his wife, Deanna, and four grown children: Fiona, Glen, Jessica, and Sam.

God bless Don.

http://donnorth.com/about/

6: Rush Limbaugh could end the government shutdown

At a big dinner in Washington, D.C., in 1998, I took this photograph of a brash Rush Limbaugh—who, 21 years later, apparently has the power to determine, among other decisions, when the U.S. Government shutdown will end . . . via his clear and present influence over Donald Trump—who desperately needs the support of Limbaugh and the sheep in his flock to withstand the upcoming onslaught from Robert Mueller and the newly empowered House Democrats, as well as the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of New York and the New York State Attorney General’s Office, among many others.

Fasten your seatbelts, it’s going to be a bumpy ride . . . which could end very suddenly.

NOTE: When I first pointed my camera at Limbaugh, he looked fairly sour, wondering who the hell I was. Seeing this, I replied, “Dude, gimme something special.” Hearing that, he struck a pose.

Additional comments by DEM

I hear you, Cuz. But Rush and others who influence Trump are forces to be reckoned with. Like it or not, we have to acknowledge their power and deal with them accordingly.

* * *

With all the legal problems, civil and criminal, that are about to descend upon Donald Trump, I don’t see any path for his long-term political survival. Bob Mueller and Nancy Pelosi, along with their talented teams and team leaders, are about to eat Trump alive—and Trump knows it. . . . Are Trump’s attorneys considering—or even in the midst of—negotiations with federal and state prosecutors for a comprehensive settlement for Trump to leave office without taking the entire country into the sewer with him?
The stakes are too high. At this point, I am pretty much ready to accept whatever deal the prosecutors can make, assuming that there is any deal to be made to force this corrupt and dishonest president out of office. . . . Trump will not make this easy and will not go quietly. He is going to make a lot of noise and do a lot of damage on his way out. . . . Plus, I still believe that Mike Pence is on Mueller's plate. I wouldn't bet that if Trump goes that Pence will succeed him.

I couldn't agree more. I have no interest in supporting an impeachment effort before Bob Mueller has completed his work. And, even after that, I have no interest in supporting an impeachment effort that has no chance of achieving a two-thirds vote of the Senate to convict--which would only make Donald Trump stronger and more defiant.

I feel the same way about many of those on Mueller's target list. . . . Sadly, dangerous right-wingers, like Limbaugh, have a tremendous influence on Donald Trump. Turn away from and Ignore them at your peril.

**December 2018**

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30: My favorite cartoon of 2016 and 2017 repeats in 2018 . . . and is the clear front-runner for 2019

16: On the Hoffa case: Salvatore Briguglio v. Frank Sheeran

I'll be live on Fox News today sometime between 4:30 and 4:45, discussing the Jimmy Hoffa murder case. . . . My friend and colleague, Ed Barnes, a really great investigator, was on earlier this afternoon, and he did an excellent job of explaining his side of the Hoffa probe. . . . Another long-time friend and colleague, David Ashenfelter of the Detroit Free Press, a two-time Pulitzer Prize winner, was on last week, trying to
stay neutral in the controversy and serving as the adult in the room. . . . Even though we have a lot of disagreements, I give Eric Shawn of Fox and author Charlie Brandt a lot of credit for putting the Hoffa case back on the public's radar screen. And this will be even more apparent after the release of the Scorsese-De Niro-Pacino-Pesci-Keitel big-budget film fantasy, *The Irishman*, next year.

5:50 update: Our friend and colleague, Jeff Hansen, has just sent me the video of the interview: https://video.foxnews.com/v/5980175029001/?fbclid=IwAR32QgrUR03bn1y9fRdAtEuCT0ZEsmiU1vLxzL7Twp4cmmxOzh6ruWVkFTk#sp=show-clips

15: **Roger Stone has a great story to tell. And I’d like to tell it.**  

Some of my Facebook friends might have noticed that I have been pitching Roger Stone, asking him to consider giving me his story, exclusively. Although I don’t know whether or not he’s taking me seriously, my offer is made in good faith. Notably, he has said repeatedly that he respects and trusts me and my work, particularly my books about the murders of Jimmy Hoffa and Robert Kennedy.

As everyone knows, Roger is at the epicenter of the huge political firestorm revolving around Donald Trump. Since he announced for president in June 2015, I have made no secret of my disdain for Trump, whom I view as dishonest and corrupt.

Simultaneously, I see Roger, inexplicably, as a loyal friend of and a true believer in President Trump. Yet, in my opinion, Roger has steadfastly maintained his own personal sense of honor and integrity, even with his mind-numbing defense of Donald Trump.

Because I don’t want to appear duplicious, I’d like to make a few things clear on both my blog and FB . . . . First, Roger and I have never met—although it’s possible that we ran into each other at a Washington party or spoke on the phone once or twice many years ago. Despite our political differences, we have several mutual friends, ranging from those on the far right to the far left and many in between—including no fewer than 39 mutual friends on Facebook alone.

In short, I admire and respect Roger for the warrior that he is and the political impact—good, bad, or ugly—that he has made on America’s political landscape. He has a great story to tell, and I would like to tell it.

I don’t need an immediate answer from Roger. I am working hard to finish what I consider an important book about heroic whistleblowers. At the moment, I have plenty to do.

Meantime, exhibiting both the differences and the good faith between us, attached are my exchanges with Roger on FB from October 17, 2015, and December 9-10 and 14, 2018.

https://www.moldea.com/Stone-DEM.pdf

*Additional comments by DEM*

Very kind, Burt. . . . Actually, Roger and I are just a couple of sinners who flourished in the world of opposition research, breaking a few windows and even slaughtering a few sacred cows in the process. Through that, Roger and I have some common ground.

* * *

Among many other capers, Roger brought down a Democratic gubernatorial candidate in New York, and my work forced the resignation of a U.S. House Speaker-Designate, a Republican.
Roger will never flip against Trump in this current environment... He needs a new environment-if that is possible. He needs to be led out of the darkness and into the light.

As Philip Turner, one of New York's finest agent-editors, suggested, I would have to get editorial control in any collaboration contract--although I doubt that Roger would share my enthusiasm for that... Hey, you don't get what you deserve in life. You get what you negotiate.

There is no one--and I mean no one--who is more dangerous to Donald Trump than Roger Stone. If you want to end this madness--which is affecting the entire world--then find someone who can get Roger to do the right thing. He is that important... Under the circumstances, I choose not to ignore or to shun him. I'm an author, and I want his story.

I suggest that you read what Roger, who is fourteen years older than Cohen and much better connected, wrote at the beginning of our FB exchange on October 17, 2015. He stated: “I knew Tony Salerno well—a total sweetheart.” Do you really think there is nothing behind that story? Salerno was the long-time head of the Vito Genovese crime family in New York. The reporter in me asks: “How did Roger meet Tony Salerno?” “Via Roy Cohn?” “And did Donald Trump, who was a Cohn protegee, know him, too?”... From what I understand, the concrete used at some if not all of Trump’s Manhattan construction projects came from front companies controlled by the Genovese crime family. ... You don't find that interesting? Jeff: I introduced you to an expert on this subject. You might want to talk to him again.

Thanks for the good laugh... Given the opportunity, every reporter in this town would run over their grandmothers, as well as through a cluttered path of children and small animals, to get the first big, tell-all interview with Roger Stone.

Rick... I'm not a stenographer. Never have been. Never will be.

Dude, for 44 years, I have investigated the Mafia -- alone as an independent investigative journalist, now with nine books under my belt... I suggest that you not sell me too short.

That's a bullshit answer, Cecilia. I am an investigative journalist and author who writes about the dark side of life. I have nothing but disdain for any number of Mafia guys, murderers, and assorted criminals, as well as a slew of corrupt businessmen and politicians—including but not limited to Donald Trump. Yet, I still write about these people—because that is my job. But, under no circumstances, would I say—before anything is even published—that books about them are so disgusting that they should be thrown and burned in a fireplace... especially when such books
are written by a friend. . . . There is a history here. Danny has made his feelings about Roger Stone crystal clear in my FB threads. He once imposed himself on an interesting exchange about Trump and the Mafia that Roger was having with several of my friends and colleagues—in which Danny’s only contribution was to f-bomb Stone, who angrily left the conversation and didn’t return to one of my exchanges for a couple of years. . . . I love Danny, and he knows it. But, as an author who is serious about his work, I will not tolerate someone—especially a friend—determine that one of my unwritten and unpublished books will be so disgusting that it should be burned. I expect better treatment from my friends.

* * *

Still hoping to get Roger Stone’s exclusive inside story, I invited him to a future lunch last night at 11:58 P.M., having no idea that about six hours later the FBI would raid his Florida home and arrest him—following his indictment by Robert Mueller’s prosecution team. At his arraignment at 11:00 A.M. this morning, the judge released Roger on a $250,000 signature bond. . . . Of course, I hope the lunch comes off. Even though he is fully aware of my loyalty to Hillary Clinton and disdain for Donald Trump, there is no one better or more qualified to do Roger’s tell-all story about his role in the world of opposition research than me.

* * *

Yeah, yeah, yeah. Sure, sure, sure. . . . Move along folks. There ain't nothing to see here. . . .

https://talkingpointsmemo.com/muckraker/roger-stone-evidence-terabytes-span-several-years

* * *

Trust me, Bob, I get it. I have known, admired, and respected Danny for 50 years—almost as long as I’ve known, admired, and respected you. I know what Danny intended. However, this FB thread is being monitored. And I am using it to communicate with Roger and a handful of people around Roger, some of whom would actually like to see me—a loyal supporter of Hillary Clinton and Robert Mueller—do this authorized book with Roger. They know that I would be fair and accurate. . . . But, just to be clear, Roger is not pursuing this deal. I am—and I would be asking for editorial control to boot, which would obviously complicate things further. . . . Consequently, I have been searching for a little written support from my friends and colleagues here on FB to help me obtain this very unlikely collaboration.

Then, Danny comes here to boast about his previous and unnecessarily gratuitous f-bombing of Roger on one of my prior FB threads, and then Danny makes his inexplicable declaration—before I have made a deal, before I have written word one—that he would view my book about Roger so disgusting that he would throw and burn it in his fireplace. . . . That sabotages my efforts.

If Danny and I are truly friends—and I think we are—we will get through this.

I’m sorry. From time to time, I use FB to do business. This is one of those times.

* * *

Dora: I would dispute your words, “the truth as you are told.” Once again, I’m not a stenographer. . . . I certainly don’t own Absolute Truth, and I have never claimed to. However, for all nine of my investigative books and any investigations I conduct, I have applied a very specific step-by-step process of document collections and interviews, hoping to find a legitimate version of Truth. . . . When critics agree or disagree with me, I have usually heard from them in their reviews and articles. However, most critics wait until I have actually written and published something. My unilaterally proposed book project with Roger Stone—even in the unlikely event that we
could make a deal which allowed me editorial control—has been condemned by some on this FB thread even before I have written anything or even made a deal.

* * *

Rick: Clearly, you and I have a difference of opinion—which, I think, we have already established and beaten to death on this FB thread. . . . You view Roger Stone as an unworthy clown. I view Roger as a principal key—if not THE key—to understanding the political life and times of the corrupt and dishonest Donald Trump. In short, I believe that Roger is important. . . .

Apparently, Robert Mueller and his team of RICO prosecutors, the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of New York, and the Attorney General for the State of New York, as well as the new Democratic-controlled U.S. House, agree with me.

13: “I just received a hoax bomb threat”  

Hoax bomb threats, sent by email, were received by many people around the country today. . . . Attached is the one I received—with the message exactly as I received it.

Additional comments by DEM

Here’s a Chicago Tribune report on what happened . . .  

* * *

From what I'm reading, the FBI is all over this. . . . Frankly, I didn't take it seriously when I received it during the early afternoon. I get crazy shit like this all the time. . . . I didn't decide to post it until I saw it reported on the national news tonight.

* * *

On the advice of Kristina, Pamela, and Juli, I called the FBI and spoke to a very nice woman who said that most of the recipients of these emails--and there were a lot of 'em--worked for companies housed in buildings. . . . I work in a house. . . . She added that the bureau is running down all leads. Notably, she didn't appear to be familiar with the name and email address of the person on the email I received. . . . I hope I was helpful. I just hate it when people do things like this.

13: Author, historian Thomas Allen has died  

Author Paul Dickson has shared the sad news that our friend and colleague, historian Tom Allen of Bethesda—the author of numerous books about the American military, among other subjects, and a long-time member of the Authors Dinner Group—has died. Tom and Paul co-authored the widely praised, award-winning nonfiction book, The Bonus Army: An American Epic.

Here’s a photograph I took of Paul (l) and Tom at the National Press Club in 2004.

12: A tweeter reports that I was murdered in 1989  

A tweeter reports on Twitter that I was murdered shortly after the release of my 1989 book, Interference: How Organized Crime Influences Professional Football. . . . I’d like to see some documentation of that.
**Additional comments by DEM**

According to a secret federal witness, I was picked up outside The Old Europe restaurant in Washington D.C., and taken to a nearby private residence in Georgetown, expecting to meet two Mafia guys. . . . When I arrived and stepped into the living room of the house, I saw that no one was there. The guy behind me shot me in the back of the head. . . . My lifeless body was stuffed into a 55-gallon drum, loaded onto a Gateway Transportation truck, and then shipped to New Jersey where I was buried in a garbage dump in Jersey City. . . . I hear that there is some crazy investigative journalist still looking for me, claiming that he is "Ahab" and saying that I am his "white whale," . . . I certainly hope he finds me.

* * *

You're right, Bill. And that's exactly the same scene that Frank Sheeran concocted for his 2004 book, which is the basis for the 2019 Scorsese-De Niro film fantasy, *The Irishman*. . . . In fact, I noted that scene from *Goodfellas* to De Niro at our infamous 2014 sitdown at which I told him that he had been conned by Sheeran's story, one of many conflicting stories he had told over the years. . . . But, on this version, Netflix has bet $140-million-plus that he was telling the truth. . . . Get ready for some pushback.

* * *

Jeff: Actually, as you have seen, firsthand during our many years as friends, I have been murdered several times by, among others the Teamsters, MCA, the NFL and its front-line of defense (corrupt sportswriters), the legal and illegal gambling communities, the FBI, the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, the LAPD, and Kenneth Starr and the OIC, as well as the "Sirhan-didn't do it," the "OJ-didn't-do-it," and the "Vince Foster-didn't do it" crowds. . . . And by going up against the upcoming fantasy film, *The Irishman*, and, thus, Scorsese, De Niro, Pacino, Pesci, Keitel, Pacquin, Romano, and Zaillan, among others, I assume that I will be murdered again later this year.

* * *

I love that, Craig. . . . Inasmuch as I have been an over-committed and under-financed freelance writer with no institutional protection or support throughout my entire 45-year career, I have often felt like a ghost---unseen and unheard while trapped in another dimension.

### 6: An existential dilemma: Owing the IRS and a Mafia guy: Who get paid first?


About twenty-five years ago, a Mafia soldier from Chicago—who had become a good guy, who had turned state’s evidence, and with whom I was considering a book collaboration—prepared to enter the Federal Witness Protection Program. But, before beginning his new life, he was required by the U.S. Marshals Service to get rid of all of his worldly goods. As part of this process, he offered me his 1990 SUV for a very reasonable number, but it was still out of my price range. Wanting me to have the car, he gave me a short-term loan. . . . Then, soon after, I had an unexpected problem with the IRS for which I owed some additional back taxes.

Consequently, I had to face an age-old existential dilemma: If you simultaneously owe money to the IRS and to a Mafia guy, who do you pay first?

**Additional comments by DEM**
The answer? . . . In the midst of the crisis, my literary agent in New York secured a book deal for me on a completely different subject—the O.J. Simpson murder case. The first installment of the advance covered both debts—to the IRS and the Mafia guy . . . Sometimes, you just need a little luck in life.

If that deal hadn’t arrived, and I was forced to choose, then—recognizing that I was getting along well with the ex-Mafia guy whom I introduced to my friends in the D.C. law-enforcement community for his added protection, which he deeply appreciated—I had already planned to pay my debt to the IRS first.

* * *

Here’s a story I did about the Chicago mob guy who gave me the short-term loan, the late Bill Jahoda, formerly one of the country’s top bookmakers, whom I met through Kristina, aka Hil Anderson, a great investigative journalist who does special assignments for the New York Times. . . . My book with Jahoda never materialized, but two great and highly decorated broadcast journalists in Chicago, Carol Marin and Don Moseley, are writing their own book about Bill’s life and times.

https://www.moldea.com/Jahoda.html

* * *

Here’s a very good book about the Wit-Sec program by investigative journalist Pete Earley, which explains the rules and regulations that govern this important and effective federal operation. . . .


2: Robert Mueller’s prosecutorial team


Here are the fifteen men and women who can save America . . . and, possibly, the world. God bless Robert Mueller: https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2018/11/30/us/mueller-investigation-team-prosecutors.html?emc=edit_th_181202&nl=todaysheadlines&nlid=710465321202

Additional comments by DEM

Douglas. . . . When Mueller finally reveals what he knows, he will blow all of us away with the details and specifics of his charges. . . . But Trump is not going to go away without punishing all of us for his sins. This is going to be high drama at its best and worst.

* * *

Mueller ends the week with a bang . . .

https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2018/12/07/takeaways-michael-cohen-sentencing-filings/?utm_term=.6075fd62180c

November 2018
This Saturday, December 1, Ohio State will play Northwestern for the Big Ten Football Championship. . . . 71 years ago, this month, our Dad, who played for Ohio State after six years in the military, beat Northwestern with his second-chance, last-second heroics—in the denouement of what ESPN described, below, as the “Wildest Finish” in the history of Ohio State football.

Thank goodness for second chances—on and off the football field. . . .

(In the inset photo of the ESPN summary, the ballholder is OSU quarterback Pandel Savic, #25. Our high-kicking Dad, #70, was then a 29-year-old senior who would have been 100 years old this month)

David Crosby spoke to Rolling Stone in the aftermath of the May 4, 1970, Kent State shootings about our friend and colleague, Alan Canfora, who is pictured, below, waving the black flag of protest in the aftermath of the death of a friend in Vietnam. . . . Moments after this historic picture was taken, Alan was among thirteen unarmed students who were shot by the Ohio National Guard. Four of those students were killed: Allison Krause, Jeffrey Miller, Sandra Scheuer, and William Schroeder, who was on a ROTC scholarship.

Alan is alive and well, still fighting the good fight.

Happy Thanksgiving to all of our families, friends, and colleagues. . . . On a sad note, today is the 55th anniversary of the murder of President John Kennedy.

Did Teamsters boss Jimmy Hoffa--along with Carlos Marcello and Santo Trafficante, the Mafia bosses of New Orleans and Tampa, respectively--arrange and execute the 1963 killing?

40 years after I first put that theory together in my 1978 book, The Hoffa Wars, I still insist that they did.

For an explanation, please see: http://www.moldea.com/MobMuseum10242017.pdf.

Additional comments by DEM


*          *          *

I was in the eighth grade at Roswell Kent Junior High School in Akron, Ohio . . . eighth-period American history class. Our teacher was Miss Abbott. . . . Our principal, John Griffith, gave us the horrible news over the school’s PA system.

*          *          *

Diana. . . Mafia Kingfish by John Davis helped to popularize my Hoffa-Marcello-Trafficante theory. . . . It was published in 1989, eleven years after I released The Hoffa Wars.
Diana... I remember TDU when it was the "Teamsters for a Decent Contract," aka TDC, in 1975, the year Hoffa disappeared. In fact, I was the keynote speaker at the October 1978 TDU annual convention in Windsor at which I helped create the peace between TDU and PROD. BTW: Here was the New York Times's first story about the battle between Brill and me... http://www.moldea.com/NYT-Mitgang.pdf

16: Washington’s finest celebrates the 40th anniversary of GAP

Last night—as America braces for a dramatic and divisive Constitutional crisis—a representation of the very best of Washington, D.C., assembled at the Dupont Circle Hotel where public-interest activists and their supporters celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Government Accountability Project, aka GAP, the premier organization for America’s heroic whistleblowers... Other organizations paying their respects to GAP included the Democracy Fund, the Fund for Constitutional Government, Essential Information, the Nation Institute, Open the Government, the Project on Government Oversight (POGO), Public Citizen, and the Electronic Privacy Information Center, among others.

Along with honoring GAP’s founders, Louis Clark and Tom Devine, the large audience commemorated the monumental contributions of five courageous whistleblowers: Richard Bowen, who exposed the abuses of defective mortgages by Citigroup; Tarana Burke, a racial-injustice activist for over twenty-five years; Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha, who uncovered the Flint, Michigan, water crisis and then led the city’s recovery efforts; Dr. Jon H. Oberg, who uncovered and revealed widespread corruption within the federal student-loan program and filed suit against numerous lenders under the False Claims Act; and Dr. Michael G. Winston, who exposed the corruption of Countrywide Financial Corporation;

The artist, Robert Shetterly, painted the portraits of Louis Clark and four of the honorees, which were unveiled at the dinner.

Other greats in attendance included: citizen-activist Eddie Becker; Danielle Brian, the executive director of POGO; Shelley Broderick, the dean of the UDC’s School of Law; attorney Paul Levy of Public Citizen; Conrad Martin, the executive director of the Fund for Constitutional Government; Elliot Negin of the Union of Concerned Scientists; John Richard of Essential Information; Keith Rutter, POGO’s COO; Nick Schwellenbach, POGO’s director of investigations; artist and art curator Claudia Vess; and legendary investigative journalist Adam Zagorin.

13: Andy Peterpiece’s new book about the Mafia’s ruling commission
Our friend and colleague, Andy Petepiece, one of the world’s experts on the Mafia and our go-to guy for the nuances of this complicated subject, has just published his easy-to-read book, *The Mafia Commission: A History of the Board of Directors of La Cosa Nostra*, which is filled with fascinating information about this mysterious decision-making body. . . . Also, with DOJ Special Counsel Robert Mueller about to release his critical findings, readers will particularly appreciate that Andy’s book—in very simple language—explains the importance of RICO as an essential tool in the prosecutions of criminal conspiracies and criminal enterprises.

https://www.amazon.com/Mafia-Commission-History-Directors-Nostra/dp/0228806704/ref=tmm_pap_swatch_0?_encoding=UTF8&qid=1542033356&sr=1-1

**Additional comments by DEM**

Just to show how crime reporters are more than happy to criticize each other—even when they’re good friends—here is Andy Petepiece trashing my view of the Hoffa caper—and my response to Andy’s earned "right to be wrong."

http://www.deadlinedetroit.com/articles/15372/mob_expert_feds_and_historians_got_it_wrong_about_the_jimmy_hoffa_murder

8: Christopher Lehmann-Haupt dies


Lehmann-Haupt died yesterday in New York.


**Additional comments by DEM**

Christopher Lehmann-Haupt’s wife, Natalie Robins, wrote the 1992 book, *Alien Ink: The FBI’s War on Freedom of Expression*, which revealed that the FBI had maintained a covert "Book Review Section," once used to sabotage authors and their published works. . . . Robins noted that my embattled 1989 book—*Interference: How Organized Crime Influences Professional Football*—had been one of the FBI’s last two targets before the section went out of business in 1990. Notably, I had been extremely critical of the FBI in my book for its suppression of numerous investigations involving National Football League personnel and a variety of underworld figures.

https://www.amazon.com/Alien-Ink-Fbis-Freedo-Expression/dp/0688068855/ref=sr_1_1?keywords=Alien+Ink&ie=UTF8&qid=1541694346&sr=1-1

* * *

I’m trying to find Jimmy Hoffa before the weather gets too bad. . . . Seriously. (Thanks for asking, Denny.) . . . Every ten years or so, I allow myself to get conned by someone with what appears to be a hot tip.

7: God bless President Obama for stepping up during the midterms


God bless President Barak Obama for stepping up and returning to the fray.
In my opinion, when all seemed lost, President Obama went to center stage and gave one of his greatest performances. By taking on Donald Trump, president-to-president, he made the biggest difference in the Democrat’s victory in the House. Considering the math, the Democrats never had a real chance to win the Senate. . . Watch how Trump and the Republicans try to minimize the impact of last night's breakup of their one-party rule.

4: My closing argument on the real need for checks and balances on Donald Trump  

This now-infamous photograph—never meant to be seen by the American public when taken by a Russian-government photographer in The Oval Office—represents my personal closing argument, advocating the real need for checks and balances on Donald Trump in Tuesday’s midterm elections. . . . Only God and Vladimir Putin—along with, possibly, Robert Mueller—know how much damage the unchecked Trump has already inflicted on America.

(Photo credit: Russian Foreign Ministry -- May 10, 2017)


1: Is Mueller poised to catch the Russians red handed tampering with the midterms?


Because the upcoming midterm elections are so incredibly “do or die” for both the good guys and the bad guys, I believe that the Russians—desperate to keep their nefarious U.S. operations in force and their stooge-president in office—have already re-entered the fray. In lieu of simply posting pro-Trump bots on Facebook and Twitter again, there is evidence that they are going right into the computer systems of county boards of elections in some of the key states and attempting to tamper directly with the election rolls and results, especially in those key-race districts without paper-ballot backups.

And, because of the suspicion that the Russians tried to do this in 2016, I believe that Robert Mueller and his outstanding team of investigators are monitoring this situation—up close and in real time—hoping to catch the Russians red-handed next Tuesday.

This is just a prediction, based on the path that the Mueller team has been taking.


Additional comments by DEM

This is as scary as it gets for a democracy.


* * *

It doesn't take a lot of resources to monitor the operations in some--not all--of the key races in some of the key states. . . . Remember the Mueller indictments of twelve Russian hackers last July, as well as their suspected attempt to tamper with the Illinois state board of elections? The Mueller team is on top of this. Why would they back off after recognizing the problem and handing up indictments?


October 2018

30: By sticking to his prepared script in Pittsburgh, Trump will try to appear presidential


Recognizing how badly he has been politically wounded by the horrible violence of white nationalists last week via his own words and deeds, Donald Trump will be on his best behavior today while honoring the dead in Pittsburgh. He will remain faithful to the prepared script that has been carefully written for him—which will say all the right things and give the illusion that he is now behaving presidential.
I ask again—How many second chances, how many resets, how many more benefits of the doubt does this guy get?

Additional comments by DEM

Of course, his Twitter posts and unscripted words at his upcoming rallies will reveal his true beliefs.

28. Dog-whistle Trump declares that he’s “a nationalist.” White nationalists respond. [link]

In the same week that Donald Trump declares himself to be "a nationalist," pipe bombs are found, targeting Trump critics, mailed by an admitted white nationalist. Another white nationalist shoots up a grocery store in Kentucky, killing two innocent black shoppers--after he failed to enter a black church to kill even more people of color. And, then, another white nationalist successfully enters a synagogue in Pittsburgh and kills no fewer than eleven Jews, including a 97-year-old Holocaust survivor.

Dog-whistle Trump responds—with the full support of his state-run television network, Fox News—by blaming victims for not arming themselves, as well as mainstream journalists, aka “enemies of the people,” for what has been their provably fair and accurate reporting about him and his corrupt administration.

Vladimir Putin and the Russians—who engineered the scenario for Trump’s 2016 election, as part of their overall plan to provoke Americans to destroy themselves from within via internal strife--have done their jobs well.

The final opportunity to put checks and balances on this reckless, malicious, and dishonest U.S. president and Russian stooge will be on Tuesday, November 6. If American voters fail to do that, then Trump will, indeed, claim an immediate mandate, and a very, very dark America will emerge on November 7.

Additional comments by DEM

Just in time for the midterms, Trump escalates his cowardly war against the poor and the powerless. . . . [link]

Meantime, Trump uses the wedge issues and his usual scapegoats to deflect attention away from his flat-out public corruption in office . . . Here's a catalog of specific acts detailed by the New York Times. [link]

Another warning bell--from the New York Times . . . [link]

French President Macron denounces nationalism.
26: With the capture of the pipe-bomb mailer, the Democrats should embrace the Trump-trashed FBI

A suspect in the mailing of no fewer than thirteen pipe bombs to critics of Donald Trump is now in custody. . . . This is a very good time for the Democrats to embrace the excellent work of the FBI—the same law-enforcement agency that Trump has been trashing and ridiculing for the past two years. . . . Seeing the contrast, many on the center-right, nationwide, will reward that worthy gesture a week from Tuesday. And those votes could make the difference between whether Trump will finally face checks and balances from Congress or whether he will claim a mandate and operate without restraint.

Additional comments by DEM

If the Democrats don't take a large chunk of the center-right a week from Tuesday, they will lose--and lose big. . . . Imagine for a moment, Donald Trump completely unleashed. . . . I've had my problems--as a journalist--with the FBI. But, at the moment, I am cheering them on and thanking them for a job well done. . . . This is a wedge issue that the Democrats should use against Trump and the Republicans between now and November 6.

24: The Shoffler Brunch Group and the Platt-Vasilenko affair

When the CIA dropped the ball and refused to help the imprisoned former KGB agent Gennady Vasilenko—who had been accused by Russia's FSB of helping the FBI to uncover the espionage activities of its treasonous special agent Robert Hanssen, who pleaded guilty and is in prison for life—former CIA case officer Jack Platt, Vasilenko’s best friend and business partner in the aftermath of the Cold War, turned to those of us in the Shoffler Brunch Group, named after the late MPD Detective, Carl Shoffler, our great friend who was the arresting officer at the infamous break-in at the Watergate complex, which is, by coincidence, in the background of the attached photograph, posted today by Eric Dezenhall.

After being approached by Jack, an old friend who died last year, I recruited another long-time friend, Ronald Fino, who was posing as an American Mafia figure in Russia while working undercover with a joint operation of American intelligence and law-enforcement agencies.

Ronnie and I stepped in, trying to help save Gennady who had also been targeted by the butcher, Vladimir Putin. . . .

In the attached photograph, Jack is on my right. Gennady is on my left.

At no point during this caper did I receive any money or pose as a journalist, objectively covering a story. From the outset, I was an advocate, doing a favor for a friend, . . . because that’s what you do for friends.

20. Jeff Bezos has been silent about the slaughter of Jamal Khashoggi—but not for long
One of the richest men in the world, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, has been widely accused of engineering the brutal torture-murder-dismemberment of journalist Jamal Khashoggi of the *Washington Post*—which is owned by the richest man in the world, Jeff Bezos, who has been silent to date. . . . After the facts of the case become known, I fully expect Bezos to speak loudly and clearly about the horrific slaughter of his reporter—and then to act accordingly to prevent this from ever happening again.

https://www.cnbc.com/2018/10/17/jeff-bezos-has-been-quiet-on-wapos-jamal-khashoggi.html

Additional comments by DEM

I agree with you, Peter. . . . In the coming weeks, I believe that Bezos is going to step up and step out from behind the curtain to make history via a proper defense of journalism and journalists. . . . Certainly, the stage is set for a great opportunity to do so.

* * *

With Donald Trump proclaiming that most journalists outside of Fox News are "enemies of the people"--with the approval of his crazy base which appears to be willing to serve as his enforcers--I think the richest man in the world who owns one of the greatest newspapers in the world--which has just lost a reporter to a brutal murder--is in a very unique position to bring some badly needed order to this chaotic situation . . . but only after the facts of this tragedy are known and confirmed. At the moment, I don't trust anything coming out of Saudi Arabia, Turkey, or the White House.

* * *

Once again, Michael, I don't think anything should be said or done by Bezos until all the facts are in and confirmed. Also, I don't think that standing up against the murder of one of his reporters would be viewed as inappropriate crusading. . . With regard to Bezos and Trump--please correct me if I'm wrong--doesn't Trump simply hate Bezos and hasn't he tried to complicate Amazon's methods of delivery?

* * *

Eric. . . . I totally agree. As I said in my initial posting, Jeff Bezos should, of course, do nothing until "the facts of the case become known." But, when that moment finally arrives, and the proof of the crime and who was behind it is clear and present, then I believe that it will be incumbent upon Bezos--personally--to weigh in mightily and to take an appropriate action which will be heard and understood throughout the world. . . With the distinction of being "the richest man in the world," Bezos commands a tremendous authority and responsibility which, with respect, outweighs the predictable responses from other *Washington Post* executives . . Publisher/CEO Fred Ryan, Executive Editor Marty Baron, and Editorial Page Editor Fred Hiatt. . . All three are fine people. But, when all the facts are in, I will want to hear what Bezos has to say, and I will want to know what he plans to do, using his great wealth and power to stop the future murders of journalists.

* * *

I guess this is Jeff Bezos's long-awaited personal response to the murder of *Washington Post* columnist Jamal Khashoggi--and on a grand scale, no less:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZDjf8YIKHe

18: By neglecting the rural vote again, the Democrats could face another disaster in 2018

The legendary federal whistleblower, Jon Oberg, is not only a trusted friend and colleague. He is also one of the best political prognosticators in Washington, D.C. A strong and loyal Democrat, he boldly predicted the party’s complete wipeout in 2016, including the tragic loss of Hillary Clinton.

Throughout the campaign two years ago, he admonished the Democratic leadership to include the rural vote as an essential variable in its overall political equation. When they didn’t take heed, they lost three states with large rural areas they should have won easily—Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin—along with the Presidency, the U.S. House, and the U.S. Senate.

Now, as the critical 2018 midterm elections approach—and many political oddsmakers are optimistically forecasting a “blue wave”—Oberg, a major proponent of the stalled 2018 Farm Bill, is looking into his crystal ball. And, once again, he is predicting that the Democrats’ negligence in securing the rural vote in 2018, especially among family farmers, could lead to another political disaster.

One Democratic leader who has been listening to Jon and sounding her own alarm is another friend and colleague, Deb Kozikowski of Massachusetts, a member of the Democratic National Committee and the executive director of the progressive RuralVotes, a non-profit rural-advocacy organization. . . . Like Jon, Deb is trying hard to making a difference.

For the frightening details, see Jon’s latest op-ed, “Democrats Haven’t Learned.”
https://viewfromthreecapitals.blogspot.com/2018/10/democrats-havent-learned.html?fbclid=IwAR3IXEXXGgsndLj40EAxk__6Z7qxOrD9-SIZSs5yZOdJNr5VDm0mUXmgw

Additional comments by DEM

It's like the DNC has decentralized with a minimalist national comprehensive strategy that underplays the importance of the rural vote -- just as Jon and Deb have been saying. . . . To be sure, it is not a winning strategy. . . .

*  *  *


**14: Mob guys as civil libertarians who simultaneously support right-wing causes**


The real problem in waging a legitimate war against organized crime is political. . . . The left usually balks at any suggestion of electronic surveillance, which, unfortunately, is the most effective means of gathering intelligence against organized crime: You bug these guys. You wiretap them.

Meantime, the right decentralizes power from the federal government down to the state-and-local levels. Because of decentralization, organized-crime figures, in too many cases, enjoy first-name relationships with the latest crop of state-and-local political figures—with all of their newfound power and within their own jurisdictions.

Consequently, mob guys have an uncanny ability to be civil libertarians and support right-wing causes simultaneously. . . .

When I want to interview a Mafia guy, I tell him that I want to talk about the alleged abuses of his civil rights by the federal government. . . . I have never met a mob guy who isn’t against wiretapping, and all are in favor of strong personal privacy laws.

And, without exception, they all complain about the violations of their rights and freedoms by the FBI and the IRS.
Additional comments by DEM

Casey. . . . I always respected Bill Ouseley, one of the good guys whom I interviewed for my 1989 book about the NFL and the Mafia. . . . BTW: Among the alleged bad guys, I knew and interviewed the late D.C. bookmaker Julius Silverman of US v. Silverman. . . .


11: Gennady and me at the Russo-Dezenhall book party at the Spy Museum


During tonight’s fabulous book party at the International Spy Museum at L’Enfant Plaza for Gus Russo and Eric Dezenhall’s wonderful new work, Best of Enemies. . . . Here’s a photograph of me with Gennady Vasilenko, the former KGB agent whom Ronald Fino and I—as a favor for a friend, the late ex-CIA officer, Jack Platt—tried to spring from a Russian prison after Gennady was marked for death by Russia's FSB which accused him of revealing to the FBI that the agency had a spy in its midst—aka the notorious American traitor, FBI counter-intelligence officer Robert Hanssen, who later pleaded guilty to espionage and, in lieu of being put to death, was sentenced to life in prison. . . .

The Russo-Dezenhall book details the life and times of the two former enemies turned best friends and business partners, Platt, the American, and Vasilenko, the Russian, who was later sent to the U.S. in an exchange for the infamous Anna Chapman-Russian espionage network in New York during a highly publicized 2010 spy swap. . . .

And, yeah, Robert De Niro, who also tried to help the imprisoned Vasilenko, was at the party tonight, too. With the De Niro-Scorsese-Pacino-Pesci-Keitel film fantasy about the murder of Jimmy Hoffa due to be released soon—as well as my published insistence that De Niro and company have been misled and conned by a lying and dying Mafia hit man who, for money, confessed to a crime he did not commit—I decided not to repeat what I had already told De Niro, face-to-face, four years ago. . . . In a rare moment on my part, better judgment prevailed.

(Photo credit: Jeff Goldberg)

Additional comments by DEM

For details about my role, as well as that of my great friend, Ronald Fino, see pages 246-253. . . . If it’s not already obvious, I’m really proud of what we did—and why we did it.

* * *

Best of Enemies receives a great review in tomorrow’s New York Times Book Review. . . .

9: The Mafia is now “high-tech, online, and offshore” and still The Enemy Within


Mafia guys are no longer knuckle-dragging 8th-grade dropouts. The real leaders are now well educated and even sophisticated, as was the late Jack Tocco of the Detroit underworld, aka “The Partnership.”
While writing my 1989 book about the NFL and the Mafia, I visited a bookmaking joint in Chicago where the most sophisticated piece of machinery was a hand-cranked adding machine. Today, many of these guys have gone high-tech, online, and offshore—far from the reach of federal law-enforcement agencies.

But now, as before, they are still The Enemy Within, just as Robert Kennedy rightly declared 58 years ago.

Additional comments by DEM

Edward... I think you're right on all points. Here's a 1978 photo I took of my mentor—the late, great Walter Sheridan, the former head of RFK's "Get-Hoffa" squad at DOJ—shortly after the release of my first book, The Hoffa Wars... God bless Walter, one of the finest people I've ever known.

6: Returning to investigate the Mafia

Weary of the dark and treacherous world of probing American politics, I have decided to take a hiatus and return to the serenity and tranquility of investigating the Mafia... . . .

Additional comments by DEM

My OIC grand-jury leaks caper during the Clinton-impeachment drama—as good as my evidence was—turned into a complete bust during the Kavanaugh brawl... I couldn't be more disappointed.

September 2018

29: Spy versus spy: The Best of Enemies by Gus Russo and Eric Dezenhall

A few years ago, after the CIA inexplicably refused to get involved, I was asked to do a favor by a heroic former CIA agent, a friend of mine, to help a heroic but imprisoned former KGB agent, a friend and business partner of his, who was in grave danger after being accused by Russia’s FSB of exposing a top Russian spy in the FBI named Robert Hanssen, who had pleaded guilty to espionage in the U.S. and was sentenced to life in prison in lieu of being put to death... . . .

There was no journalism involved in this caper and certainly no money. This was strictly a favor for a friend... To be sure, I would do it again, because that’s what you do for friends. And, besides, I felt that, under the circumstances, it was my patriotic duty to help the ex-KGB guy.

In the end—in an event I had nothing to do with—he was suddenly and unexpectedly sent to the U.S. in a highly publicized 2010 spy swap involving a beautiful Russian agent, named Anna Chapman, and her espionage network operating in New York... . . .

This bizarre but true spy-versus-spy story—which also features a real-life cameo role by actor Robert De Niro, who also tried to help the ex-KGB agent, Gennady Vasilenko, as a favor for our mutual friend, the ex-CIA guy, the late Jack Platt—is only a small part of an extremely important and very exciting new book, written by two fabulous nonfiction authors, Gus Russo and Eric Dezenhall.
The Best of Enemies will be released this Tuesday, October 2. (For details about my role, as well as that of my great friend, Ronald Fino, see pages 246-253.)


24: My 50th high-school reunion


I’ve just returned to Washington after a quick trip to my beloved hometown—Akron, Ohio—to attend my 50th high-school reunion. . . . Since many of our classmates last saw each other in 1968, most if not all of us have faced daunting trials and tribulations with, among other things, our careers, our families and friends, and our health and overall welfare. Everyone had amazing stories to tell—filled with comedy, drama, and tragedy—about their lives and times during the last half-century. . . . And as we remembered and honored the 92 students who have since died, we also celebrated that those of us in attendance—who have survived—were able to be together at this wonderful event. . . . Kudos to the reunion committee for a memorable evening.

18: Bill Knoedelseder on the American auto industry

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=2147462418804958&id=1000062236621784&__xts__[0]=68.ARC80QrWvJOVjyOwiH4jZ3CBacoLYF7ReOMI28zm8tz9ZVoqO4_Wsp1Y4sr6GXzon0Ki8I0VqcjNdThg28ytjTHyFT0Bv4Ka3KyEEhnZ1E1H7rP Gothamw4dWORhEME57qYHmVkeRXPw7d1N9KpM-oD7Mu2WqWFJiKHyZc7ooJeEmGebc8H1Aeeg&__tn__=-R

Our great friend and loyal colleague, author Bill Knoedelseder, has just published his latest penetrating investigation of a major American institution . . . the auto industry. Well researched and beautifully written, Bill has another big best-seller en route. . . . To all my friends, especially in Detroit, let’s get behind Bill and his wonderful new book, which was released today.


13: Responding to Kavanaugh and Starr: “Neither . . . are telling the truth”

With regard to the OIC leaks leading to the Clinton impeachment drama, I have read Brett Kavanaugh’s responses to the questions from the Senators on the Judiciary Committee, as well as Ken Starr’s passages in his new book. . . . I recognize that I’m just a grunt crime reporter, but I know what I saw, and I know what I heard—and I know what I tape recorded. Neither Kavanaugh nor Starr are telling the truth. . . . I stand by my story: http://www.nationalmemo.com/brett-kavanaugh-exposed-ken-starr-designated-leaker/

Additional comments by DEM

Kavanaugh also denied sports gambling. If he’s lying and has ever placed a bet through a bookmaker, he would now be blackmailable—and that bookmaker could soon own an associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

* * *

In refusing to release reporters, like me, who have interviewed him from our mutual off-the-record agreements, smear-merchant Kavanaugh now waxes noble, saying, “It would be inappropriate in this context to disregard that foundational privilege and protection for the press.” . . . In this
context, Kavanaugh is just protecting himself—not the press—while hiding his abuses and excesses during his tenure with and as a cutout for the OIC. . . . Consequently, my interview with Kavanaugh, as it has for the past twenty years, remains off the record.

11: Brett Kavanaugh was Ken Starr’s designated leaker

Disappointed by lawyers from the Senate Judiciary Committee who kept me on the hook through the end of the confirmation hearings last Friday, I faced a use-it-or-lose-it situation over the weekend with regard to my twenty-year-old information about Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh. In my eleventh-hour effort to get my story out, the National Memo, overnight, agreed to publish my work prior to the committee vote—which is certain to clear Kavanaugh for a final vote by the full Senate. . . . As the New York Times Editorial Board has declared: “Brett Kavanaugh can’t be trusted.”

Here’s my first-person story—in which my off-the-record interview with Kavanaugh still remains off the record: http://www.nationalmemo.com/brett-kavanaugh-exposed-ken-starr-designated-leaker/

Additional comments by DEM

Here are the written questions about the OIC leaks that Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) has submitted to Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh. (The issues behind all these questions are contained in my affidavit: http://www.moldea.com/affidavit-OIC-09032018.pdf.)

7. In response to my questioning regarding your interactions with the media during the Starr investigation, you said, “I spoke to the reporters at the direction and authorization of Judge Starr.”

a. During the Starr investigation, did you ever speak with members of the press or other authors about the investigation without explicit direction from Judge Starr or your superiors? . . . . If so, do you release the reporters in these instances from any confidentiality obligations related to these conversations?

b. In your testimony, you said you would let me know whether you are willing to release the reporters from their confidentially obligations if Judge Starr allows the reporters to disclose the conversations. Whether or not Judge Starr may have a role in releasing reporters from obligations of source-protection confidentiality related to his investigation of the Clintons, are you personally willing to release reporters of any such obligations, separate and apart from whatever obligations Judge Starr may claim?

c. Were you ever an off-the-record source to the press or other authors? If so, were all these conversations at the explicit direction of Judge Starr?

d. Did you ever provide non-public information regarding the investigation to reporters off the record?

e. Did you ever provide information on non-public matters relating to the grand jury, including but not limited to the identity of past or planned witnesses and/or the nature or content of their testimony, to reporters off the record?

f. During or since your nomination hearing, have you been in touch with Judge Starr regarding reporters or source-protection confidentiality obligations from that investigation? If so, please explain fully the content of and reason for those communications.

Here are Kavanaugh’s answers to the committee’s questions... https://www.scribd.com/document/388486021/Kavanaugh-Responses-to-Questions-for-the-Record#from_embed

8: The FBI, Rhys Thomas, and The Ruby Slippers of Oz
https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=214277989273210&id=100006236621784&__xts__[0]=68.ARBBPKFubtOqPhnRW66-5aLDdcUaI.13j0nVR.nF356UdQA5OFkwwVYcu09XgVf99gHB2vmHPyjSSjO-WajfH1zZ7IAasGIfRWGF6rLS7rWjye48wLCF1KKzRo0FOx8aV9W_l15_a70NejClEEEZJbJv67DSlgwzrNhAAbAhCzVDTSh2U5LyA&__tn__=-R

We are very proud of our long-time friend, poker buddy, and colleague, author Rhys Thomas, whose 1989 book, The Ruby Slippers of Oz, was a touchstone for the FBI in its discovery this week of the stolen slippers which were snatched thirteen years ago from the Judy Garland Museum in Grand Rapids, Minnesota, Garland’s hometown. Rhys told the New York Times that the slippers were “the holy grail of all Hollywood memorabilia.”... Rhys lives in Los Angeles with his lovely wife, Michelle, who teaches ballroom dancing.

Now, Rhys, could you help me find Jimmy Hoffa?


Additional comments by DEM


6: My 2018 affidavit about Brett Kavanaugh and the OIC leaks

Facing the breathtaking news of Bob Woodward’s latest pre-publication scoops in the Washington Post and the Anonymous op-ed in the New York Times, I failed to get much traction for my sworn declaration about U.S. Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh and his role in the OIC’s leaks operation twenty years ago.

This afternoon in open session, the first question asked by Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) was based on a proposal I made in paragraph 17 of my affidavit in which I wrote: “I ask Kavanaugh to release me—along with all other journalists with whom he had similar arrangements—from our off-the-record agreements.”

Upon being asked by Senator Whitehouse to offer such a blanket waiver, Kavanaugh chose not to do so. Notably, my off-the-record interview with Kavanaugh—after twenty years—still remains off the record.

Here is my 2018 affidavit, which I gave to attorneys from the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee on September 3. ... http://www.moldea.com/Affidavit-OIC-09032018.pdf

Additional comments by DEM

And here is my first affidavit about the OIC leaks from twenty years ago... http://www.moldea.com/DEM-OIC-AFF-08241998.pdf
Here’s a portion of the transcript of yesterday’s action at the Kavanaugh-confirmation hearing . . .
In response to Senator Whitehouse’s invitation to provide journalists, like me, with a waiver for
our off-the-record conversations with him, Kavanaugh claims, “I talked, of course, on the record.”
. . . That is simply not true.

Just now, in round three, Senator Whitehouse asked Kavanaugh for clarification of his earlier
position. Kavanaugh replied that he wants to think about it . . . We are still in the game.

The New York Times Editorial Board insists that Brett Kavanaugh cannot be trusted:
hearings.html?action=click&module=Opinion&pgtype=Homepage

4: The finale of The RFK Tapes: A debate between Bill Klaber and me
eVrdgWw18dnzHUO/Wo2MVs5huyTg4ANOReebFC_9Y6ZzAJM2A5BmeTXZsRYYJVbmuVu_w49Nm3P4RhsKkyunFHTO7hUsUk5IMvY
YBjpRAqiAo9tvCuqkSz0KzvUVv80e7Dq9YtEcplbKXcyYhAYMBHYGWRtLQn8Q&__tn__=R-R-R

The talented producers and the excellent staff of The RFK Tapes included me in their group picture,
marking the end of their series with a dramatic debate between Bill Klaber and me about the crime-scene
issues of the Robert Kennedy murder case . . . The brawl took place on August 29 in front of a live,
standing-room-only studio audience in Brooklyn. Go to 13:55 to 30:40 and 35:50 to 40:32 for the action.

If you have the time to listen to the entire broadcast there is some wonderful music performed by Rosaleen
Eastman.

http://rfktapes.com/bonus-live-in-brooklyn/

August 2018

27: The Columbia Journalism supports my decision to discuss Brett Kavanaugh, aka “OIC #2”
https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=2137162676501591&isid=1000062366217844&_ts__[0]=68.ARBnmuMb5jscxa73k7lxsH
WT3dTXsSOKNqxBpDUTF4RfiOzxHMjcrL-wGSE-VhgfGVyweshFQWh0k640-Q3yR3RItKwxDQji2WsoS6ud3zAczq6SwqJ9QvjJ-
YGip0Hqtx85Q4&_tn__=R-R-R

To those journalists who are giving me grief about my decision to accept the invitation from attorneys with
the Senate Judiciary Committee, as well as the Washington Post, to reveal undisclosed details about my on-
the-record conversations with the Kenneth Starr-OIC crowd during the Clinton unpleasantness twenty years ago—including with Brett Kavanaugh, Donald Trump’s Supreme Court nominee—please check out Todd
Gitlin’s just-released article in the Columbia Journalism Review, arguably the principal voice for American
journalism. . . . Note: My August 1998 affidavit about the OIC leaks to U.S. District Judge Norma
Holloway Johnson is hyperlinked in the story. I disguised Kavanaugh in this sworn declaration as “OIC
#2.”
Gitlin insists that more journalists should expose what I viewed as the corrupt relationship between the Starr-OIC forces and a stable of selected Washington reporters who, in return for non-public smears about the Clintons on an off-the-record basis, became shills and stalking horses for Starr and his prosecutorial goon squad.

https://www.cjr.org/criticism/reporters-should-out-kavanaugh.php

Additional comments by DEM

“I’m glad what I done.” (Terry Malloy, On the Waterfront)

* * *

You know how much respect I have for you, Craig. But that’s a bullshit charge. . . . I still haven’t revealed the substance of my off-the-record conversation with Brett Kavanaugh at my lunch with him on January 19, 1998—just hours before the Lewinsky scandal exploded. It has remained off the record—and it will remain off the record. The confidentiality of our interview has been maintained. . . . And I did “expose the ‘corrupt’ OIC relationships with reporters” in my sworn statement. That’s why I executed it. . . . Other than that, you are a great journalist whom I admire and respect.

* * *

For the most part, I’m catching hell for tape recording my conversations with Starr’s two top deputies, Hickman Ewing and Jackie Bennett—the transcripts of which are attached to my 1998 sworn statement—and then playing them for the judiciary committee attorneys, as well as for two reporters with the Washington Post last week. Ewing specifically named Kavanaugh during our interview. Bennett referred to but did not name Kavanaugh, who then called me shortly after my conversation with Bennett. . . . In my view, without the tapes, it was my word against theirs. The tapes are the final arbiter as to who is telling the truth about what was said. . . . And, just to be clear, neither my conversation with Ewing nor Bennett was off the record.

* * *

My friend, just watch. I’m about to be thrown under the bus again--just as I was by the Jello Left after my dogged investigation led to the earth-shaking resignation of the Speaker of the House, Republican Bob Livingston, a few hours before President Clinton was impeached on December 19, 1998. . . . The word is out that the Senate Democrats have already decided to punt on this one--allowing a handful of red-state Senate Democrats to vote to confirm Kavanaugh with the hope of preserving their seats in the Senate. . . . I understand the logic, but it’s frustrating. . . . I know you’re hip, Michael.

* * *

Roger that, Michael. But, for the sake of the world, we have to hang tough, stay united, and win the midterms. . . . If the Republicans maintain control of both houses of Congress after November, Trump will declare a mandate and life, as we know it, will change dramatically.

* * *

From the 2004 documentary, *The Hunting of the President*: . . . .

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dR4K3MVbVKE

25: Part Ten of *The RFK Tapes* next week

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=2133442646773602&__xts__[0]=68.ARPrHAcW716Y9lXvEvE4Rmpq2hh_Sw0c0DaK4iG-3sBSYvaHlTZ2WoYsvrSRvL-DazYwqJxitV_14iq32i86EqMPserXN50C1j1M0Cooh2317pnrF0V-U52AD1riSvWyboG50&__tn__=-R

For a good time for those who like these capers, check out Part Nine, the most recent broadcast—which features my interviews with Sirhan Sirhan and Thane Eugene Cesar, the controversial security guard who had a gun in his hand and powder burns on his face at the RFK crime scene. Part Ten will be recorded in Brooklyn and broadcast nationwide next week. . . Here’s Part Nine: [http://rfktapes.com/9-heres-where-you-and-i-part-ways/](http://rfktapes.com/9-heres-where-you-and-i-part-ways/)

23: Discussing Vince Foster the OIC leaks in the 2004, film, *The Hunting of the President*

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=2133442646773602&__xts__[0]=68.ARAr8AcW716Y9lXvEvE4Rmpq2hh_Sw0c0DaK4iG-3sBSYvaHlTZ2WoYsvrSRvL-DazYwqJxitV_14iq32i86EqMPserXN50C1j1M0Cooh2317pnrF0V-U52AD1riSvWyboG50&__tn__=-R

Vince Foster, the OIC leaks, and teasing the alleged role of U.S. Supreme Court nominee and Ken Starr protege, Brett Kavanagh. . . .

In 2004, the real-life political-thriller documentary, *The Hunting of the President*, was released in selected theaters around the country. Produced and directed by Nikolas Perry and Harry Thomason, this remarkable film was based on the best-selling book by two legendary investigative journalists: Joe Conason and Gene Lyons.

In this 4:18 segment, I explained how the right-wing media maliciously turned the tragic suicide of Vincent Foster into a premeditated murder orchestrated by Bill and Hillary Clinton. Then, I recounted how Kenneth Starr and his Office of the Independent Counsel effectively used damaging well-placed leaks via a stable of corrupt reporters to supercharge the ongoing smear campaign against the Clintons.

What was the extent of Brett Kavanaugh’s role in the OIC leaks? I was told that he was the OIC’s go-to person.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dR4K3MVbVKE

Additional comments by DEM

In my sworn declaration to U.S. District Judge Norma Holloway Johnson of August 24, 1998—in which “OIC #2” is Brett Kavanaugh, with whom I met—I explained the process of leaks from the OIC. See: [http://www.moldea.com/DEM-OIC-AFF-08241998.pdf](http://www.moldea.com/DEM-OIC-AFF-08241998.pdf)

22: My lunch with Brett Kavanaugh

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=2133442646773602&__xts__[0]=68.ARCm3D9rbe1l7QYUBDKbfLnS3veWJ7eSw5URtUCjek1gVnMju9f2E2qFgbFmNidfoaCZYSIrCzYYAd8JOuaku0cSN_PNAdz76cw8MMiHbwiwYMaeFBplbyxax575_dV_q-mmM1I&__tn__=-R

In December 1997, while I was finishing my manuscript about Vince Foster’s suicide, I received information that Kenneth Starr and the Office of the Independent Counsel (OIC) were planning to release a second report about Foster’s death. Fearing that the report would eclipse my book, perhaps even make it dead-on-arrival, I approached the OIC, asking for confirmation that my manuscript was accurate and timely. . . . The two OIC officials I spoke with—on the record and on tape—led me to Brett Kavanaugh, who had worked with the OIC.

As arranged, Kavanaugh called me on January 16, 1998, and three days later, we had lunch at the Old Ebbitt Grill, speaking off the record. Within hours after our meeting, the Monica Lewinsky scandal broke wide open.

Long story short, several months later, in the heat of the Clinton impeachment drama, I filed a sworn declaration in federal court with U.S. District Judge Norma Holloway Johnson, who oversaw the OIC’s investigation of the Clintons—which I was convinced was political, partisan, and punitive against Bill and Hillary Clinton.

In my affidavit, which is attached, I referred to Kavanaugh as OIC #2.

This afternoon’s story in Washington Post that Jeff posted explains how I came to identify Kavanaugh without violating our off-the-record agreement. . . . Stay tuned.


Additional comments by DEM

This is a very complicated story. In short, as I told the reporters at the Washington Post yesterday, as well as the attorneys from the Senate Judiciary Committee on Saturday, I am not discussing my off-the-record conversation with Brett Kavanaugh on January 19, 1998 -- because that was our agreement, as I stated in my sworn declaration.

In response, the Post reporters and the committee attorneys believe that -- on their own -- they have discovered previous statements in which I discussed that subject without specifically naming my source.

This is not mentioned in the story, but I am asking the judiciary committee to request that Kavanaugh provide a waiver to every journalist with whom he spoke off the record while he was with the OIC. . . . If I receive such a waiver, I will discuss what he told me. Without it, I won’t.

But let’s be clear here -- The fact that the OIC was leaking non-public information off-the-record about the Clintons to a stable of like-minded reporters was the worst goddamn secret in Washington during the Clinton unpleasantness -- which is why I took sides.

* * *

Let me tell you something else. . . . This is as much a media scandal as it was an OIC-leaking scandal -- which is why I don’t expect this story to get a whole lot of traction in 2018, twenty years after the fact, especially while we are in the midst of “The Golden Age of Investigative Journalism,” attempting to report on this corrupt, dishonest, mobeed-up, Russian stooge Donald Trump.

* * *

Here is an April 27, 1998, interview I did with the great Keith Olbermann about the OIC leaks -- shortly after President Clinton's attorneys filed their complaint against Kenneth Starr and OIC for their allegedly illegal leaks. See: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S_Yhbite3Fw
Here’s the Special Master’s unsealed report—in which Kavanaugh is not mentioned: https://www.archives.gov/files/foia/docid-70105464.pdf.


* * *

The Republicans are touting the fact that Brett Kavanaugh’s name doesn’t appear in the Special Master’s January 29, 1999, report about the OIC leaks. But that report primarily focused on news reporting during the Lewinsky drama. . . . The key characters prior to that—when the leaks were hot and heavy and before President Clinton’s attorneys filed a formal complaint against the OIC on February 6, 1998—are also not mentioned. They include but not limited to Hickman Ewing, Vincent Foster, and even Hillary Clinton. https://www.archives.gov/files/foia/docid-70105464.pdf

20: When a “rat” is not a rat


“A rat?”. . . . What the hell is Donald Trump talking about?

When a “rat” is not a rat. . . . The story of Mafia-bookmaker Bill Jahoda of The Chicago Outfit.

http://www.moldea.com/Jahoda.html

Additional comments by DEM

Here is Bill Jahoda’s obituary in the Chicago Tribune (5-11-2004). . . .

18: Scorsese-De Niro’s The Irishman will be postponed

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=2123702444014289&id=100006236621784&__xts__[0]=68.ARDrpGqwsODumom-cfO6VKv80YbtW8uMOXoelMoY84TcN04rTGLQXZD0t_m9G1-SiMOP36tNAaq_eVQNmfACKZBy2gsAV1v4ny5-5GfJJRdEcv7BkmXRztcMeimNf49Im9qcvUGw&__tn__=-R

Eric Shaun of Fox News informed me last night that the widely anticipated release of the motion picture, The Irishman—the Martin Scorsese-Robert De Niro-Al Pacino-Joe Pesci-Harvey Keitel-Ray Romano film fantasy about the alleged role of pathological liar Frank Sheeran in the Jimmy Hoffa murder case—has been postponed. . . . I couldn't be more disappointed.

Eric, who played a key role in getting this film project off the ground in 2006, is preparing a two-hour documentary about the Hoffa caper which was originally intended to coincide with the release of the movie. . . . Despite the delay, Eric, relentless as always, plans to air his work—for which I have been interviewed at length—later this year.

The attached story about Scorsese's homage to Oliver Stone's JFK—great cinema, terrible history—by the respected crime reporter, Larry Henry, might hold some clues.
Additional comments by DEM

Hoffa was closed out, institutionally, from regaining the presidency of the Teamsters. So he sought revenge against those he believed had betrayed him by ratting them out and jamming them up. He was cooperating with at least one grand jury in Detroit, as well as with one and possibly two congressional committees in Washington. He was also working on a tell-all book, which was released after his murder but was total garbage. . . . Near the end, the most interesting thing he did was his last interview with the great Jerry Stanecki, our friend and colleague, for Playboy.

* * *

Jeff. . . . We are going to have to agree to disagree about that. For all we know, Sheeran might have whacked someone else there. Of course, I also respect Scott M. Burnstein's work--even when I disagree with him. Scott is among the best in the business, and he is a friend. . . . As you know, I stand with Ralph Picardo and his entire story, which includes that Hoffa was stuffed in a 55-gallon drum, loaded onto a Gateway Transportation truck, and shipped to New Jersey. . . . Phil Moscato admitted to me--on tape and with no money involved--that he and Sal Briguglio buried the body at his landfill in Jersey City. . . . However, I still believe that Sheeran was responsible for luring Hoffa into the car--which I suggested in my 1978 book . . . 26 years before the publication of Sheeran's one-source book in which he confessed to a murder he didn't commit. . . . And Sheeran had the audacity to threaten to sue me in 1979 for saying it. . . . Fret not, my friend. When Scorsese-De Niro-Pacino-Pesci-Keitel-Romano say in their movie that Sheeran is Hoffa's killer, that simple false fact will become history. There will be no national uproar as to whether Sal Briguglio or Frank Sheeran murdered Jimmy Hoffa. . . . In other words, I am going to lose that fight, but I will be in there, fighting.

16: S & S, Omarosa’s publisher, to Trump’s attorney who wants to suppress her book: Drop dead!

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=212720865416368&cid=100006236621784&__xts__[0]=68.ARD8KDZ3ZQPaouD1bSTElVx3CEjbdewWv710fus5HrF3ksk3mlvneVJxsTAy50eEpwL2ynkSILy0gCTsHl6Vswqt9vGcvJ4C16y2KhGr1USNYe7uOcYHwWP0-wq2awwAWWX88&__tn__=-R

Omarosa’s publisher to Donald Trump’s attorney who is trying to suppress her book and chill her words. . . . Drop dead.

Here’s the letter from Simon & Schuster's legal counsel—which almost turns Omarosa into a sympathetic character and a writers' rights champion . . . She's out-Trumping Trump -- and, as long as she has tapes to play, I will be cheering her on.

(h/t Gus Russo)


14: My interviews with Sirhan Sirhan and Gene Cesar are featured in The RFK Tapes


I am the only person in the world, living or dead, who has interviewed both Sirhan Sirhan, the confessed and convicted murderer of Senator Robert Kennedy, and Thane Eugene Cesar, the controversial security guard—who had a gun in his hand and powder burns on his face at the RFK crime scene—whom many have accused of being the actual killer.
Attached is the newly released Part Nine of a well-received and respected ten-part series about the 1968 murder of Senator Kennedy, *The RFK Tapes*. During the 40-minute broadcast, my interviews with Sirhan and Cesar are featured. . . This segment demonstrates how an investigative journalist operates on a high-profile case—or at least how this investigative journalist operated.

My occasional rough language aside, I’m very proud of how I am portrayed in this excellent piece of broadcast journalism. . . . Of course, in my 1995 book, I concluded that Sirhan did it and did it alone—and that Cesar was an innocent man, wrongly accused.

If you don’t have time to listen to the broadcast, there is a transcript available at the site.


*Additional comments by DEM*

The high drama of the finale of *The RFK Tapes* will be live from New York in front of a studio audience on Wednesday, August 29, which will be offered on the podcast’s website. . . . From what I’ve been told, the program will pit me against Bill Klaber, the most credible critic of the Sirhan case and an old friend of mine. Bill accompanied me on my first of three interviews with Sirhan at Corcoran State Penitentiary in 1993.

* * *

I am still waiting for the *New York Times* to clean up the mess that reporter Tom Jackman and the *Washington Post* created with their pro-conspiracy barrage of articles for the 50th anniversary of Senator Kennedy’s murder in early June -- which was provoked by the irresponsible claims by Bobby Kennedy Jr. that Sirhan Sirhan was innocent. . . . When RFK Jr. called, pre-Jackman, and told me that he had been turned around by his three-hour visit with Sirhan, I replied, “This is the guy who killed your dad.”

**13: En route: A clarifying moment of reckoning**


Sooner or later, the evidence will become proof and the proof will be incontrovertible that Donald Trump’s right-wing, die-hard supporters elected and kept in office a totally corrupt, dishonest, and mobbed-up president, who was also a Russian stooge. At that point, they will have to decide whether they love America and its institutions more than the divisive and diversionary race war he is waging against the poor and the powerless at home and abroad, as well as against a group of wealthy black athletes in professional sports.

When those in Trump’s base also discover that the “fake news” media—such as, among others, the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, *Newsweek*, CNN, and *Mother Jones*—have been telling the truth all along, will they finally admit that Fox News, more often than not, has been feeding them nothing but lies as part of its active disinformation campaign to protect Donald Trump?

A clarifying moment of reckoning is coming—hopefully, before the midterms in November.

*Additional comments by DEM*

Sadly, Brendan, you’re probably right. . . . But, up to this point, most of Trump’s supporters have been benignly deaf, dumb, and blind. . . After the proof of his corruption and mob/Russian stoogery is finally disclosed, those who continue to support Trump will then be complicit.

* * *
As you already know, Claudia, the Democrats in Ohio blew it last week, because they didn't pay enough attention to their rural constituents there. . . . And, if they don't start to pay attention to rural votes nationwide in the midterms, they are going to fall short again.

* * *

Very well said, Joye. . . . As you might or might not know, I have been blogging pro-centrism for the last couple of weeks. I still have high hopes that the Democrats and those in the center-right can find common ground after this disgraceful and shameless president finally leaves the stage. . . . With regard to the loony right -- the religious hypocrites, the gun-nuts, and the arm-chair warriors -- I have little hope for them. They will need to be deprogrammed like Moonies.

9: On the 44th anniversary of Richard Nixon’s resignation

True wisdom from an anti-heroic yet tragic Richard Nixon on the 44th anniversary of his resignation as President: August 9, 1974. . . . “Always give your best, never get discouraged, never be petty; always remember, others may hate you, but those who hate you don't win unless you hate them, and then you destroy yourself.”

8: Is Rick Gates Donald Trump’s Mark Fuhrman?

In the midst of Donald Trump’s race war against the poor and the powerless, which supercharges his popularity among his right-wing base, I fully expect him to compare Rick Gates’s performance on the stand in the Paul Manafort criminal case to that of Mark Fuhrman, the poster boy for police racism, during the O.J. Simpson case. . . . If Manafort’s attorney can use Gates to contaminate the trial, just as Johnny Cochran and F. Lee Bailey used Fuhrman, then Manafort has a chance at acquittal. . . . And, if Manafort is somehow acquitted, then Trump will scream “witch hunt” and have his grounds to fire Robert Mueller.

To make matters worse, the nutty judge in this “Rocket Docket” case, who was appointed by Ronald Reagan, appears to be complicit with his blatant attempts to undermine the prosecution’s case.

7: The Rocket Docket: Style over substance, brevity over clarity

The Paul Manafort criminal trial has made me think back to a civil case I covered last fall that was tried in the same venue . . . the U.S. District Court for the Eastern Division of Virginia in Alexandria, aka “The Rocket Docket.” After years of hearing about this legendary court—where supposedly no-nonsense judges, moving with great speed and efficiency, supercharge the separation of the wheat-from-the-chaff legal process while slamming down slow-moving attorneys—I was excited to see it function up close and personal.

But, almost immediately, I was struck by the sheer chaos of the operation. The judge in the case—for the sheer sake of expedience and nothing more—arbitrarily refused to admit important evidence from the plaintiff’s case despite a passionate appeal to the bench. Clearly in error, the judge was immovable and intractable, refusing to reconsider his decision.

Notably, this federal judge had ruled against the plaintiff on three separate pre-trial motions—only to be reversed on appeal all three times, including by a decision handed down by the U.S. Supreme Court.

In another situation, when an attorney said he had a 45-minute video deposition to submit as evidence to the jury, the judge, on more than one occasion, instructed him and others in similar situations to do it in half that time. On the spot, the attorneys and their staffs had to make immediate adjustments with their set presentations.
Also, not unlike the Manafort case, this was a highly complicated financial trial, presented in front of a jury of eight average citizens who were instructed by the judge not to take any notes. I knew the case well, but the attorneys’ arguments on both sides occasionally bewildered me. I couldn’t believe that sixty percent of the evidence and testimony provided wasn’t flying over the jurors’ heads—because of the great haste, provoked by the judge, to move things along.

Speaking of the jury, in one instance during a lunch break, I stepped onto an empty elevator, which was quickly populated by all eight members of the jury. Although some of them smiled—recognizing me as the lone reporter covering the trial, sitting in the back row of the courtroom—I didn’t want to say or do anything that could jeopardize . . . whatever could be jeopardized.

I didn’t smile. I didn’t look at anyone. I didn’t say a word.

After getting off the elevator, I went to the courthouse lunchroom where I stood in line with no fewer than three of those jurors, as well as the judge in the case, one of his clerks, and staff members of the defense team.

After lunch—while I sat in the hallway outside the courtroom, organizing my notes—I saw a defense attorney walk out of the men’s bathroom, followed by two jurors, and then a lawyer for the plaintiff.

I had to wonder about the history of jury-tampering in this district court. Certainly, the opportunities for mischief were clear and present.

In my opinion, The Rocket Docket—which, no doubt, works well in most cases—was nothing more than a forum for style over substance, as well as brevity over clarity in this particular case.

With the stakes so high, I fear what could happen during the next few days at the Manafort trial—where, remarkably, the jury has not been sequestered and another prima donna judge has insisted on moving things along quickly at the expense of the prosecution’s case.

http://www.moldea.com/CGW-blog.pdf

7: How and why Sixty Minutes and World News Tonight killed competing stories about Paul Laxalt’s mob ties

With the death yesterday of former RNC chairman Paul Laxalt—the mobbed-up senator from Nevada and Ronald Reagan’s best friend in American politics—I post this 1985 inside story about how and why both CBS’s Sixty Minutes and ABC’s World News Tonight killed competing exposés about Laxalt’s ties to organized crime. . . . I co-authored this piece for the Village Voice with the late, great Robbie Friedman.

For this article, I interviewed, among others, Sixty Minutes legends Mike Wallace, Don Hewitt, and Lowell Bergman, as well as Joseph Yablonsky, then the special-agent-in-charge of the FBI’s field office in Las Vegas.

http://www.moldea.com/60Minutes.html

Additional comments by DEM

Here’s the New York Times obituary for Laxalt. . . .

*   *   *
Here is the *Las Vegas Review-Journal* on Laxalt's death. . .

### 5: Getting whacked watching *Mama Mia?*


Last night, Mimi dragged me to a theater in Virginia to see the sequel to *Mama Mia*. Throughout the film, I kept thinking, “What a humiliating place to get whacked—right here, right now, watching this particular movie.”

* Additional comments by DEM *

All morning, some damn song about some damn dancing queen has been going through my damn head.

* * *

I'm in the midst of hitting the trifecta, pissing off the mob, the Russians, and the right-wingers.

* * *

Regardless of where we live, all of us who claim Akron as our hometown are united by LeBron.

### 3: Taken this afternoon at the “back door” of the Russian Embassy on Tunlaw Road in Washington, D.C.


According to the entire U.S. intelligence community, behind this iron gate and inside those concrete walls, the Russian government has and continues to hatch plans to sabotage our lives. . . Meantime, Donald Trump denies what his own intelligence officials confirm while celebrating his very suspicious relationship with the Russian dictator and describing any reporting on this issue as “fake news.” (Photo by DEM)

![Image of the Russian Embassy](https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=2113572425527291&set=a.1406746079543266.1073741831.100006236621784&type=3&permPage=1)

### 1: Trump enriching his wealthy base as he prepares to provoke an end to the Mueller probe


As part of his ongoing race war against the poor and the powerless, bully-boy Donald Trump—who wants more guns and religion in our public schools—is embracing bigger federal deficits, including an additional $100-billion tax cut for America’s fast-emerging oligarchy, augmenting his earlier economy-busting
trillion-dollar tax-reform plan. Meantime, he is enjoying the disciplined and enthusiastic support of his Party of Scrooges, aka the GOP, as they eye the prospect of cutting Medicare and Social Security to help finance this latest windfall by the rich and powerful who helped to finance Trump’s shocking election in 2016 and his inexplicable survival ever since. . . . And, now, Trump is hinting, without subtlety, that he is about to provoke an end to Robert Mueller’s investigation of his alleged corruption and criminal conspiracy with the Russians—just as Mueller is closing in for the kill.


July 2018

24: Pro-centrism, 5

Democrats . . . We would all do well to stop with the over-the-top trashing of the civilian, center-right Trump supporters for their inexplicable support for Donald Trump. The clear evidence of his dishonesty, corruption, and alleged treason is now starting to flood out—thanks to the current golden age of investigative reporting.

Needing no help from us, most of those on the center-right are examining the facts and drawing their own conclusions. Give them the time and the space to do so—without our usual badgering which makes them more angry and defiant.

Many center-right Republicans are beginning to understand the desperate need for checks and balances on this out-of-control president, this Russian stooge who is disgracing America. . . . Make it easy for them to recognize, even grudgingly, that the Democrats must retake control of both the House and Senate in the upcoming midterms.

Like it or not, these center-right voters, especially those in the swing states and districts, will determine the course of this country on election day—just as they did in 2016. Now, two years later, they need to be offered a safe and comfortable alternative to the extreme-right policies that are being imposed by a corrupt and dishonest president whom they neither admire nor respect.

The Democrats, assuming that they can remain united for the next four months, should grab those voters in the wide-open center and seize this opportunity to win big in November.

Additional comments by DEM

If the Democrats, presented with this great opportunity to win and win big, cannot put their differences aside and stay together until November, then they deserve every horrible thing that is going to happen to us—and the world—when the Republicans, who refuse to be a legitimate check on Trump, retain control of Congress, and Trump declares a mandate to supercharge his draconian right-wing agenda.

*   *   *

Well, I'm not suggesting "coddling" these center-right people, whom, I believe, compose a huge voting bloc. . . . I'm just saying that---with the midterm elections near---the Democrats would be
wise not to piss off these voters, especially when they have been abandoned by their own party which has swung to the extreme right.

* * *

Danny. . . . There are 326-million people in the United States. Jeff seems to be saying that any Republican in the center-right is a fascist. And you agree with him? . . . You guys appear to be saying, “To hell with compromise, consensus, and civility.” . . . If so, you’re playing small ball in a big and widely diverse country—which is no better than what Donald Trump is doing. He believes that anyone to his left is a socialist and, thus, his enemy. . . . Sooner or later, this divisive asshole is going to be gone, and we’re going to have a big job cleaning up the mess he left behind—even in our individual lives. Let’s not make it worse than it already is.

* * *

In my opinion, Michelle Goldberg’s column is gobbledygook, an obvious pandering to the left-wing of the Democratic Party which is her journalistic base. She is asking the Democrats to roll the dice and to take a huge risk, based on the success of Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, an inexperienced, style-over-substance, self-described Democratic Socialist, who knocked off a powerful liberal incumbent, who refused to take her seriously in their recent primary in a very safely progressive district. Ever since, she has become the darling of the Bernie crowd. . . . If Ocasio-Cortez ran the same campaign in almost any swing district, she would be defeated by a centrist Democrat, and she would be completely annihilated by a sane Republican . . . if there are any left.

Once again, as Paul Alan Levy, whose progressive credentials rival anyone’s reading this response, has said, “Lefties in safe districts. Centrists in swing districts.”


* * *

Michael. . . . To me, the stakes are too high to gamble on the progressive left coming through in the clutch for the Democrats four months from now. More often than not, through considerable personal experience, I have seen the left do nothing more than disappoint. Of course, one public exception, as you noted, was 2008.

I still say that Hillary Clinton was the better candidate, but Obama performed spectacularly after the election to his first term. His victory over McCain was a beautiful moment.

Obama, one of our greatest Presidents, was a man of tremendous intellect and leadership skills who also behaved with a wonderful sense of dignity and honor. But, by 2012, the so-called progressives were already complaining that he was not liberal enough and had sold out to special interests---when nothing could have been further from the truth. Obama simply did what was necessary. . . . He went to the center and was reelected---just like Bill Clinton in 1996.

In 2018, we don't have the time to sit back and relax. And this no time for experimentation or a prolonged debate about the meaning and the purpose of the Democratic Party. We only have enough time to grab as much of the center-right as we can in order to win in November and stop this goddamn madman.

As far as the future goes, I could easily support a Democratic Socialist for President, as long as he/she had the right program and the right temperament. I loved the New Dealers. They saved America---just like the Democrats in Congress and President Obama saved the country in 2008-
2010 after the Republicans’ irresponsible economic policies led to a near collapse of the world economy.

For all their good works, Obama and the Democrats were rewarded in 2010 by Tea Party stooges who grabbed the center, “shellacked” the Democrats, and captured the midterms, which ended any semblance of dignity and honor in government.

* * *

I totally agree, Jeff. . . . I still find it amazing that in 2016 the Democratic Party took so much grief for supporting a real Democrat—-with a long history of service—-for its Presidential nomination while resisting an interloper who never even had an interest in being a member of the party. . . . In the end, the Bernie or Bust crowd, who refused to support Hillary, had as much to do with electing Donald Trump as did James Comey, the Russians, Wikileaks, and Fox News.

* * *

Diana—-my treasured friend whom I truly admire and respect—-Ralph Nader, who cost Al Gore the presidency in 2000, made that same argument. The result? . . . George W. Bush, 9-11, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the economic collapse in 2008. . . . As always, after all the damage it causes with its "lefther than thou" arrogance, the left feels misunderstood.

22: Pro-centrism, 4

For the next sixteen weeks leading to the midterm elections—while trying to entice tens of thousands of responsible center-right Republicans to vote for desperately needed checks and balances on a dangerous president who has alarmed even them with his bad behavior and rank incompetence—this is no time for the left-wing of the Democratic Party to be promoting a leftist agenda, except in the safest Congressional districts. To do so in swing districts—or while promoting the Democrats’ national agenda—is nothing more than political suicide.

With Donald Trump dragging the Republican Party to the extreme right, there is a gaping hole in the center of the American electorate, and the Democrats surely need center-right voters to help them win back the House and a veto-proof Senate.

If there is going to be a fight among Democrats for the soul of the party, then let it happen after November when a united Democratic Party has regained control of Congress and mounted an effective resistance to this corrupt and dishonest president—who will view anything less as a national mandate for him to continue his right-wing agenda.

The stakes are too high for the Democrats to wage an ideological fight this close to the midterms. And, if the leaders of the left choose this moment to mount that fight, then, in my opinion, they are nothing more than political saboteurs who are serving no other purpose but to reelect cowardly Republicans to Congress who will continue to kneel before a strengthened Donald Trump.

Please don’t let that happen. Let’s keep our eyes on the prize and win this election from the center.

Additional comments by DEM

Today’s New York Times on the upcoming, self-destructive battle within the Democratic Party.

* * *
Danny. . . . All I’m saying is that, considering the high stakes involved, for the next four months—not forever—the Democrats should put aside their differences and resist the urge to say and do things that will alienate us against each other and repel those on the center-right, who, I believe, understand the need for the Democrats to retake control of the House and Senate as a badly needed check against an irresponsible, out-of-control president.

*   *   *

Burt. . . . I love people of good intentions and especially people who do good deeds. . . . But, like it or not, we have been outmaneuvered by the well-organized but nefarious right-wingers. And the simple fact is that we cannot do a goddamn thing if we can’t win the key elections. . . . For this November, get pragmatic or lose everything.

*   *   *

Hiram. . . . I’m a centrist Democrat, like the Clintons. If I were in politics, I would run from the center, and I would govern from the center. . . . To me, it’s the threats of the extremes from both the right and left that are tearing America apart. . . . We have systems of government on the local, state, and federal levels which depend on the abilities of elected officials to compromise. And the extremists in Congress—especially among the Republicans, with the advent of the intractable Tea Party, since the 2010 midterms—have made routine compromise virtually impossible. Consequently, the civility that has existed here in Washington for generations has ceased and been replaced by ill-will and bad faith.

*   *   *

As Paul Alan Levy wrote in a comment on my previous pro-centrism thread, "Lefties in safe districts, centrists in swing districts." . . . That speaks volumes and lays out a very simple winning strategy for victory in November.

*   *   *

I have full faith and confidence that Robert Mueller is going to blow us away with his findings.

*   *   *

To me, it's amazing that the Democrats don't make a better case about the blatant hypocrisy of Donald Trump and his far-right deplorables. . . . There are a lot of reasonable people on the center-right who don't like what they are doing to America. And we should be doing a better job of getting their votes.

*   *   *

Mark. . . . God knows that a third of Trump’s supporters are meshugenah. . . . Even if Trump turns out to be a space alien—sent to earth to destroy the planet—most of them will continue to support him.

To be sure, we must continue to resist Trump and his gang of true deplorables. But, for the sake of America during the next four months, we also must try to attract the responsible voters on the center-right and get their grudging support for using the midterms to put checks and balances on this very corrupt and dishonest president.

*   *   *
Excellent, Mike. . . . I’m just hoping that the left will not decide—during the four months before the midterms—that now is the right time for a bloodletting within the party. The stakes are too high. . . . Win in November or be diminished. It’s that simple.

20: On today’s 25th anniversary of the suicide of Vincent Foster


“Meantime, life in Washington continues. The big-time politicians, the partisan special-interest groups, and the high-priced journalists—most of whom have masters of their own—continue to be judged by the quality of people they seek and destroy: The bigger the target, the greater the reward. But, in this particular case, Vincent Foster was never a major target. . . .

“Still, when Foster ended the bitter note found in his briefcase with, ‘Here ruining people is considered sport,’ he spoke a final truth before committing his desperate act. In doing so, however, he failed to recognize that, in Washington, the sport is best played with tolerance, as well as dignity and finesse. In this town, the real survivors are the bridge and chess players, not the brawlers who skate on the thin ice upon which the game of politics has always been played.

“Perhaps, for a moment after writing the note, Foster remembered this and took his own best counsel: He tore it up.

“But, in the end, unable to balance the rules of the sport with his own problems, Vincent Foster drove to Fort Marcy Park on that hot summer day and took his own life.”

Additional comments by DEM

Robert Sherrill wrote for the Washington Post: "Although Moldea, a crime reporter of considerable repute and experience, uses his own investigations to clear up some of the troublesome questions about Foster's death, for the most part he is simply a neutral narrator, a levelheaded guide. . . . [A] smart, chronological appraisal."

In Joe Conason and Gene Lyons's book, The Hunting of the President, the authors declared: "Apart from the Fiske and Starr Reports, the most accurate, comprehensive account of the Foster suicide and its aftermath is A Washington Tragedy."


* * *

Acts of misjudgment and false information brought partisan politics into the Vincent Foster caper. And that began a chain of events that led to the appointment of Robert Fiske as the first independent counsel. And that begot the investigation by the Senate Banking Committee. And that begot the Special Senate Committee on Whitewater and the appointment of Kenneth Starr, who replaced Fiske. And that begot the Monica Lewinsky scandal which led to the impeachment of President Clinton, who was acquitted of all charges during the subsequent Senate trial.

* * *

With all the great investigative journalism on the current situation here in Washington, D.C., I am still stuck in the 20th Century after my involvement in a fierce battle over the circumstances
murder of Robert Kennedy coinciding with the 50th anniversary of that crime on June 5 and now the 25th anniversary of the suicide of Vincent Foster today. . . . Get ready for the big brawl that will revolve around the 1975 murder of Jimmy Hoffa upon the release of the Martin Scorsese-Robert De Niro-Al Pacino-Joe Pesci film this fall. It’s called The Irishman, based on the lies of a reputed hitman who confessed to crimes he did not commit.

19: Humiliated and ridiculed, Trump requests a do-over with Putin

Bludgeoned, post-Helsinki, by everyone for, at best, his incompetence, or, at worst, his treason, Trump has just announced that he wants another chance to prove his manhood as quickly as possible. . . . Putin must be laughing his ass off. https://www.nytimes.com/2018/07/19/us/politics/trump-putin-browder-mcfaul.html?emc=edit_na_20180719&nl=breaking-news&nlid=71046532ing-news&ref=cta

Additional comments by DEM

Rich. . . . As a fan of yours on the football field many years ago, I remember when you were a good guy. But I’m sad that this is what you have become. By coming here with your false and irresponsible birther claim that President Obama was born in Africa—and, thus, is neither a real American nor a legitimate President—you have crossed a line. . . . Unfriend me or I’ll unfriend you. Take your pick within the next ten minutes.

* * *

Yep. In front of a world-wide audience, an arrogant, vain, and thin-thinned U.S. president gives a weak and impotent performance against the Russian president in Helsinki and responds the following week with a threat of war against Iran. . . .

18: Legalized sports gambling: A disaster in the making

The NBA prepares for the arrival of legalized sports gambling. Will it be a brave new world or a disaster in the making? . . . I’d put my money on the latter, but here’s the AP’s take.
https://apnews.com/58b5c32ca5c4ebb84bbdeb77b6e07a3/Take-that-for-data-NBA-preps-for-expanded-betting-on-games?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter_axiosam&stream=top

16: After his cowardice in front of a worldwide audience, Trump will likely do something stupid to seek redemption

After such a historic demonstration of presidential weakness—and even cowardice—today in Helsinki in front of a worldwide audience, Donald Trump will predictably do something really stupid in a desperate attempt to appear strong again. . . . I wonder how many lives it will cost for him to achieve redemption.

Additional comments by DEM

Under fire for his alleged treason, Trump makes a small correction, hoping to turn the page. . . .
https://www.nytimes.com/2018/07/17/world/europe/trump-putin-
15: The Trump-Putin meeting


Only one thing is for certain about the upcoming Helsinki meeting between Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin. . . . Regardless of the result, Trump is going to lie about it.

Additional comments by DEM

Putin did his job well during the 2016 election. . . . The Russians could not have conjured up a more destructive force against America and its best interests than Donald Trump . . . who is now doing to the world, especially among our allies, what he is already doing here in the U.S. . . . And, of course, the biggest beneficiaries are the Russians. (Originally posted on 7-13)

* * *

I won't be believing a word about anything that is reported about this event—good, bad, or indifferent. I assume that it will be choreographed and well-staged to make us believe whatever Putin and Trump, aka master and servant, want us to believe.

* * *

The meeting will begin shortly. . . . Bet the ranch that the principal topic of the private conversation between Trump and Putin will be Robert Mueller and his investigation of their relationship.

* * *

Respected columnist Charles Blow of the New York Times says it out loud. . . .


13: Brian Benczowski is the new head of the DOJ’s Criminal Division


Watch for the role that Brian Benczowski will play if Donald Trump moves to fire Robert Mueller. Completely unqualified for his new job but ripe with Russian banking connections, Benczowski, nominated by Trump, was confirmed on Wednesday by Senate Republicans (and Democrat Joe Manchin, still running scared for reelection in West Virginia) as the new head of the Criminal Division at the Department of Justice—with the ability to undermine and even sabotage the Mueller probe.

The Republicans and the Vichy Democrats of the 115th Congress are going to burn in hell for allowing Trump to run roughshod over them.


12: Pro-centrism, 3


I don’t think that we—on all sides of the current unpleasantness—are fully grasping how dangerous the internal situation is becoming in America. It’s as if we are going to need a slew of murders and suicides to
wake us up. . . . This is not a game. And this is not a reality show—but, quite suddenly, it could become a very violent one.

**Additional comments by DEM**

Putin did his job well during the 2016 election. . . . The Russians could not have conjured up a more destructive force against America and its best interests than Donald Trump . . . who is now doing to the world, especially among our allies, what he is already doing here in the U.S. And, of course, the biggest beneficiaries are the Russians.

* * *

A friend in law-enforcement and I were just speculating about that this afternoon. . . . I think Mueller will reveal more indictments—but not all--by mid-September with more to come after the midterms. If he pulls the trigger after September, he will be accused of election tampering. . . . Also, I still believe that—if their one-on-one meeting actually takes place—the principal topic of conversation between Trump and Putin will be Robert Mueller . . . whom I believe is hurting Putin in Russia almost as much as he's hurting Trump in the U.S. . . . I'm waiting to see whether Trump starts to move on Mueller after he returns from Russia.

* * *

Mueller has flipped two people, Michael Flynn and Rick Gates, who are familiar with Pence's provable dishonesty. . . . Through them, we should be able to learn whether those acts were witting or unwitting.

**9: On the verge of a fait accompli**


I just found this comment from September 6, 2016, on my Twitter archive. . . . Regardless of whom Donald Trump nominates to the Supreme Court tonight—all of whom have been approved by both the right-wing Federalist Society and the knuckle-dragging Heritage Foundation—this prediction becomes a fait accompli if that nominee is confirmed by the Senate. . . .

Please, Robert Mueller. . . . End this madness.

[Dan E. Moldea @DanMoldea • 6 Sep 2016](https://twitter.com/DanMoldea/status/774757791950884928)

*Hillary Clinton is all that stands between us and the complete and total right-wing takeover of all three branches of the US Government.*

**5: Pro-centrism 2**


Everyone knows where the Democratic Party stands on the traditional wedge issues. In this political environment, there is no need to use them as a cudgel, over and over again, against disenfranchised center-right Republicans who might reluctantly view the midterm elections as an opportunity to return control of the House and Senate to the Democrats as a badly needed check on the unchecked power of the corrupt and dishonest Donald Trump, who has pushed the Republican Party to the far reaches of the extreme right while leaving the center wide open.

So, for the next four months—while loudly defending voting rights and existing entitlement programs for children and seniors, as well as the rights of family farmers, women and minorities, working people in general, and a truly free press—the Democrats should minimize their rhetoric about those issues which
serve no other purpose than to alienate the thousands of voters on the center-right who have been turned off and embarrassed by Donald Trump but feel that they have no place else to go.

Additional comment by DEM

As Paul Alan Levy wrote in a comment on my previous pro-centrism thread, "Lefties in safe districts, centrists in swing districts." . . . That speaks volumes and lays out a very simple winning strategy for victory in November.

* * *

If the Democrats don't take the center-right in the swing districts in the upcoming midterms, they will not win control of the House and Senate . . . which is necessary to stop the draconian agenda of the corrupt, dishonest, and mobbed-up Russian stooge, Donald Trump. . . . I don't get the big controversy here. To hell with Fox News, aka Trump State Television. Let them, along with Trump, drag the sheep in their flocks to the far right, leaving the center wide open. . . . All I'm suggesting is that, for the next four months, the Democrats should work to attract those in the center and resist its usual urge to self-destruct.

4: The key moment in the Nationals loss to the Red Sox today

My old friend and poker buddy, political-consultant extraordinaire David Williams, and I were at Nats Park today to watch the Boston Red Sox defeat the Washington Nationals, 3-0. . . . In the key moment of the game in the seventh inning—which I memorialized in the attached photograph—Boston’s Jackie Bradley Jr., #19, who is at the plate, hits a sacrifice fly to left, scoring Rafael Devers, #11, who has a lead at third and is tracking the ball in flight. . . . This was the only run Boston needed.

But because of a throwing error by Adam Eaton of the Nationals, Boston’s Eduardo Nunez, #36, who is leading off at first in the picture, wound up on third base after Devers scored. In the subsequent sequence, Nats pitcher Ryan Madson, #44, served up a wild pitch, allowing Nunez to sprint home, making it 2-0.

Then, in the top of the ninth, Bradley doubled to deep right, driving home Nunez for the final run of the game, capping the Red Sox shutout of the Nationals. . . .

Go Cleveland.

3: Pro-centrism, 1

With Donald Trump dragging so many of his supporters to the far fringes of the extreme right, a vast group of reasonable center-right voters waits to be led out of the abyss that Trump has created. . . . Consequently,
this is no time to combat right-wing extremism with left-wing extremism. It’s time for the Democrats to become very pragmatic by consolidating around a robust centrist agenda—while simultaneously bolstering their traditional Democratic constituencies—to give the party a real chance to win back the House and the Senate in the upcoming midterm elections.

Additional comments by DEM

I don't want to make this more complicated than it needs to be. . . . With so much at stake in November, I view the Bernie-or-bust crowd, as well as cocktail-party radicals with their disdain for centrists, as political saboteurs who could provide Donald Trump, who lost the popular vote in 2016, with a political mandate he will use and abuse.

* * *

For the upcoming midterm elections, centrist would be defined state-by-state and district-by-district. Generally, with some obvious revisions—even at this late date—I would take the old Clinton-centrist playbook from the 1990s and ride it like Zorro to November. . . . But, more than anything, while trying to appeal to center-right voters, I would avoid national debates on the traditional hot-button issues that do nothing more than piss people off. . . . In order to take back the House and Senate, the Democrats need the support of center-right Republicans. Let's not make it impossible for that to happen.

* * *

At this moment in this environment, the Democrats pushing for "Medicare for All" and "free public college tuition," etc, absolutely guarantees that the Republicans will maintain control of the House and Senate this November.

* * *

You and I know a couple of guys who have an ingenious proposal for bringing family farmers back into the Democratic fold. . . . Why isn't the Democratic Party's leadership listening and applying the proposed reforms to the 2018 campaign? . . . I think the Democratic Party's national leaders have deferred to their individual House and Senate candidates to fight their own battles in their own ways in their own states and districts. What might work in New York might not work in Wyoming. . . . Frankly, I can't think of any other explanation.

* * *

Hey, Democrats. . . . Right-center Republicans are trying to help you take back the House and the Senate. . . . Don't screw this up. https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/i-left-the-republican-party-now-i-want-democrats-to-take-over/2018/07/03/54a4007a-7e38-11e8-b0ef-fffcabeff946_story.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.1568b6dd0500

June 2018

29: Tom Mann’s 2018 index of free databases offered by the Library of Congress
Our friend and colleague, Dr. Tom Mann, the recently retired top reference librarian in the Main Reading Room of the Library of Congress and a friend to authors, investigative journalists, and researchers everywhere, has asked me to circulate the latest list of 950 subscription databases—freely accessible but on-site only—offered by the Library of Congress. The list of sources, many of which are full-text, is attached.

BTW: Tom—the author of The Oxford Guide to Library Research (Oxford University, 2015)—is a one-time private investigator who has been widely described as “one of the most important voices in contemporary library science.”

Even in retirement, Tom still works in the Main Reading Room of the LOC on Saturdays. If you need something, stop by and say hello. He is always more than happy to help.


29: Shooting journalists in Annapolis

God bless the dead and wounded at the Capital Gazette in Annapolis. . . . Meantime, undaunted, the newspaper continues to publish. http://www.capitalgazette.com/.  

25: The wisdom of Maxine Waters v. Michelle Obama

I am second to none in my disdain for Donald Trump. But those, like Rep. Maxine Waters, who are openly advocating direct action in private situations or at public places against members of the Trump administration should be widely condemned—especially by those of us who oppose him. This is totally unacceptable behavior and should be eclipsed by the wisdom of First Lady Michelle Obama who said, “When they go low, we go high.”

Mrs. Obama really cared, and she wanted you to care, too.

Sooner or later, the Trump nightmare will be over, and we will be left with a huge mess to clean up. Keeping in mind that Trump’s supporters are very capable of retaliating against Trump’s opponents, let’s not make it messier—and more dangerous—than it needs to be.

Additional comments by DEM

Betsy: I couldn't believe what she said. I have always liked and respected Maxine Walters’ gutsy advocacy, but this crossed the line . . . and she needs to relent and to apologize as quickly as possible.

* * *

You know how much I love and respect you, Jonetta, but the other side has guns---and they are emboldened by the corrupt, dishonest, and mobbed up Donald Trump, who had no soul. . . . This is not about sympathy. This is about fear of retaliation---and how that retaliation is expressed. . . . If you punch someone in the face, expect to get punched back. . . .

I have no problem standing up to bullies. As you know, I have made a career of going up against some of the biggest bullies in America. . . . But you have to learn how to fight smart. And what Maxine Waters, Robert De Niro, and Peter Fonda, among others, have done has not been smart.

* * *
Laurie: "Madder by the minute?" . . . I suggest that you settle down. I don't want to wind up blindsided by and involved in a fight that someone else started. . . . Trump can be declawed in November. Focus on that.

* * *

Maxine Waters pulls a Susan Sarandon, escalating a war that others will be forced to fight, and, of course, Donald Trump responds with his usual childish aplomb to ratchet up his psycho base. . . . Robert Mueller must be getting ready to release his next set of indictments. https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2018/06/25/democratic-congresswoman-maxine-waters-calls-for-harassment-of-trump-officials/?utm_term=.d717b99ecfa0

* * *

Remember, Patricia. . . Even though it will take a bloodbath at DOJ to do it, Mueller can be fired. And, I'm sure that Mueller, who has to remain cool, understands the high stakes of what he's doing as well as anybody. . . . I trust Mueller to do the right thing with his investigations and prosecutions. And I trust the American public to do the right thing and place badly needed checks on Trump in the House and Senate during the midterms in November.

* * *

Do you think that Trump is oblivious to what he is doing to the progressive community? He's doing it intentionally. . . . Don't allow him to play you.

* * *

I would never ask anyone to be silent. Speak out, speak boldly and loudly. . . . But, to my knowledge, Gandhi and Martin Luther King didn't get in the faces of their adversaries while they were having private dinners at public restaurants.

* * *

Roger that, Larry. . . . This is a moment for us to get in touch with our inner Mahatma.

* * *

To me, this all seems to be diversionary. . . . I fully expect that Bob Mueller is on the verge of doing something very dramatic . . . and Trump knows it's coming---so he's reinforcing his base and ensuring that they will stand behind him when push comes to shove.

* * *

So where are you going with your frustration? Are you going to buy some guns and play Che Guevara? . . . If so, please leave those of us who are not into violence---which is where this situation is clearly heading without the intervention of reasonable people---out of your big plans for revolution.

* * *

Among other things, 1) I publicly support Robert Mueller, his prosecutorial team, and their investigations. 2) I support public-interest, watchdog groups, like POGO and CREW, which pursue public-corruption cases via litigation and intensive lobbying campaigns on Capitol Hill. 3) I support investigative journalism, especially at the New York Times, the Washington Post, and Newsweek, among others. 4) I buy the books of authors who expose crimes and corruption in the Trump administration. 6) I have my own self-sustained blog in which I discuss and even reveal
information about crimes and corruption in the Trump administration. And 5) I encourage the fine work of people, like you (MPS Productions), who do wonderful documentaries about the dark side of American political life. . . . BTW: I loved your film, "Bush's Brain," which revealed Karl Rove to the world. That was a film that made a difference. Congratulations. . . . Now get to work doing a film about Trump, assuming that you aren't already in the midst of one.

* * *

The bad guys control all three branches of the federal government, as well as most of the state governments. We are outnumbered, and we are outgunned. To me, there is no alternative but to find ways to work out our differences and to avoid the harsh consequences of not doing so. Doing anything less will be an act of suicide. . . . Reasonable people must enter this fray and help to work out both short-term and long-term peace settlements wherever they're possible--until the good guys learn how to start winning again on election day.

* * *

Whose talking about being nice? If you want to go out into the streets and protest, then have at it. My friends and I might even see you out there. . . . I'm simply saying that embarrassing Trump officials while they're having private dinners in public restaurants or when they're out and about in town serves no useful purpose, except to agitate the people with complete control over the entire federal bureaucracy and to invite retaliation against our leaders. . . . What Maxine Waters said is indefensible. She must back down.

* * *

I hear you, Jeff. . . . But your grandchildren are not going to be enriched by a group of assholes screaming at some government official having dinner at a restaurant. They will be better served by a midterm election in November in which the good guys take back control of the House and Senate. . . If you want to help your family, start there.

* * *

Why can't we get away with it? Because in this age of Fox News and "Bernie or bust," nobody on the left gets away with anything. . . . We are sabotaged inside and out.

* * *

Sorry, Kathy. This is one of the few times that we disagree. . . . I view a bunch of assholes en masse embarrassing a government official during a private dinner at a public restaurant as nothing but a demonstration of the politics of desperation. . . . It's sad, classless, and not at all effective---except for bringing sympathy to unsympathetic characters and creating a justification for retaliation against our political leadership. . . . In addition, it is just another way to ratchet up the potential for violence.

* * *

I remember you Republicans saying the same thing in 2004 in the midst of your reckless economic policies which did nothing more than favor wealthy Americans. . . . And then came 2007-2008 and the near collapse of the U.S. economy, which was saved by the Democrats in Congress and the election of President Obama. . . . Now, with the fact that your boy, the corrupt and dishonest Donald Trump, who has six bankruptcies under his belt, is at the helm, many of us are braced for another economic disaster.

But, fret not, Olive. The Democrats, once again, will save the day.
Tonight, weary but still outraged from all the children’s detention-center news throughout the day, I had dinner with an old and trusted friend—a total right-winger who usually has a sense of humor about it. Within seconds of him sitting down, I said, laughing, “How the hell can you continue to support this guy?”

My right-wing friend, well-educated and very successful, replied, “The thing you don’t get is that we love him, flaws and all. He’s making America what we always wanted it to be.”

When I scoffed at that, he continued, “Dan, this is a movement. We’re going to hold both houses of Congress after the midterms in November. In fact, I think that we’re even going to pick up a seat or two in the Senate.”

He added that he was cool with, among other things, the lying and the corruption, as well as the shameless arrogance and divisive swagger.

“What about Russia and Bob Mueller?” I asked.

He paused for a moment. “Well, . . . that could be the wild card.”

Please, Robert Mueller. . . . End this madness.

Additional comments by DEM

I have lived and worked as an investigative journalist and author in Washington, D.C. since December 1976. And I have met a lot of people in this crazy town, including some in the business, political, intelligence, and law-enforcement communities—many of whom are not liberals—whom I consider as friends, as well as sources of information. But, just to be clear, I have also met people from those same worlds—including some on the left—whom I cannot stand to be anywhere near, usually because they have no honor and cannot be trusted. . . . Because of my friendships with those on both the left and the right, I have often been called upon to help settle political disputes. To be sure, I have always maintained these friendships without ever being duplicitous. There is nobody who knows me who doesn't also know my personal politics and especially where I stand on Donald Trump, whom I view as corrupt, dishonest, and, yes, duplicitous.

*          *          *

Fret not, Linda. Because of the guy in the White House, this has, sadly, become a very messy time in American history during which a lot of people—even good people—believe they are endowed with Absolute Truth and make their judgments accordingly. . . . In the end, the peacemakers, people who know how to get along with others, will prevail.

*          *          *

DeeDee: Each of us is responsible for determining his/her roles and limitations. I am not going to be a kamikaze this time. I've been there and done that. . . . The last time I manned "the barricades" was during the 1998-1999 impeachment drama—when, among other actions, my work forced the resignation of the U.S. Speaker of the House-designate. For my reward, I was nearly indicted and sent to jail And, then, I nearly went broke fighting my way out of that mess. . . . This time, I am a finesse player. When the good guys finally win this fight, I plan to be among those still standing.

*          *          *
Just to be clear, I have no idea how my right-wing friend, who is not a public official, views Trump’s shameless policy of detaining children. He has several young grandchildren, and I find it difficult to believe that he would support such an outrage. Knowing that we have certain hot-button issues, it was not something we discussed last night. We were meeting for other reasons.

However, as much as I detest Trump and his policies, I will not be blowing off years of friendship with people in my life whom I believe are politically misguided and dug in with a president who has made it his business to divide this country by appealing to the worst instincts of the American people. I view the impact of this situation—and Donald Trump, in particular—as temporary and still correctable... as long as Robert Mueller does his job and then the good guys take back control of the House and Senate in November.

* * *

Refugees who are fleeing from murderous situations in their own countries should be accorded top priority in their U.S. immigration status. And they should be treated with respect—not disdain—and never be separated from their children.

* * *

My advice? Unless you have family members or friends who are public-policy makers, don’t allow your personal politics to interfere with your personal relationships... Sooner or later, this nightmare will be over, and all of us will have to clean up the messes we created.

* * *

I surely haven’t befriended anyone who drives a pick-up truck with a confederate flag and a gun rack on the back window—which would tell me everything I need to know about that person, including his/her likely support for Donald Trump. But, trust me, there are a lot of long-term friendships among Democrats and Republicans in Washington, D.C. And, among my Republican friends, we have agreed not to allow Trump and his bad behavior to get in the way of our friendships, some of which go back to 1976 when I moved to this town... In other words, there is more to life than the corrupt, dishonest, and mobbed-up Donald Trump. And my Republican friends know that I feel that way.

* * *


* * *

... Not just that he won, but that he is turning this country into a culture of every man, woman, and child for him or herself while creating a new American oligarchy of the wealthiest Americans. Also, as a police officer, you should be very concerned that he is doing everything possible to undermine the authority of the law-enforcement community—in retaliation for the investigations of his crimes and coverups. (June 23, 2018)

* * *

Paula: He’s a former law-enforcement official-turned-private businessman—who is attracted to “law-and-order” politicians. ... Also, he wants fewer government regulations and lower taxes. He says that he is looking for a simpler, more manageable business environment. ... For what it’s worth, he was an important source for me in my 1986 book about Ronald Reagan and the Mafia,
as well as my 1989 book about the NFL and organized crime. Further, he has been a good friend, as well as a good source. . . .

Sadly, our conservative friends—some clearly in need of serious reprogramming—have not achieved the sublime state of political perfection as our liberal friends . . . although I know a handful of prominent liberals whom I would not trust as far as I could throw them. (June 24, 2018)

17: What will we do when Trump’s lies cause a national-security crisis?

At what point will Donald Trump’s ability and willingness to lie about anything and everything provoke a national-security crisis? And what will we do as a nation when that moment suddenly but inevitably arrives? http://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/article/2018/jun/15/fact-checking-donald-trumps-unusual-white-house-la/

14: Brian Karem admonishes Sarah Sanders

Our friend and colleague, Brian J. Karem—the executive editor of the Sentinel Newspapers, a CNN political analyst, and a columnist for Playboy, as well as a protégé of legendary reporters’ reporter Steve Weinberg—has had a long and distinguished career of performing with honor and on principle as a journalist and as an author, including doing time in prison for protecting a confidential source. . . . Although he is best known for taking on the roughest and toughest of assignments, today was, perhaps, his finest moment—standing up to White House press secretary Sarah Sanders for her defense of Donald Trump’s border policies.

Brian said, “C’mon Sarah, you’re a parent. Don’t you have any empathy for what these people are going through? . . . . These people have nothing.”


9: The Trump-Jong Un summit

Only one thing is for certain about the upcoming Singapore summit between Donald Trump and Kim Jong Un. . . . Regardless of the result, Trump is going to lie about it.

Additional comments by DEM

Sharpening his tools for much bigger lies to come before, during, and after the Singapore summit, The Liar President shamelessly ratchets up the attacks on our closest friends and allies, the great people of Canada and their wonderful prime minister, Justin Trudeau—who is younger, better looking, and much more presidential. . . . No doubt, Vladimir Putin is enjoying the show.

*   *   *


*   *   *

8: **Sirhan, on videotape, confessing to murdering Robert Kennedy—and acting alone**

As reporter Tom Jackman and the Washington Post continue their love affair with Sirhan Sirhan, celebrating those conspiracy theorists who claim that he is innocent of gunning down Robert Kennedy in 1968, here is a video of David Frost’s 1989 interview with the confessed and convicted murderer—four years before my first of three interviews with him—in which Sirhan admits that he killed Senator Kennedy and that he acted alone. (h/t Gus Russo)

Once again, when will the New York Times clean up the mess that the Washington Post has left in Jackman’s wake?


Additional comments by DEM

To be sure, the Washington Post is one of the great newspapers in America, and Tom Jackman, a Pulitzer Prize recipient, is, on most days, a very fine reporter. But, long story short—from the outset of this 50th anniversary RFK murder controversy—I had admonished both Jackman and even RFK Jr. that they were getting conned and misled by the RFK conspiracy crowd.

6: **When will the New York Times clean up the mess that the Washington Post is making on the RFK murder case?**

I was hoping that the controversies would finally be put to rest today on this sad 50th anniversary of RFK’s death. Instead, reporter Tom Jackman of the Washington Post continues to make a fool of himself with the latest installment of his uncritical series of articles, celebrating, without challenge, the conspiracy theories revolving around the RFK murder. . . .

I am assuming that Jackman and the Washington Post will move heaven and earth to get an interview with the poor and misunderstood Sirhan Sirhan, the confessed and convicted killer of Senator Kennedy—whom I interviewed three times for a total of fourteen hours. At the end of those interviews, there was no doubt in my mind that Sirhan did it and did it alone.

Attached is a catalog of those—ranging from the New York Times to Newsweek and from Seymour Hersh to Vincent Bugliosi—who wrote great reviews, agreeing with my conclusions.

Meantime, I am waiting for the New York Times to enter this fray—and clean up the mess that the Washington Post is leaving in Jackman’s wake.

[http://www.moldea.com/RFKReviews.html](http://www.moldea.com/RFKReviews.html)

Additional comments by DEM

Tina: Trust me—and your talented son will confirm this—if you have something that you believe is important to say and you spend the grueling time and effort it takes to write a book about that subject, . . . then you want people to read it, and you will, thus, promote it. That is how authors make their living. . . . The trick is trying not to make it uncomfortable for everyone around us while we're busy promoting our works. . . . I have yet to master that special talent, but I'm trying.
5: My June 1995 story in the Washington Post—before the newspaper fell in love with Sirhan Sirhan

Here’s is my June 1995 story in the Washington Post about the RFK assassination, declaring that Sirhan Sirhan did it and did it alone—before the newspaper went insane with conspiracy theories about the killing and fell in love with the man who murdered Senator Kennedy.

5: On learning of the shooting of Robert Kennedy, 50 years ago today. . .

“Many people still remember where they were and what they were doing when they heard that Robert Kennedy had been gunned down. On that terrible day, I was an eighteen-year-old graduating senior at Garfield High School in Akron, Ohio, the president of my class, and a volunteer worker for Kennedy’s opponent in the primaries, Senator Eugene McCarthy.

“At the early morning rehearsal for our graduation ceremonies to be held later that night in the school gymnasium, an assistant principal told me that Senator Kennedy had been shot. I was given the job of announcing the tragedy to my six hundred classmates. I still vividly remember the shock and horror on nearly everyone’s face as I gave them the news.

“I had no idea then that years later, in the midst of my career as a crime reporter, I would write a book about the murder—because for many people it was still an open case, even though Sirhan had been convicted of the crime and was serving a life sentence.”


(Senator Kennedy died the following day—June 6, 1968—at 1:44 A.M.)

Additional comments by DEM

With RFK Jr. now inexplicably proclaiming the innocence of the confessed, convicted, and cowardly man who murdered his father, this anniversary has been particularly sad. . . . It has forced me into a fight that I really don’t want.

4: More bad journalism on the RFK case. This time from ABC News.

"There is no question [Sirhan] was hypno-programmed,” [defense attorney William] Pepper told ABC News at the time. "He was set up. He was used. He was manipulated."

More bad journalism about the RFK murder case. . . . This time from Bill Hutchinson at ABC News, who apparently doesn’t believe that there are simple explanations to the crime-scene issues raised by amateur sleuths Robert Kennedy Jr. and Paul Schrade, who have been busy proclaiming the innocence of the confessed and convicted man who murdered RFK Jr’s father. Thus, Hutchinson doesn’t even attempt to include anything to the contrary in his news reporting, allowing clownish and uninformed conspiracy claims to stand unchallenged.

2: Gene Meyer at Politics and Prose


1: The Boston Globe allows me to refute the very damaging story in the Washington Post, as well as RFK Jr. proclamation of Sirhan’s innocence

In today’s story about the 1968 murder of Robert Kennedy, the Boston Globe has allowed me to counter the very damaging story in the Washington Post last Sunday and to attack RFK Jr’s nonsense about the innocence of the man who murdered his father.

From the Globe article:

Moldea said he is “livid” with how the Post treated the recent story and imagines Sirhan is “in his jail cell right now spiking the football.” Quoting from his book, he reiterated his point that nearly every murder can be made to look like a conspiracy if “occasional official mistakes and incompetence” are not taken into account.

“I think [RFK Jr.] has been misled, conned, and corrupted by the conspiracy crowd to believe this garbage that the man that murdered his father is innocent,” Moldea said.


May 2018

31: Paying off a bet with a friend that Trump would be gone by June 1

About six months ago, I made a bet with a close friend—a Republican—that the hopelessly corrupt and dishonest Donald Trump would resign by June 1. Clearly wrong, I just paid my debt . . . lunch downtown at The Palm. Although I invited him to eat like a Viking—on me—he chose a light lunch with a healthy salad and a lean cut of strip steak, along with an iced tea.

Truth be told, he was more disappointed that he had won the bet than I was for having lost it. Like me, he remembers the old days here in Washington, D.C., where people on the left and the right could not only be friendly but could actually be friends. . . . When Trump is finally gone—whenever that blessed moment comes—the first order of business will be to return civility to this very angry and divided town.

http://www.moldea.com/CGW-blog.pdf

Additional comments by DEM
Actually, he and I became friends after I received an assignment to investigate him... and wound up clearing him of any and all wrongdoing. . . . It turned out that the culprit was his partner, from whom he had long since parted ways.

* * *

During Watergate, there were reasonable people within the GOP who put country over party. We are not seeing any active, big-name Republicans stepping up and doing what is necessary right now. Instead, they are cynically allowing Trump to supercharge their right-wing agenda. . . . Meantime, we are in the midst of being destroyed from within, not only by a corrupt and dishonest man—but by a man who might well be subservient to the Russian government. . . . I don’t know of any foreign enemy ever which has done more damage to this country than Trump has during his first eighteen months in office.

* * *

At the moment--while many of my colleagues are enjoying The Golden Age of Investigative Journalism with their outstanding reporting about Donald Trump--I am here, stuck in the 20th Century, dealing with the lingering issues from the Robert Kennedy and Jimmy Hoffa murder cases. . . . Lord, please get me out of this time warp, and get me back in the game.

28: RFK Jr. proclaims the innocence of the man who murdered his father

Robert Kennedy Jr has clearly turned to The Dark Side by proclaiming the innocence of Sirhan Sirhan, the man who murdered his father—the greatest crime fighter in American history. As chief counsel of the Senate Rackets Committee, Robert Kennedy Sr. was eating Mafia guys for breakfast. And when he became U.S. Attorney General, he started eating them for lunch and dinner, too. . . . Now, 50 years after Senator Kennedy’s murder, the pro-conspiracy crowd has misled, conned, and corrupted his son.

As the 50th anniversary of this great tragedy approaches on June 5-6, get ready for the onslaught of reckless and malicious attacks against the beleaguered security guard at the crime scene, Thane Eugene Cesar—an innocent man, wrongly accused—who has been falsely charged by many with murdering RFK Sr. I am the only person in the world, living or dead, who has interviewed both Sirhan and Cesar. . . . Sirhan did it, and he did it alone.

27: Washington Post critic lies about his presence at the RFK crime scene in his review of my book

As reporter Tom Jackman’s pro-conspiracy garbage about the assassination of Robert Kennedy appears on the front page of today’s edition of the Washington Post, I remember that the Post has never shown any love for my book about the murder. . . . Here is the 1995 review of my RFK book that was published in the Post, written by a British historian who represented that he was an eyewitness to the murder by claiming that he was just “a few feet away from the senator.” . . . In fact, after the Post published his review, I discovered that the reviewer was flat-out lying and wasn’t anywhere near the crime scene when Sirhan Sirhan shot Senator Kennedy. . . . I wrote the following response to the newspaper’s very embarrassed editors of its book-review section. See: http://www.moldea.com/WP-GodfreyHodgson.pdf.

Additional comments by DEM

26: We are now beyond the looking glass in the RFK murder case

*The Washington Post* reports today that Robert Kennedy Jr. visited Sirhan Sirhan in prison last December and now believes that he is innocent of killing his father--and that there was a second gunman. . . . Just to be clear, this is the height of irresponsibility by RFK Jr. The simple fact is that Sirhan did it, and he did it alone.

I am so angry with the *Post* story, which has also put me on defense, that I refuse to link it. Instead, here is the real story behind my investigation of this tragic crime.

http://www.moldea.com/DEM-on-RFK.pdf

Additional comments by DEM

In 1968, Sirhan Sirhan murdered Robert Kennedy--the greatest crimefighter in American history--and RFK Jr., 50 years later, is now claiming that poor Sirhan is an innocent man, wrongly accused. . . . The pro-conspiracy crowd has misled and conned RFK Jr.

*          *          *

Truth be told, the *Washington Post* has never loved my book about the murder of Senator Robert Kennedy. . . . Here is my response to the 1995 review of that book in the *Post* which was written by a British journalist who represented that he was an eyewitness to the murder by claiming that he was just “a few feet away from the Senator.” . . . In fact, after the publication of his review, I discovered that this journalist was flat-out lying and wasn’t anywhere near the crime scene when Sirhan Sirhan shot Senator Kennedy. Inexplicably, the *Post* stood by the British journalist's lying review--probably because I couldn't resist getting in the newspaper's face about it . . . . See: http://www.moldea.com/GHodgson.html.

*          *          *


25: LeBron James: The greatest athlete ever

In my opinion. . . . Win, lose, or draw in Game 7 against Boston, "The Man From Akron," LeBron James of the Cleveland Cavaliers, has eclipsed Jim Brown of the Cleveland Browns as the greatest athlete who ever lived.

Additional comments by DEM

To me, the solution is public ownership of professional sports teams. The people of the cities in which these teams play are the owners--just as the Green Bay Packers have successfully operated since the early 1920s, . . . If Green Bay had been privately owned, how long would the team have stayed in Green Bay?
With Cleveland’s victory in Game 7, I rest my case . . .

25: The NFL team owners’ sleight of hand

The NFL team owners have played this beautifully. In lieu of being on defense about the windfall they'll receive with the sudden legalization of sports gambling last week, they have diverted public attention to their favorite fall guys—those players who, on principle, peacefully take a knee during our national anthem, specifically protesting an epidemic of police violence against people of color. . . . Cynically and unfairly attempting to portray those players who participate in this silent protest as un-American, the NFL team owners have taken a page right out of the Trump playbook.


Additional comments by DEM

As with eating raw fish, my friend, we are going to have to agree to disagree. . . . I feel that the issue of peacefully taking a knee--something that people do in a church--has been morphed by right-wing politicians into an un-American act when that was clearly never the intent by the players, who have sadly become pawns in a political drama.

* * *

When it comes to religion and politics, people have different opinions. I've yet to meet anyone who owns Absolute Truth on either subject. . . . And, as you know from working with lawyers all day, free expression is guaranteed by the First Amendment. I doubt that you would want to pass a law, making it illegal to sit during the National Anthem.

20: Which side of the rainbow will the “Sirhan-didn’t-do-it” crowd land this time?

Get ready for the 50th anniversary of the tragic murder of Senator Robert Kennedy on June 5-6. We will soon know which side of the rainbow the “Sirhan-didn’t-do-it crowd” will land this time. Much of their work has been embargoed, cynically concocting dramatic releases. . . . Be prepared for big celebrities to come out publicly, proclaiming poor Sirhan’s innocence and insisting that he was “hypno-programmed” to kill and then programmed to forget about it.

You will marvel at so-called experts, spewing what appears to be impressive minutia and factoids about the case while railing about muzzle-distance discrepancies, extra bullets in the walls and door frames at the crime scene, and bullet slugs that don’t match Sirhan’s eight-shot gun—not to mention promoting a new crop of eyewitnesses, polka-dot-dress girls, and a tape recording that, some say, indicates that thirteen shots were fired. . . . It will all be bullshit and easily explained away.

In addition, you will hear renewed false charges about the critics’ favorite fall guy, the beleaguered security guard, Thané Eugene Cesar, who has been wrongly accused of Senator Kennedy’s murder for the past 49 years. . . . When I first entered this case in 1985, I was among those who believed that Cesar was guilty. But, after spending hundreds of hours investigating and interviewing him—and subjecting him to a grueling polygraph test, administered by one of the top polygraph operators in the country—I concluded that I was wrong, and that he was, indeed, an innocent man. . . . And then, after my fourteen hours of interviews with Sirhan, I rightly concluded that Sirhan did it, and he did it alone.
I am the only person in the world who has interviewed both Sirhan and Cesar, as well as 114 law-enforcement officials, detectives, and officers identified in LAPD records as having been involved in the 1968 Kennedy crime-scene investigation.

Once again—like it or not—Sirhan did it, and he did it alone.

Additional comments by DEM

Here is my webpage about the 50th anniversary of this horrible crime: http://www.moldea.com/RFKcase.html.

* * *


17: On this first anniversary of the appointment of Robert Mueller

One year ago, today—May 17, 2017—in the aftermath of Attorney General Jeff Sessions’s recusal from all matters related to Russia’s influence on the 2016 election, Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein, another Republican nominated by Donald Trump, selected former FBI Director Robert Mueller, yet another Republican, as the DOJ’s Special Counsel to direct the investigation.

Below, for my bookkeeping purposes, is a catalogue of some, but not all, of my 120-plus blog-posts—some prophetic, some lame—about Mueller, Russia, Trump & the mob, and Stormy Daniels . . . as well as about Trump’s people, his supporters, his survival, and his words and deeds, along with a few of my Trump-inspired satires. (To see the entire catalogue, click http://www.moldea.com/CGW-blog-Catalogue.pdf.)

Once again, it’s all-hands-on-deck time.

Please, Bob Mueller . . . End this madness.

Robert Mueller

Trump is about to get the granddaddy of all comeuppances (5-11-2017)

Did Trump-Putin discuss the Mueller probe? (7-7-2017)

Experts testify before the U.S. Senate about previous Washington scandals (7-12-2017)

To the Trump crowd, Mueller must go (7-15-2017)

DEM on impeachment now: Is Trump provoking it? (5-17-2017)

Jeff Sessions, the DOJ, and firing Bob Mueller (7-26-2017)

RICO will be among the principal tools used by Special Counsel Robert Mueller (8-1-2017)
Trump ratchets up the violence, taking the Mueller probe off page one (8-13-2017)

Here’s to a long life for Donald Trump—so that he may suffer the consequences of his inevitable downfall (8-19-2017)

Prediction . . . Mueller will try to indict a sitting president (9-20-2017)


Brookings releases a treatise about the obstruction case against Donald Trump (10-10-2017)

Awaiting the motherlode of all Constitutional crises (10-29-2017)

With all of his baggage, will Trump speak to Mueller under oath? (1-8-2018)

On Trump taking The Fifth and Mueller giving him immunity (2-16-2018)

The Mueller docket of unsealed documents (3-8-2018)

Russia

“If I were writing this script,” the upcoming faux crisis between the US and Russia (2-14-2017)

WP: Trump revealed classified information to the Russians (5-15-2017)

As the investigations proceed, the fates of Trump and Putin are linked (6-2-2017)

Donald Trump, Robert De Niro, and the Agalarovs of Russia (7-20-2017)
https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100006236621784

Will Trump sign or veto the Congressional sanctions against Russia? (7-22-2017)

The Shearer Memo (2-6-2018)

Shearer-Blumenthal-Winer-Steelle. . . . Patriots All (2-7-2018)

Mafia and organized crime (U.S. and Russia)

Donald Trump and the mob (10-7-2015)

Ralph Salerno: “Organized crime will put a man in the White House . . .” (1-20-2017)

“Like a Mafia family busting out a savings & loan . . .” (11-3-2017)

The WSJ spiked an editorial about Donald Trump and the Mafia (12-20-2017)

The Mafia, still not dead, enters the Trump fray (4-21-2018)
Daniels, Stormy

WSJ: Did Trump pay a porn star for her silence? (1-12-2018)

An SNL lament on the president and the porn star (1-14-2018)

With the Stormy Daniels case gaining legitimacy, Trump will create more distractions (3-17-2018)

How many lives must Trump sacrifice to get us to forget his relationships with Vladimir Putin and Stormy Daniels? (4-9-2018)

Trump: His people

DEM on the resignation of Michael Flynn, appealing him to come clean (2-13-2017)

What does Jared Kushner know about the Russians, and what do they know about him? (3-2-2017)

Bolton and diGenova: Dishonest bomb throwers from Fox News (3-22-2018)

Trump plans to nominated Gingrich’s third wife as the ambassador to the Vatican (5-15-2017)

TrumpWorld: The poor willingly sacrificing for the rich (5-26-2017)

VP Mike Pence lawyers up (6-15-2017)

The Dishonest Son and The Liar President (7-11-2017)

When being a bigot is not a deal-breaker (8-14-2017)


A split between Trump and the business community over his support for white nationalists? (8-16-2017)

To understand Steve Bannon at Breitbart News, you need to be aware of Andrew Breitbart (8-18-2017)

Tonight’s Charlie Rose–Steve Bannon interview, arranged by 60 Minutes producer Ira Rosen (9-10-2017)

Chief of Staff John Kelly’s inexplicable defense of Donald Trump (10-19-2017)

With thoughts and prayers that the dishonored General Flynn doesn’t take the same path as the dishonored Admiral Boorda (12-1-2017)

The libel case that radicalized John Dowd against the news media (12-4-2017)
Sessions fires McCabe as McCaffrey insists that Trump is a “serious threat to US national security” (3-16-2018) https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=2023481314536403&id=100006236621784


**Trump: His supporters**


At the brink, a search for the peacemakers (11-12-2017) https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1969782306572971&id=100006236621784


**Trump: His survival**


Is Trump running out the clock? (3-18-2018)

“Traitor Trump” v. “Lying Comey” (4-12-2018)

**Trump: Words and deeds**

Political hate speech by Donald Trump and Fox News and the threat of violence (3-3-2016)

DEM: “If Trump, the GOP, and Fox News want another showdown on the issue of morality . . .” (5-7-2016)

Labor Day-2016 and the upcoming election with Thomas Cole painting (9-5-2016)

On President Trump, Day 40-Plus (2-28-2017)

If the Trump-Clinton situation was reversed (3-4-2017)

Trump believes that he may defame at will (3-17-2017)
https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100006236621784

**Politifact** lists the provable lies of Donald Trump (6-12-2017)

Same old, same old: Some WH staffer will tell Trump what to say to get yet another second chance (8-13-2017)

Trump’s “crazy man” routine (10-22-2017)

The Liar President shatters records . . . for dishonesty (1-11-2018)

How can we believe The Conflict/Liar President? (3-7-2018)

Donald Trump: The Master Distractor (3-24-2018)

**Trump: DEM satire**

Note to Trump: “You gotta be crazy to sue the New York Times for libel . . . Trust me.” (10-13-2016)

Cartoon: “Please Lord, enough already.” (11-7-2016)

“You can’t stop what’s coming,” from No Country for Old Men. (2-4-2017)

DEM pretend treatment for a movie script about a playboy/businessman (2-16-2017)

A dream: Trump’s tax returns delivered to my door (6-25-2017)

A secret transcript of the Trump-Putin meeting (satire) (7-8-2017)

A prayer: Dear God, please protect us from Donald Trump (8-17-2017)
As predicted, the U.S. Supreme Court has legalized sports gambling

Last Thursday night, I was the keynote speaker at the annual awards dinner of the Schar School of Policy and Government at George Mason University. The principal theme of my talk revolved around my long-standing belief that sports gambling would be legalized, nationwide—which I had predicted in my 1989 book, “Interference: How Organized Crime Influences Professional Football,” as well as during my September 11, 1989, appearance on ABC’s Nightline. . . .

Today, the U.S. Supreme Court legalized sports gambling, nationwide.

Here is a verbatim excerpt from my prepared speech at George Mason. . . .

With regard to social media and the garbage on the web, truth takes its biggest licking on the issue of gambling—on and off line. And I say this as the U.S. Supreme Court is about to make a decision about sports gambling that is going to affect all of our lives.

As I have been saying for years, the movement to legalize on and offline sports gambling, the Mafia’s second-biggest money-making operation after drug trafficking, will cause a proliferation of organized-crime and illegal-gambling activities.

Generally speaking, legalized gambling is a major political issue. State lotteries have raised billions of dollars by enticing the citizens who play them, most of whom are poor and powerless, to gamble. Meantime, legalized casino, riverboat, and Indian reservation gambling—under the guise of charitable, non-profit operations—have grown considerably while creating a whole new generation of gamblers. To be sure, the politicians have seen what suckers we’ve all become when it comes to the state lotteries, which are nothing more than another form of regressive taxation. In short, legalized gambling is a con game.

It is my belief that state governments do not get into the bookmaking and casino businesses, directly or indirectly, for eleemosynary purposes. They are doing so to make money by convincing their citizens that they can enrich themselves by throwing away their money. Meantime, the states which opt for sports gambling wind up teaching the public how to gamble and, perhaps, even how to use such devices as the point spread.

Sooner or later, the betting public is going to realize that the state is taking a large skim of the handle--of the total pool of bets--and, eventually, the public is going to come to terms with the fact that they can get a bigger bang for their buck, betting with Charlie the Bookie, the friendly local bookmaker at the corner bar, who is going to make them put up $11 to win $10 and is only taking a ten percent commission or vigorish, aka “The Vig,” on the losing bets he books.

And Charlie is also going to extend credit to his customers and be willing to loan them money—which are services the state will not do. In other words, illegal gambling thrives in the midst of a system of legalized gambling.

Certainly, gambling has made life more interesting for some Americans, but, simultaneously, gambling has also brought Mafia figures, bookmakers, lay-off operators, loan sharks, and juice collectors into our culture. And our nation has simply been unable to accept the link between organized crime and the legal and illegal gambling activities.
gambling communities, as well as the consequences of this cabal—and how syndicate gambling activities have helped to finance other illicit operations, such as drug trafficking and political corruption.

But to be clear, the problem here is not simply the issues of gambling, drugs, and corruption: Once again, the real problem is organized crime, which, as I say, has gone high-tech, online, and offshore.

*Additional comments by DEM*

Here is the U.S. Supreme Court decision: https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/17pdf/16-476_dbfi.pdf.

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**14: Do the NFL owners want to control sports gambling on NFL games? (original post: 12-21-2015)**


[UPDATE 5-14-2018: Today, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a federal law prohibiting states from legalizing sports betting, a ruling that opens the door to legalizing sports betting in states across the country.]

Here is a two-minute excerpt of a controversial prediction I made on *ABC’s Nightline* on September 11, 1989—that the NFL team owners did not want other sports-gambling enterprises making money off the NFL’s brand and trade. Instead, they wanted and needed that money for themselves. Consequently—as I prophesied in my 1989 book, *Interference: How Organized Crime Influences Professional Football*—the NFL team owners would wind up with kiosks in the stadiums, allowing fans to place bets on NFL games. . . . With all of the gambling money currently being made over fantasy football and other forms of sports gambling, there is a good chance that this process could begin in earnest in 2016—not only for the NFL, but for the NBA and the NHL, as well. . . . Throughout the *Nightline* program, and especially during this segment, I mixed it up with two very fine people, both of whom I admired and respected: Warren Welsh, the director of security for the NFL, and Roxy Roxborough, who, at that time, was the top sports oddsmaker in Las Vegas. . . . https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zSkaw5b0AEM

*Additional comments by DEM*


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12: The suicide of Greg Stone and the RFK murder case

NOTE: With the 50th anniversary of the tragic murder of Senator Robert Kennedy less than a month away, many of us who have been involved with the investigation are in the midst of catharsis, recalling those—many of whom are now gone—who made major contributions to the case...I pay my respects to Greg Stone, who knew more about the minutia of this horrible crime than anyone, living or dead.

Excerpt from my memoir, Confessions of a Guerrilla Writer: Adventures in the Jungles of Crime, Politics, and Journalism:

On November 8, 1990, [Greg] Stone and I—along with former FBI agent William Bailey, who was at the crime scene on the night of the Senator’s murder, and Phil Melanson—participated in a symposium at Southeastern Massachusetts University where Melanson taught political science.

After the well-attended event, Stone, Melanson, and I went out to dinner—even though there was still some tension between Stone and me. But, after we shook hands and made peace, the atmosphere lightened up considerably as the three of us had a great time, telling and retelling our old war stories.

Soon after, Stone again began sending me his memoranda about the RFK case and drafts of his proposal to the district attorney's office in which he was requesting a grand-jury hearing to investigate police procedures during the RFK case. Also, he asked me to execute my third sworn affidavit in his Freedom of Information Act lawsuit against the FBI, which I agreed to do. As usual, we exchanged Christmas cards and talked occasionally on the telephone.

Late on the evening of January 28, 1991, Stone called me at my home in Washington for the second time that week. He had no specific agenda, no particular subject he wanted to discuss. He seemed perfectly normal but a little tired.

I remember advising him to take a vacation. "Go sit on a beach, get a tan, chase women," I said.

The following night at 10:45 P.M., I received a telephone call from Phil Melanson who told me that he had just spoken to a man who identified himself as an investigator from the Los Angeles County Coroner's Office. The investigator told Melanson that Greg Stone had committed suicide.

Melanson seemed to think that the call was a cruel joke. Taking it more seriously, I asked Melanson if he had tried to call Stone. He said that he had not.

Immediately, I telephoned Stone at his home in the East Hollywood section of Los Angeles. When he didn't answer, I left a message on his answering machine, demanding that he call me as soon as he received it. After failing to reach Stone, I called his next-door neighbor, Floyd Nelson, who worked nights and also was not home. I left a desperate message on Nelson's answering machine, as well.

Then, I called the coroner's office in Los Angeles. The same investigator who had spoken to Melanson confirmed that Stone was dead. He had committed suicide in the Fern Dell section of Griffith Park about a mile from Stone's home.

Specifically, the investigator said that between 3:00 and 4:00 that afternoon the 41-year-old Stone had sat down under a tree in the park, placed a .38 Smith & Wesson revolver in his mouth, and pulled the trigger. A park employee had found him just after the shooting—while the blood was still gushing from his head. Two LAPD officers responded to the call.

According to the coroner's investigator, the officers had found a note in Stone's clothing, directing them to his red Volkswagen, parked in a nearby lot. When the police found his car, they discovered another note.
This one provided the names of several people who were to be contacted, including his sister and uncle, his personal attorneys and a mortician, as well as Melanson and Nelson. The police also found a psychiatrist's business card in his possession.

The coroner's investigator told me that he had talked to Stone's psychiatrist, who said that Stone was as depressed as anyone he had ever seen. He added that his suicide came as no surprise—that he had threatened to kill himself on several occasions during the past couple of weeks.

Stunned, I told the investigator that I didn't have any idea that Stone was in trouble or had sought professional help, even though I had spoken to him twice in the past week.

At 3:00 A.M., I called Floyd Nelson again. This time, he was in. Overwhelmed with grief, he explained that he had heard about Stone's death from a friend at work and immediately left his job. When he arrived home, he grabbed the key Stone had given him and went into his apartment. On Stone's desk was a file folder marked "Post Mortem," which contained numerous documents.

Stone had handwritten and signed a suicide note, stating: “This is my own decision and came out of my own problems and shortcomings. It is not the fault at all of my family, friends or the people I've worked with I'm sorry to have let my family and so many others down.”

Several days later, when I returned to Washington after visiting a funeral home in southern Ohio to pay my respects to Stone and his family, I was looking through my mail and noticed a letter from him. My hands were shaking as I opened it.

Inside, the handwritten note simply said: "Sorry about this, Dan. Stay a survivor."

Additional comments by DEM

Here is Garry Abrams's article about Greg Stone's suicide—and his obsession with the RFK murder case—in the Los Angeles Times, February 17, 1991. . . .


Jerry Policoff, the executive director of the Assassination Archives and Research Center, shockingly alleged that I was responsible for Greg Stone’s decision to commit suicide because of my May 1995 book, concluding that Sirhan had murdered Senator Robert Kennedy and acted alone. . . . The problem is that Greg killed himself in January 1991, four years before the publication of my book. . . . Here is my full response to Policoff, yet another conspiracy theorist who refuses to admit when he’s wrong. http://www.moldea.com/Policoff.html

8: My pleasant afternoon with the alleged “Zodiac Killer” . . . and its aftermath

Over 40 years ago, a family friend, who knew I was writing a book about Jimmy Hoffa, introduced me to an ex-convict named Ed Edwards, who said that he had done time at Lewisburg Penitentiary with Hoffa. During my three-hour, recorded interview with Edwards in the dining room of his home in Akron, Ohio, he added that he was present when Hoffa got into what became an historic fistfight in the prison mess hall with Genovese-family capo Anthony Provenzano, another labor racketeer. . . . Edwards told me that he had helped break up the fight.

Of course, Provenzano wound up engineering Hoffa’s disappearance and murder in July 1975. It was Tony Pro’s top lieutenant, Salvatore Briguglio, who, in my opinion, did the actual killing. (I am the only journalist to have had a face-to-face interview with Briguglio, who was murdered in March 1978.)

During the fall of 2016, I received a call from a documentary-film producer who had read my book and saw the references to Edwards. When he asked me if I had memorialized my interview with him, I replied that I had—but that I had destroyed the tapes.

The producer groaned. When I asked him why he was upset, he revealed that he and his production team believed that Edwards was “The Zodiac Killer,” the subject of what has become their six-part series on the Paramount Network. . . . Part Four aired last night, which included the producers’ allegation that Edwards, among his many other victims, had murdered Jimmy Hoffa.

Although I am enjoying the series, I scoffed at that theory, saying on camera that the cast of characters in the still-unsolved Hoffa caper was fairly well known, and that Edwards—who might or might not be “The Zodiac Killer”—wasn’t even on the radar screen in the Hoffa investigation.

Attached is a scene of the producers and me at the old Machus Red Fox restaurant in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan—near the corner of Telegraph and Maple—where Hoffa was last seen. In this photo, I was showing them where Hoffa had parked his car—shortly before he climbed into another car and was driven to the scene of his murder.

6: Russ and Eric: Two Oscars, Four Emmys, and two DuPonts between them

Here’s a photograph I took last night of Russell Williams (left) and Eric Wray, two great people we met at a wonderful party for a houseful of guests, most of whom were artists, in Silver Spring. . . . Eric, a widely praised producer/editor who spent most of his career working at ABC News with Ted Koppel at Nightline, has won every major broadcast-journalism award, including two Emmys and two DuPonts. . . . Russ has also won two Primetime Emmys, as well as two Academy Awards, back-to-back, for “Best Sound,” honoring his work for Glory (1989) and Dances with Wolves (1990).

Russ, now a professor of Film and Media Arts at American University, donated both of his Oscars, as well as his two Emmys, to the National Museum of African American History and Culture here in Washington, D.C., where they are on display. . . . Russ was the first African American to win multiple Academy Awards in any category.

Additional comments by DEM

Of course, I just had to tell him the story--in connection with you--about my refusal to cross the NABET picket line en route to my scheduled but then aborted appearance on The Today Show . . . which has never asked me back. . . . As you know, I am very proud of that moment--and you have always been great by reminding me about it.

2: Trump and North Korea: Even a broken clock is right twice a day

Bravo to the corrupt and dishonest Donald Trump for what has been, at least to date, his apparently but inexplicably effective, bully-boy initiatives with North Korea—proving, yet again, that even a broken clock is right twice a day.

**Additional comments by DEM**

Yet, why is it that I still don’t believe anything he says or does? . . . Oh, yes, now I remember—because he lies about everything. [https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/fact-checker/wp/2018/05/01/president-trump-has-made-3001-false-or-misleading-claims-so-far/?utm_term=.2606fd3fb4b5](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/fact-checker/wp/2018/05/01/president-trump-has-made-3001-false-or-misleading-claims-so-far/?utm_term=.2606fd3fb4b5)

* * *

We have all been conditioned to recognize that this guy has a self-serving angle to everything he does. . . . No doubt, the North Korean caper will be nothing new.

* * *

Still, two months ago, I feared that this guy was going to stumble into a nuclear war—not that he isn't still capable of doing so.

* * *

My touchstone, my litmus test, my default position on Korea, both North and South, is Tim Shorrock of *The Nation*, who rightly credits the diplomacy of South Korea's President Moon for the bulk of the progress. . . . Here is Tim's upbeat article in the upcoming issue of *The Nation.* [https://www.thenation.com/article/historic-korean-summit-sets-the-table-for-peace-and-us-pundits-react-with-horror/](https://www.thenation.com/article/historic-korean-summit-sets-the-table-for-peace-and-us-pundits-react-with-horror/)

* * *

Even when you bend over backward, trying to be fair to this guy by giving him a little credit for something he's done, he never fails to disappoint. . . . [https://www.nytimes.com/2018/05/24/world/asia/north-korea-trump-summit.html?action=Click&contentCollection=BreakingNews&contentID=67031432&pgtype=Homepage](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/05/24/world/asia/north-korea-trump-summit.html?action=Click&contentCollection=BreakingNews&contentID=67031432&pgtype=Homepage)

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**April 2018**

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**29: As the 50th anniversary of RFK’s murder approaches, the “Sirhan-didn’t-do-it” crowd gears up**


Along with the updated reprint of my 1995 book, *The Killing of Robert F. Kennedy*—in which the confessed and convicted assassin, Sirhan Sirhan, whom I interviewed at length, still did it and did it alone—the 50th anniversary of the June 5, 1968, shooting of Senator Kennedy, who died the following day, is going to help launch several new books, conferences, and films . . . with views opposed to mine.

1. A conference will be held on Thursday, May 3, about the RFK assassination at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. It will be exclusively stocked with speakers who believe that Sirhan is an innocent man, wrongly accused. Technically, the one exception will be the video-conference appearance of former Los Angeles County Coroner Thomas Noguchi, who has never officially ruled that Sirhan fired the fatal shot.
Regardless of what the 91-year-old Noguchi is saying now, I stand by what he told me during our earlier recorded interviews, which were consistent with his previous sworn statements.

Many of the speakers at the Duquesne conference actually believe that Sirhan was mind-controlled—programmed to kill and programmed to forget about it.

Our friend and colleague, Andrew Kreig, a reasonable man, will be moderating a panel discussion, “Legal and Scientific Issues in the Assassination of Robert F. Kennedy,” which, judging by the lineup of speakers, will be a predictably one-sided assault on the reality that Sirhan committed the crime and acted alone. See: http://www.duq.edu/about/centers-and-institutes/cyril-h-wecht-institute-of-forensic-science-and-law/the-annual-symposium/agenda.

Notably, during my 1993-1994 interviews with Sirhan, he completely rejected the theory that he had been mind-controlled by persons unknown. And, regarding the existence of an alleged conspiracy, I asked, “But, yes or no, were you part of a conspiracy, Sirhan?”

Sirhan replied, “I wish there had been a conspiracy. It would have unraveled before now.”

2. Zac Stuart-Pontier—an Emmy and Peabody Award-winning journalist who is also the co-host and senior producer of the Crimetown podcast—is producing a ten-part audio series about the murder of Senator Kennedy, which will also be skeptical of Sirhan’s role. I have already been interviewed for this program. See: http://www.crimetownshow.com/. The ten broadcasts will coincide with the June anniversary.

3. Optomen Productions is producing a series, tentatively titled, Smoking Guns, which will feature the Kennedy murder as one of its episodes. Even though I trust the program’s reporters, I canceled a scheduled interview because of the release agreement offered by the media company’s attorneys, which maximized my responsibilities but minimize my rights. See: http://www.optomenproductions.com/people/.

4. Remarkably, Robert Kennedy, Jr. is siding with the “Sirhan-didn’t-do-it” crowd, just as he previously has, in writing, during an earlier parole hearing. However, I am not certain whether the controversies surrounding his father’s murder will be discussed in Kennedy’s upcoming memoir, scheduled for publication on May 22: American Values: Lessons I Learned from My Family. See: https://www.amazon.com/American-Values-Lessons-Learned-Family-ebook/dp/B01JYVJS08/ref=tmm_kin_swatch_0?_encoding=UTF8&qid=1525042342&sr=8-3.

5. Notably, my relationship with Thane Eugene Cesar, the security guard who was standing behind Kennedy on the night of the shooting with a gun in his hands and powder burns on his face, has become an issue. For the past 49 years, Cesar has been, in my opinion, wrongly accused by numerous people, including me, of being the actual killer of Senator Kennedy.

Anyone who wants access to Gene Cesar must go through me to get to him.

As with many others, when I first entered the RFK investigation in 1985, Cesar was my top suspect as a second gunman and Kennedy’s actual killer. I worked day and night for years, researching his background and interviewing him. Finally, because of all the time and money I was spending, trying to determine Cesar’s guilt or innocence, I needed some test or measurement to determine my future commitment to this investigation.

I asked Cesar to participate in a polygraph test I had arranged with Edward Gelb, who was then the president of the American Polygraph Association. With no hesitation, Cesar agreed. The entire session, which was over two hours, was recorded. I still have the original tapes under lock and key. In short, Cesar passed the lie-detector test . . . with flying colors, as they say.

Then, after Cesar’s test, I focused my attention on getting to and interviewing Sirhan.
And, after my fourteen hours of interviews with Sirhan, I concluded in my 1995 book that he did it and did it alone—and that Cesar was, in fact, an innocent man, wrongly accused.

Since then, I have protected Cesar, who has given me his power of attorney. Also, full disclosure, four years after the release of my 1995 book, Cesar asked me to be the godfather of his youngest son.

6. A new book, The Assassination of Robert F. Kennedy: Crime, Cover-up & Conspiracy, will soon be released by a British publisher, which has embargoed the work until June 6. The co-authors are Tim Tate and Brad Johnson—both of whom have histories of disputing Sirhan’s guilt. Simultaneous to its release, the book will reportedly be serialized by The Daily Mail.

The co-authors are playing this as though they actually have something important to say. And I am very curious to read what it is. See: http://www.andrewlownie.co.uk/authors/tim-tate/books/no-martyrs-cause.


28: Be an author, make enemies

Going through some files last night, I found the attached twenty-year-old fan letter, a treasured memento of my 44 years as an independent investigative journalist and, now, the author of nine published books. . . . The fan’s letter opens with, “You total asshole,” and ends with, “So fuck your bald headed, beady eyed, double-chinned ass.” . . . I love this business.

23: Sean Hannity, his properties, and Michael Franzese

Last week, after the allegedly corrupt and dishonest Sean Hannity of Fox News was revealed as one of three clients of Donald Trump’s personal attorney, Michael Cohen, a subsequent report indicated that Hannity was under investigation for his real-estate holdings. . . . I am in the midst of a ton of other work right now—which has nothing to do with any of this—but I did do research on Hannity’s properties during my 2009-2010 investigative assignment for CREW, focusing on his Freedom Concerts which I alleged were nothing more than a cynical scam operation to promote his right-wing causes and friends. . . . Attached is an addendum I wrote to my Third Interim Report for CREW on Hannity and his real-estate holding companies, SPMK I-VIII.

Also, in a separate report, I revealed raw-intelligence information, alleging that Hannity’s father and grandfather—Hugh Hannity Jr. and Sr.—had unknown associations with John “Sonny” Franzese, the longtime underboss of the Colombo crime family in Brooklyn. . . . Notably, Franzese’s son, Michael, a Colombo capo who had somehow managed to leave the Mafia without reprisals, has made several appearances on Hannity’s evening television program. . . . In 1986, Franzese, before quitting the mob, pleaded guilty to his role in a gasoline-bootlegging scheme involving the Russian Mafia.

http://www.moldea.com/Hannity-properties.pdf

Additional comments by DEM

Just for bookkeeping purposes, here is my November 14, 2017, blog on Sean Hannity, including a link to CREW’s complaints to the IRS, et al, based on my work. . . . https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1970612249823310&id=100006236621784&pnref=story.
And here is my June 27, 2017, blog about my brief encounter with Sonny Franzese. . . .

Also, here is a December 12, 1992, article I co-authored for the *Mesa Tribune* with Dave Robb about an alleged payoff that Michael Franzese allegedly made to George H.W. Bush during his 1980 bid for the presidency. . . . http://www.moldea.com/Mesa.html

21: The Mafia, still not dead, enters the Trump fray

With the Mafia—in both New York and Moscow—finally entering the Trump-scare landscape, some of Donald Trump’s supporters are already claiming that the Mafia is dead and has been for years. . . . Here’s an interview I did—with the great mob prosecutor, Ron Goldstock of New York—on “ABC’s Good Morning America” in 1992 during which we discussed what was then the latest “the-Mafia-is-dead” false rumor, as well as the importance of RICO as a tool for prosecuting Mafia guys and their families. . . . This is a 7:16-minute segment. Our interview with Joan Lunden begins at 1:01. . . . Please forgive my big glasses, as well as my final gasp of top hair. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SJgLsRBFlfM

Additional comments by DEM

Rudy Giuliani hijacked an enormous amount of credit for the great successes of Ron Goldstock, including but not limited to the events that led to the famous Mafia Commission Trial in New York, 1985-1986.

* * *

Ed. . . . I’m acquainted with a few of these mob guys, too. And they are no longer knuckle-dragging 8th-grade dropouts. The real leaders are now well educated and even sophisticated, as was the late Jack Tocco in the Detroit underworld, aka “The Partnership.”. . . . I remember that—while doing my 1989 book about the NFL and the Mafia—I visited a bookmaking joint in Chicago where the most sophisticated piece of machinery was a hand-cranked adding machine. . . . Today, these guys have gone high-tech, online, and offshore, far from the reach of U.S. law-enforcement agencies. . . . And, as I have been saying for years, the movement to legalize sports gambling, the Mafia’s second-biggest money-making operation after drug trafficking, will cause a proliferation of organized-crime and illegal-gambling activities. In fact, an upcoming U.S. Supreme Court decision—which would legalize sports gambling nationwide—could make that a reality.

14: Washington, D.C. from the Galaxy Ballroom in Pentagon City

Washington, D.C. from the Galaxy Ballroom on the 16th floor of the Sheraton Pentagon City . . . with, among other scenes from left to right: Arlington Cemetery, the Washington Monument, the Smithsonian, the Jefferson Monument, the U.S. Capitol, the 14th Street Bridge over the Potomac River, and the Pentagon, among so many other landmarks—with the U.S. Air Force Memorial fanning out and into the sky. . . . Is this a great city or what?
**Additional comments by DEM**

I took the photo at the end of the memorial service today for the great journalist, Bob Parry. https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=2001875880030280&id=100006236621784&notif_id=1523741309420378&notif_t=feedback_reaction_generic&ref=notif

12: **“Traitor Trump” v. “Lying Comey”**


Get ready for a B-movie marathon this weekend. . . . “Traitor Trump” v. “Lying Comey.” . . . No doubt, Donald Trump is trying to figure out some way to upstage and divert our attention from the release of James Comey’s devastating new book.

12: **On the Pompeo confirmation hearings**


With crazy John Bolton now in place as Donald Trump’s national-security advisor and Tea Party stooge Mike Pompeo, who is leaving as Trump’s CIA director to become his Secretary of State—along with the other screwballs on Trump’s cabinet, including but not limited to Jeff Sessions, Wilbur Ross, Ryan Zinke, Betsy DeVos, Mike Mulvaney, and Scott Pruitt—those of us who made the prediction in 2016 that, “Hillary Clinton is all that stands between us and the complete and total right-wing takeover of all three branches of the US Government,” have been completely vindicated.

**Additional comments by DEM**

Because of his blind devotion and loyalty to the corrupt and dishonest Donald Trump, along with his own nutty beliefs, Mike Pompeo has been and continues to be a very, very dangerous man.

*   *   *

Michael. . . . As you know better than I, it took a massive and unprecedented smear campaign—which involved a wholly dishonest opponent, his media prison bitch (Fox News), the Russians, Wikileaks, and the director of the FBI—to defeat her.

10: **On Facebook, while watching Mark Zuckerberg testify before the U.S. Senate**

After several years of resistance, I came to Facebook late, signing up in June 2013. From the outset, I have never been concerned about any violations of my privacy. In fact, truth be told, I have probably invited them on occasion. . . . Notably, among other things, I don’t list my birthday or my home-contact information. I rarely mention members of my family. And I routinely monitor and use the controls and protections that Facebook offers to its subscribers—which I find both helpful and adequate.

I appreciate that Facebook allows me to connect with my family, friends, and colleagues who live in the United States and throughout the world while giving me the opportunity to promote my books, articles, and lectures, as well as my personal blog, the contents of which I also post on Facebook. In addition, as part of my work, I use Facebook as a digital filing device and a general-information clearinghouse for specific subjects related to my work.

Although I am concerned about the abuses of Facebook—especially those by Cambridge Analytica—I believe that my personal and professional lives are enhanced by Facebook.

Thus, I will be sticking around. And I hope my family, friends, and colleagues do the same.

Additional comments by DEM

Indeed, for those of us who do investigations, Facebook is a dream come true, . . . a place where people come to congregate, knowingly and willingly surrendering as much of their privacy as they choose. . . . I’m in the midst of litigation right now, and I am assuming that the investigators for the defendant in my case are pulling everything they can from my Facebook page. . . . My response is, "Have fun." I put all of this material up, recognizing the risks.

*          *          *

Mike. . . . I have two friends on Facebook with whom I went to kindergarten--along with other FB friends from my hometown in Ohio, my high school, college, grad school, my previous homes in Detroit, New York, and Los Angeles, as well as here in Washington, D.C., and from my various assignments around the US and in a handful of European countries as a reporter--which is one of the biggest reasons why I enjoy the FB experience.

*          *          *

What scares the hell out of me is how private investigators can violate the privacy of anyone and everyone—legally.

9: How many lives must Trump sacrifice to get us to forget his relationships with Vladimir Putin and Stormy Daniels?

How many lives in Syria, Iran, the United States, and around the world will be sacrificed by the corrupt and dishonest Donald Trump in his desperate ongoing efforts to divert our attention away from his nefarious relationship with Vladimir Putin and his one-nighter with Stormy Daniels?

4: Homage to Ken Paff, TDU National Secretary and working-class hero

On Friday night in Chicago, the great rank-and-file reform organization, Teamsters for a Democratic Union, aka TDU, and its many allies in organized labor and the progressive-politics movement will honor the legendary Ken Paff, TDU’s long-time national secretary. . . . Here is my homage to Ken:
During my 44 years as an investigative journalist and author—especially during the research for my 1978 book, The Hoffa Wars—I have known few people I admire and respect more than Ken Paff. I met him in 1975 during one of the first organizing meetings for the Teamsters for a Decent Contract, which evolved the following year into the Teamsters for a Democratic Union. From the outset, I looked up to Ken for his dedication to making life better for the union’s rank and file, as well as his determination to help clean up the union’s breathtaking corruption.

One of the greatest moments of my career was witnessing the TDU-backed candidate for Teamsters president, Ron Carey, along with the elected members of his reform slate on the union's general executive board, take their oaths of office on February 1, 1992, at IBT headquarters in Washington, D.C. And, then, Carey ordered the front doors to the Marble Palace swung open for all those gathered to enter and inspect.

Truth be told, I had tears in my eyes during that tour. It reinforced my belief that real change was possible.

Few people did more to engineer that wonderful moment in American history than Ken Paff, a true working-class hero. He has made a difference.

March 2018

31: Obama saves the world. Roseanne gives Trump the credit.

I saw a clip from the new Roseanne show in which—crunching time and space—she argued that Donald Trump was creating jobs after her family had nearly lost their home. . . . I wonder if another character on the program reminded her that the housing collapse, along with the last real period of unemployment, came in 2007-2008 under the Bush Administration and its co-conspirators in the Republican Congress.

In the end, it was President Barack Obama, taking office in 2009, who turned everything around and saved the world—in spite of the obstructionist Republicans in Congress, who, by design and on principle, attempted to block anything and everything Obama did. More often than not, those Republicans who even considered cooperating with Obama were primaried by the far right of their own party.

It was that long and deliberate recovery—engineered by Obama and the Democrats, which included 75 consecutive months of job growth and a near-tripling of the stock market—which led to this temporary economic boom that Trump is dishonestly taking full credit for now.

Meantime, we wait with considerable dread for the next economic collapse which will likely result from the moronic and self-destructive “tax-reform” bill passed by Trump and the Republicans, which mostly benefits the wealthiest Americans, like actress Roseanne Barr, but is inexplicably embraced by the sheep in Trump’s flock, like Roseanne Conner, her TV character.

Additional comments by DEM

From the New York Times. . . . "Roseanne Barr was at the center of a social media storm on Tuesday after she sent a racist tweet that referred to “The Planet of the Apes” when mentioning a former top adviser to President Barack Obama who is black... "
30: Ethelbert Miller’s latest book of poetry is about the greatest game in the world: Baseball
https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=2029791770572024&set=a.1406746079543266.1073741831.100006236621784&typ...=

Last night, our long-time friend and colleague, the great E. Ethelbert Miller, celebrated the release of *If God Invented Baseball*, his latest book of poetry, at Busboys and Poets in Takoma Park. . . . Pictured here with his talented daughter, Washington attorney Jasmine-Simone Morgan, and his lovely wife, Dr. Denise King-Miller, Ethelbert charmed and entertained the standing-room-only crowd with an array of wonderful stories about the greatest game in the world. . . . And very few people know that game as well as Ethelbert Miller. His book is must reading for anyone who loves baseball.

29: Posing whacked in a barber chair

A faux whacking. . . . My barber, who has a very sick sense of humor and knows that I investigate the Mafia, asked me to pose for this picture today.

*Additional comments by DEM*

Very good, David. . . . Albert Anastasia—October 25, 1957, in the barber shop at the Park Sheraton Hotel in Midtown Manhattan.

* * *

Carmine Galante . . . whacked with a cigar still in his mouth on July 12 1979, at Mary and Joe’s in Brooklyn.

29: On rigged systems and deep-state swamps

Okay, I finally get it. . . . The supporters of Donald Trump—the armchair warriors, the flag wavers, the gun nuts, the bigots, and the religious hypocrites, as well as most of the one-percenters who play the others like a fiddle by pretending that what’s good for the rich is also good for the poor—have elected the closest thing possible to their dream president. And, without apologies or remorse, they forgive him and support him for anything and everything—even when they fully recognize when he’s wrong, when he’s lying, and when he’s guilty.

In spite of his proven dishonesty and his ongoing culture of corruption, Trump has successfully created a dark environment—embraced by his supporters—in which he has cast distrust on America’s most treasured institutions . . . the courts, the law-enforcement community, the military, the intelligence establishment, the legitimate news media, both parties in Congress, and even his own hand-picked Cabinet.

By encouraging his base to disbelieve their own eyes and ears—especially regarding his inexplicable relationship with Russia’s Vladimir Putin and the investigation of that relationship by Robert Mueller—Trump is saying, “Believe me and only me. I, alone, own Absolute Truth.”

Even though most of his supporters really don’t believe that, they are blindly going along with him, hoping against hope that, out of the chaos he is creating, he will restore America to a place and a time that has really never existed.

*Additional comments by DEM*
Fret not, as soon as the Democrats regain the White House, those same Trump supporters will renew their personal outrage and public indignation for any and all presidential acts, real and imagined. . . .

25: Al Franken set the standard. . . . Donald Trump must resign

With his resignation in December 2017, which was demanded for and then cheered by the Republicans, Senator Al Franken set the standard. . . . Now charged with far worse behavior, Donald Trump has got to go—not just for lying about his infidelities, which is understandable, but for the allegedly illegal hush money paid to his mistresses while running for president, as well as any acts of coercion against them.

As usual, when the Republicans demand a showdown on the issue of morality and their challenge is accepted by the Democrats, the Republicans lose. . . . Donald Trump, a provably dishonest man and a disgrace to the American presidency, must resign.

Additional comments by DEM

Because of Franken's resignation, the Democrats have the standing to demand the same fate for Trump.

25: Gloria Steinem at 84 and the new student-activists for gun control

The great social activists—like Gloria Steinem, who turns 84 today—must be so proud of those student-activists and their peaceful, well-organized, and very moving pro-gun-control demonstrations here in Washington and around the country yesterday. . . . Assuming that we survive our current national nightmare, the future of America will be in good hands.

24: Donald Trump: The Master Distractor

Donald Trump—The Master Distractor. . . . What cynical diversions will he concoct that will drive us crazy before Sunday night? . . . . But, then again, what malicious schemes will he launch in private while the kids are in town today, grabbing all the media attention and giving him cover?

Additional comments by DEM

Sunday's New York Times on Stormy Daniels. . . .

22: Bolton and diGenova: Dishonest bomb throwers from Fox News

Joe diGenova? John Bolton?

With these horrendous personnel selections, Donald Trump clearly isn’t looking for skilled legal representation or a demonstration of credible and reliable American diplomacy. Instead, he has opted for two men from the Fox News stable of screwball knuckle draggers. . . . right-wing bomb-throwers who are nearly as provably dishonest as their new boss.

What are we being distracted from now? . . . Oh, wait, all of us already know.
BTW. . . Anderson Cooper’s interview tonight with the intelligent and poised Karen McDougal was devastating. . . Stormy has a hard act to follow on Sunday night. . . By the end of the weekend, Melania might consider flipping and turning state’s evidence for Bob Mueller.

Additional comments by DEM

What big diversion will Trump concoct for Sunday to divert the public’s attention away from Sixty Minutes?

*   *   *

In the Mafia, there is a considerable amount of enforced discipline, as well as required omerta. . . In the Trump Administration, there is none of that . . . in a community in which “The Boss” is the most reckless and undisciplined of all.

*   *   *

In a rare moment of lucidity, Trump has suddenly dumped diGenova and Toensing . . . Sadly, Bolton is still standing. . . .


(March 25, 2018)


On December 27, 2017, I received a call at my home from Robert Kennedy, Jr., who wanted to discuss the murder of his father. . . 40 years earlier to the day—on December 27, 1977—I met with Jimmy Hoffa, Jr., who wanted to discuss the murder of his father.

In this updated, 50th anniversary, fourth edition of my 1995 book, The Killing of Robert F. Kennedy, I have added new information, further showing that Sirhan Sirhan—the darling of a whole new generation of conspiracy theorists—did it and did it alone.

I have also included appendices on how Hoffa and the Mafia arranged the murder of President John Kennedy in 1963 and, based on the best evidence, what happened to Hoffa when he disappeared in 1975.

Speaking of my work, Christopher Lehmann-Haupt of the New York Times wrote: “Carefully reasoned . . . ultimately persuasive and dramatic. . . The author meticulously dissects how the various disputes arose and how critics were drawn into the orbit of the case. . . The cleverness of [Moldea’s] strategy in the book lies in his playing so effectively the part of devil’s advocate. . . His book should be read, not so much for the irrefutability of its conclusions as for the way the author has brought order out of a chaotic tale and turned an appalling tatter of history into an emblem of our misshapen times.”

Both the new trade paperback and Kindle editions are available:


Additional comments by DEM

Here are some fabulous reviews for the RFK book—the best I’ve ever received for any of my nine books: http://www.moldea.com/RFKReviews.html.

*   *   *
Here is an interview about the RFK murder case that I did on KNBC in Los Angeles with the legendary television anchorman, the late Jess Marlow, on June 2, 1995. (There are blackouts between segments where commercials appeared during the original broadcast. The entire recording is 26 minutes, 30 seconds.)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=40jnhrA9kR8&feature=youtu.be

* * *

The Washington Post just put online the June 4, 1995, article I wrote about the murder.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/opinions/1995/06/04/for-the-last-time-who-killed-rfk/3293ac48-454f-4b9d-8467-0521300c65a1/?utm_term=.eb40b1fe3fe0

18: Is Trump running out the clock?


The fearlessness and recklessness that Donald Trump exhibits with his willingness to go out of his way to create unnecessary drama and to make new enemies gives the impression that he believes that he already knows the final outcome of whatever is going on and is now doing nothing more than running out the clock. . . . And that just scares the hell out of me.

Please, Robert Mueller. . . . End this madness.

Additional comments by DEM

As in 2008—after the Bush Administration and Republicans' greedy agenda nearly destroyed the American economy—the Democrats are going to have to ride to the rescue and saved the world again. . . . Trump makes Bush look benign and docile.

* * *

Coach. . . . Not remarkably, I don't have many day-to-day associations with people who actually defend the provably dishonest Donald Trump . . . and that includes my many friends who are Republicans. . . . With regard to the cheerleading thing, this is, after all, Facebook. I always try to treat people with respect here—just as you and I have always treated each other—and I don't go to the FB pages of others to give them grief about their personal politics. . . . With regard to Trump, though, I view this as an all-hands-on-deck moment in American history.

* * *

There is more reason to be alarmed. . . . This guy can't find a real attorney to help in his upcoming defenses against a slew of very serious scandals, . . . and he doesn’t seem to care or express any concern. Meantime, he has selected a man who has been openly advocating shooting wars against both Iran and North Korea. . . . Are there any adults in his proximity?


17: With the Stormy Daniels case gaining legitimacy, Trump will create more distractions


By personally enjoining the litigation against Stormy Daniels, Donald Trump is now essentially admitting to her allegations that he has been fiercely denying for months. . . . In the aftermath of the firings of Rex Tillerson and Andrew McCabe, as well as Trump’s screwball ideas about tariffs and taxes, get ready for more diversions—lots and lots of destructive, nation-dividing diversions—to distract the American public from a scandal that could rival and even eclipse the impact of Robert Mueller’s solid and respected work product.
16: Sessions fires McCabe as McCaffrey insists that Trump is a “serious threat to US national security”

This is how fast the news moves in the age of Donald Trump. . . Just now, while Lawrence O’Donnell was interviewing retired Four-Star General Barry McCaffrey about his breathtaking remarks tonight, insisting that Trump is a “serious threat to US national security,” O’Donnell interrupted the general to announce that Attorney General Jeff Sessions had just fired ex-FBI Deputy Director Andrew McCabe, provoking this latest feeding frenzy while leaving the highly respected McCaffrey in the lurch, never hearing from him again.

Additional comments by DEM

Trump is trying to smear McCabe so that he will be diminished as a witness against him in Robert Mueller’s obstruction case.

* * *

Andrew McCabe’s wife, fighting back against all of the lies told about her and her husband, really lets Trump have it. . . .

14: Remembering biographer John Boslough on the death of Stephen Hawkings

Upon the death of Stephen Hawkings, we also remember the author of the best book about his remarkable life and times, our late friend and colleague, John Boslough, who died in 2010.


11: My severe case of “non-rewarding repetitive behavior”

Sad news. . . . Last night, while we were having dinner with close friends in Rockville, I was diagnosed with a severe case of “non-rewarding repetitive behavior.”

Thoughts and prayers appreciated. . . .

BTW: My tenth true-crime book—along with all the enemies I will make from this one, too—is slated for a summer release.

Additional comments by DEM

Since my first fight in the worlds of journalism and publishing 44 years ago—and, being an independent writer, I’ve had a ton of ‘em since then—my mantra has been, “If you can’t get out of
it, then get into it."

*  *  *

Last night, we had dinner with the same friends. Sadly, in the aftermath of the Kavanaugh confirmation hearings, the diagnosis remains the same... I desperately continue to search for an antidote for my condition.

*  *  *

We are noble savages, John... And we are tough guys, too... but not because we can dish it out. Rather, we are tough guys, because we can "take it."... We've proven that over and over again.

8: The Mueller docket of unsealed documents

Memorializing and illuminating the breathtakingly bad behavior of Donald Trump and his associates in business and politics, the 24-karat no-leaks investigations—led by Robert Mueller and his team of RICO-savvy organized-crime prosecutors—are a shining beacon of competence, honor, and integrity, inspiring hope, confidence, and reassurance that our country might survive Trump’s onslaught of greed, recklessness, and public corruption.

Here is the Mueller docket of unsealed documents—which will be regularly updated by Just Security (h/t Jeff Goldberg): https://www.justsecurity.org/46583/unsealed-documents-special-counsel-mueller-investigation/.

7: How can we believe The Conflict/Liar President?

Donald Trump says that he enjoys and even encourages conflict among White House staffers as part of his decision-making process. However, in doing so, he drags the entire world into his conflict scenarios. Meantime, he doesn’t believe in accountability or full disclosure, and he lies all the time. How can we respect or even believe anything he says or does?

Please, Robert Mueller... End this madness.


Additional comments by DEM

John Kerry was great... It was just that he was for the Iraq War before he was against it. And that really hurt him with the Jello Left, who spend most of their time looking for reasons not to support mainstream Democrats—just as they did in 2016... Thus, we have Donald Trump.

4: Who wants to give Fox News a showdown on the issue of morality?

Tonight, Fox News—the network of creeps and hypocrites, like Roger Ailes and Bill O’Reilly, among many, many others—concludes its worn and tired seven-part series, Scandalous, about President Bill Clinton’s infidelities.

If Fox News—aka Trump State Television, the whorehouse of American journalism—is really looking for another showdown on the issue of morality, I know a whole bunch of sinners, like me, who would love to give it to ‘em.
3: How is Trump handling the pressure?

I just don’t understand how Donald Trump can handle all of this overwhelming pressure—mentally, physically, emotionally, and spiritually—while knowing full well how corrupt and dishonest he has been throughout his career, as well as how close he is to being exposed, humiliated, and broken. . . . No doubt, the world will suffer the consequences from his bad behavior which has been and continues to be enabled and defended by Trump State Television, aka Fox News—not to mention the Christian Right and the Moral Majority, which is neither.

Additional comments by DEM

Sam Nunberg sounds like a guy who believes he has an important story to tell—and is concocting a scenario in which it will be heard before the widest possible audience . . . while he's still pretending to remain loyal to Stone, Bannon, and Trump . . . He is playing us. But, if he really has something to say, I'm willing to be played. (March 5, 2018)

*   *   *

Today's witnesses against Trump and company will be tomorrow's recipients of six-figure book contracts and featured appearances on Sixty Minutes. . . . It looks to me that—after seeing the current climate at DOJ—he is not only trying to survive the Mueller investigation but that he's trying to profit from it. (March 5, 2018)

*   *   *

He needs to spend a few months in Vienna where teams of psychiatrists can examine him, 24-7. (March 19, 2019)

1: Hollywood Confidential (IV)

Many thanks to our friend and colleague, the legendary Allan Lengel, for excerpting the first chapter of my ninth book, Hollywood Confidential, in today’s edition of one of the law-enforcement community’s favorite publications, Tickle the Wire, a fascinating and important journal that is worthy of everyone’s support. http://tickerthewire.com/2018/03/01/book-excerpt-hollywood-confidential-true-story-wiretapping-friendship-betrayal/

February 2018

27: Ahab on Jimmy Hoffa murder case nuances

Did anyone know Angelo Fonzi at Interstate Trucking? If so, please send me a private message. . . . Fonzi had a lot of problems with Rolland McMaster’s goon squad, especially with Jack Robison, the explosives expert, as well as McMaster’s zombie/stooges, Larry McHenry and Jack Ferris. . . . Does anyone know anything about Bradford Trucking? Big Rapids? Seven D? How about McQuaid in Johnstown? . . . Those were among the companies that the federal grand jury investigated in Pittsburgh in
late 1976—before Dick Thornburgh, the outgoing head of the DOJ’s Criminal Division, inexplicably wiped out the Strike Forces Against Organized Crime in five mobbed-up cities, including Pittsburgh. (After McMaster personally threatened my dad in Ohio, I openly cooperated with that grand-jury investigation. Notably, I had published a major expose about the McMaster crew in the Detroit Free Press in June 1976.)

Also, the Time-DC trucking terminal near Detroit was owned by Don Wells. . . . McHenry’s very dangerous sidekick, Jim Shaw, drove for Wells. And it was Shaw’s truck that was firebombed in April 1975—allegedly with Shaw’s knowledge and cooperation. Insurance covered the damage.

McHenry and Shaw, who were both living at the Leland House in downtown Detroit while still working for McMaster, were responsible for the bombing of Dick Fitzsimmons’s union car—just twenty days before Jimmy Hoffa disappeared on July 30, 1975. Simultaneously, McMaster’s brother-in-law, Stan Barr, had hired Shaw to work for the steel division at Gateway Transportation.

While I was writing The Hoffa Wars, I interviewed Barr, Ferris, Fitzsimmons, McMaster, McHenry, Shaw, and Wells. On the day Hoffa vanished, McMaster and Barr were together, meeting with Gateway executives in Gary, Indiana.

According to Ralph Picardo, the FBI’s top informant on the Hoffa case, . . . after Sal Briguglio likely committed the murder in Detroit, Hoffa’s body was stuffed into a 55-gallon drum and loaded onto a Gateway Transportation truck, which supposedly wound up at a landfill in New Jersey, which was owned by Phillip “Brother” Moscato.

I am the only journalist in the world to have interviewed Briguglio, face-to-face, along with his other alleged co-conspirators, including his brother, Gabe, and Steve Andretta—as well as Tom Andretta, by phone, while I was with the others. Also, see my revealing exclusive interviews with the cagey Moscato—who generally gave me information with the same frequency as a kosher butcher sells pork sausages—but who essentially confirmed that Picardo was right.

BTW: Don Wells told me during our 2009 interview that he was with McMaster and Barr when they met with Tony Provenzano on the night before Hoffa’s murder. It was Tony Pro who had engineered the hit with the cooperation of the Briguglios and the Andrettas, among others. . . .

Also, Wells was the federal witness upon whom the FBI based its controversial—but, in my opinion, very righteous—2006 dig at McMaster’s farm. Wells and his wife had lived with McMaster and his wife at a farmhouse on that property throughout 1975.

On the same day as our 2009 interview, Wells and I drove to and checked out the old McMaster farm—where, arguably, Jimmy Hoffa had been murdered after he was picked up at the Red Fox restaurant in Bloomfield Hills. . . .

I am Ahab. And the Hoffa case is still my white whale.

Additional comments by DEM

Con-man Frank “The Irishman” Sheeran, who deathbed-confessed to a murder he did not commit in a cynical attempt to sell his widely rejected 2004 one-source book, did not paint Jimmy Hoffa’s house. Sal Briguglio did. . . . However, Sheeran was part of the overall conspiracy, just as I had alleged twenty-six years earlier in my 1978 book for which he threatened to sue me in 1979.


23: Hollywood Confidential (III)


Last night—speaking at BRIO in Tysons Corner to a friendly group of cops, spooks, and private
investigators, many of whom I’ve known for years—I did my first public appearance, discussing my new book about the Anthony Pellicano, “Sleuth to the Stars” wiretapping caper and federal criminal-conspiracy case. . . . Barely mentioning recently settled litigants Anita Busch and Michael Ovitz, I rocked the joint in front of this very knowledgeable law-enforcement and intelligence-hip crowd, which was well-versed as to the existentials and metaphysics of the Pellicano atmospheres.

BTW: I meant what I said last night, guys. If you hear anything about Bob Mueller’s investigation, please send it my way. . . . I have a need to know and a need to share.

17: Rachel Maddow’s moving moment
https://www.facebook.com/1000062366621784/videos/2010297719188096/

This is one of the most moving moments I have ever seen by a television commentator. It is by Rachel Maddow, speaking about Robert Mueller’s indictments of the Russian saboteurs yesterday. It lasts 1:54, and it just blew me away. . . .

Additional comments by DEM

With no leadership on this matter from either the White House, which gives every indication that it is complicit with the Russians, or the Republican-controlled Congress, which has clearly acquiesced to Trump, I find it fascinating that Robert Mueller is now the one who is actively trying to protect us. . . . I had never thought of it that way until I saw Rachel Maddow say it out loud tonight.

* * *

As the indictment clearly shows, the principal target of the Russian sabotage campaign was Hillary Clinton, whom Putin viewed as his mortal enemy while she served as Secretary of State. In 2014, everyone knew that she was running for President. . . . When Trump entered the race in mid-2015, the Russians supercharged their efforts.

16: On Trump taking The Fifth and Mueller giving him immunity

I wonder. . . . If Robert Mueller has to subpoena Donald Trump to compel his sworn testimony before a federal grand jury, will Trump take The Fifth? . . . And if Trump does take The Fifth, can Mueller force him to accept immunity from prosecution, holding him harmless for any of his crimes as long as he tells The Truth during his forced testimony?

In this latter scenario, Mueller will not only get everything Trump knows, but he will still be able to indict him, because Trump is simply unable to tell the truth—with or without immunity. . . .

Disagreeing is my great friend, Tom von Stein, the legendary SEC attorney who pursued Robert Vesco, among others. Along with many other prosecutors, Tom insists that a sitting president cannot be indicted. Tom told me: “Mueller could give Trump immunity and legally force him to testify. The downside is he couldn’t indict Trump based on anything he said. . . . Mueller would have to lock down all the evidence and the testimony he planned to use at trial and then file everything with the court under seal until Trump leaves office—at which time he could face indictment.”

Additional comments by DEM:

The NY State AG is going to be interesting to watch. He’s the fail-safe element for preventing Trump pardons. . . . But this situation has become too dangerous—a foreign enemy has sabotaged our electoral process with the midterm elections coming up—with what appears to be the complicity of the president of the United States, as well as the clear acquiescence of the
Republican majorities in Congress. I don't think we can wait for him to leave office. . . . This matter must be handled by aggressive prosecutors, asap.

14: Hollywood Confidential (II)

My book about the sixteen-year Anthony Pellicano wiretapping caper and accompanying federal criminal-conspiracy case came out on January 24. . . . The fourteen-year Anita Busch v. Anthony Pellicano/Michael Ovitz litigation, which stemmed from the criminal case—which my book chronicles in considerable detail—suddenly settled on January 29, stopping the long-awaited February 5 trial. . . . And, now, Pellicano has given his first interview in six years to the Hollywood Reporter.

You're welcome.

Notably, I signed unique contracts about this case with both Busch and Ovitz—and was offered the exclusive rights to Pellicano’s own story, . . . which I turned down so that I could do this book.


Additional comments by DEM:
Here’s the Hollywood Reporter interview with Pellicano:

11: My Sunday prayer for Donald Trump

Dear Lord. . . . Please protect thy servant, Donald Trump, from any and all harm, foreign and domestic. Please empower the Secret Service to guard him from would-be assassins and assailants. Please keep his planes and helicopters aloft and flying safely. Please relieve his risk of heart attacks and strokes. Please spare him from diabetes and all forms of cancer. Please help keep his body fit and his mind sound.

Please, Lord, keep our president healthy and safe, . . . so that he may suffer the full consequences and public humiliation from his well-deserved and long-overdue comeuppance at the hands of thy faithful servant, Robert Mueller, whom I pray indicts Mike Pence first.

We beseech you, O Lord.

Additional comments by DEM
A Sunday afternoon addendum prayer. . . .

And further, Dear Lord, please give the U.S. House of Representatives the strength and the sense of purpose to muster up a simple majority to impeach this evil man and then to endow the U.S. Senate with the wisdom and the courage to conjure up the necessary two-thirds vote to convict and, thus, remove him from our lives.
We ask thee, O Lord . . . although we humbly request that you and Bob Mueller also find room on your plates for Paul Ryan, along with Trump and Pence.

**8: Trump at the National Prayer Breakfast**

The thrice-married president, a provable serial liar and notorious philanderer who might have paid a porn star $130,000 for her silence in the aftermath of an affair, is on television at the National Prayer Breakfast right now, reading from a prepared script—celebrating God, honoring Jesus, and quoting Scripture . . . And the suckers in the audience are eating it up, stopping him with applause after nearly every sentence.

*Additional comments by DEM*

Sadly, in these tribal times, most of us have conflicting standards of private behavior for public officials . . . one for those we like, and quite another for those we don’t like. (I am still heartbroken over the fate of Al Franken, but resigning was the right thing for him to do. I hope that he runs again so that the voters in his state will have the final word.) . . . But, in the case of Donald Trump, this guy has broken every convention, crossed every line, and created new standards for rudeness, intolerance, and general bad behavior. And, still, the sheep in his flock—the hypocritical flag-wavers, the armchair warriors, the gun nuts, the Bible thumpers, and the pro-life hypocrites who believe in the death penalty as a deterrent to crime—are willing to follow him into Hell . . . just as long as he continues to trash immigrants and people of color, especially President Obama.

**7: Shearer-Blumenthal-Winer-Steele. . . Patriots All**

Here's today's story in the Washington Post about Christopher Steele, which reports that Steele saw the report written by Cody Shearer, who had earlier given it to Sid Blumenthal . . . who then gave it to Jonathan Winer at the State Department—who then, allegedly, gave it to Steele.

Political alignments aside, everyone involved was gravely concerned and even alarmed that there was clear evidence—albeit not absolute proof at that point—that Donald Trump had been fatally compromised by Putin and the Kremlin.

In spite of the reckless and malicious manner in which Fox News and the Republicans are now portraying Shearer, Blumenthal, and Winer, what these three men did, along with the work of Christopher Steele, were acts of true patriotism. And their admonitions during the fall of 2016 are playing out right now in real time as The President of the United States gives every indication that he is a Russian stooge while the Republican-controlled Congress blindly supports and shamelessly enables him.

Meantime, Trump has the audacity to label those who refuse to applaud him as “treasonous.”


*Additional comments by DEM:*

6: The Shearer Memo

The upcoming New Big Thing will be The Shearer Memo, which could rival the importance of The Steele Dossier. Here’s Seth Abramson on Cody Shearer and his fascinating memo.

To be sure, I support Cody—who is already getting slimed and smeared, big-time, by Trump-State Television, aka Fox News . . . .


Additional comments by DEM

Here's The Atlantic on The Shearer Memo, which appears to have been completed BEFORE "The Steele Dossier." https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2018/02/nunes-dossier-deux/552389/

* * *


* * *

Cody is a friend, and he is in the midst of a dangerous gauntlet. He needs our loyalty and support.

* * *

Here is what is happening to Christopher Steele . . .
https://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2018/02/05/christopher-steele-dossier-smearing-216940

* * *

Here is Jonathan Winer's side of the story - in tomorrow's Washington Post . . .
https://www.washingtonpost.com/amphtml/opinions/devin-nunes-is-investigating-me-heres-the-truth/2018/02/08/cc621170-0cf4-11e8-8b0d-891602206fb7_story.html?__twitter_impression=true

5: The stock market drops 1,175. Who will Trump blame?

Everyone knows that Donald Trump demands full credit when things are good—and searches for scapegoats when things go bad. So, who will he blame for today’s 1,175.21 drop in the stock market? . . . President Obama? Hillary Clinton? Chuck Schumer? Nancy Pelosi? Robert Mueller?

Meantime, Trump-State Television, Fox News, is hard at work, making excuses and putting the happy face on today’s sell-off.

Additional comments by DEM

Down another 1,032.89 at closing today (4.15 percent). . . . (February 8, 2018)
4: On Super Bowl Sunday, the biggest gambling day of the year, here’s a glossary of sports-gambling terms

Super Bowl Sunday is the biggest sports-gambling day of the year. Nearly $5 billion will be wagered illegally today. I am certainly not pollyannish about gambling, but my admonition is that, if you want to gamble, bet what you can painlessly afford to lose with a friend, not an illegal bookmaker. Because—in the 11-to-10 economic scheme of sports gambling, along with the layoff—when you bet with an illegal bookmaker, a piece of your losing bet, aka the vigorish, could wind up in the pocket of some Mafia guy.


January 2018

29: Hollywood Confidential, 2002-2018

Friends and colleagues. . . . Please allow me to introduce you to my ninth nonfiction book, Hollywood Confidential—sixteen long years in the making, mostly in secret. It revolves around the highly publicized and very controversial federal wiretapping-conspiracy case in Los Angeles, featuring bad-ass private detective Anthony Pellicano, aka “The Sleuth to the Stars,” who is currently in prison after his 2008 conviction.

Notably, I released this book on Amazon—out of pure self-defense—last Wednesday, January 24, in anticipation of the civil-liability trial, Anita Busch v. Michael Ovitz, which stemmed from the Pellicano caper and was scheduled to open in Los Angeles Superior Court next Monday, February 5.

Today, January 29, one week before the anticipated courtroom battle which was expected to run for three weeks, the attorneys for Busch and Ovitz suddenly settled.

Hollywood Confidential is an untold story about the Pellicano wiretapping case, as well as the long-running dispute between Busch and Ovitz. . . . in which I played a very unique role.

I signed contracts about this case with both of them—and was offered the exclusive rights to Pellicano’s own story, which I turned down so that I could do this book.


Additional comments by DEM

Here is Chapter One of Hollywood Confidential: http://www.moldea.com/BPFH-ChapterOne.pdf.

* * *

Here is today’s Hollywood Reporter on the Busch-Ovitz settlement:
[Upon being asked about experiencing crises:] Just ask, among others, the Teamsters, the Mafia, MCA, the NFL, the NRA, the FBI, the LAPD, Ken Starr, right-wing Republicans, and even the New York Times, along with a bootful of white-collar criminals, corrupt politicians, and murderers. . . . I’ve had bitchin’ fights with all of ’em . . . And yet, "Hollywood Confidential," on many levels, was my most difficult book.

Hollywood was badly compromised by Anthony Pellicano and his work. When federal agents raided his office in 2002-2003, they found computer disks which contained the equivalent of two-billion printed pages of wiretap-related material. . . . That’s “two-billion” with a “b.” There was a lot of Hollywood on those transcripts, which has never been revealed.

In my opinion, seeing that the bar for illegal wiretapping in California—two-party consent—was fairly low and the conspiracy clear and provable, federal prosecutors would up, wittingly or unwittingly, protecting the Hollywood community during their 2008 prosecution of Pellicano and his co-defendants. In addition, Pellicano, who is not an attorney, insisted on representing himself—and did a very poor job of it. . . . I was at the trial in Los Angeles. I saw it. For the prosecution team, it was minimal risk, maximum reward.

In trying to find a publisher in New York for a book about Pellicano when the case was really hot from 2006-2008, you had to find one that was not part of a major conglomerate which also contained a film studio or another entertainment concern as a subsidiary. Back then, that was difficult to do.

The Online Review of Books and Current Affairs review:

28: Bob Parry of Consortium News has died

A good friend has just notified me that Consortium News founder and editor, 68-year-old Bob Parry, another long-time friend and colleague, died last night—after suffering a stroke in December, which he had jokingly blamed on the stress of covering Washington politics. (As it turned out, he unknowingly had pancreatic cancer, which reportedly helped bring on the earlier stroke, as well as two more in recent weeks.)

God bless, Bob, a legendary independent investigative journalist of raw courage and great talent. . . . He made a difference.


Additional comments by DEM

The loss of Bob Parry diminishes independent journalism. He defined the term . . . even though there were many issues he embraced with which I disagreed. . . . Regardless of those disputes, I always admired and respected him, as both a journalist and as a good man.
21: On Senator Schumer ending the government shutdown

Fret not, Democrats. . . . Senator Chuck Schumer, who appears to have just caved to the Republicans in order to reopen the federal government, is not stupid. All he has done is perform his reasonable-man routine while giving three completely untrustworthy people—Donald Trump, Mitch McConnell, and Paul Ryan—seventeen days to prove, yet again, their ongoing bad faith and dishonesty, as well as their allegiance and obedience to the far-right extremists who control them and their agenda. . . . Schumer and the Democrats will have the last laugh.

Additional comments by DEM

As you already know, Burt, Katina, and Kathy, the reality is that the Democrats and the Republicans in the Senate do not have the final word on this matter. They have to deal with all of those knuckle-draggers in the House, and then come up with something that The Liar President is willing to sign. . . . That is our sad state of affairs. Schumer had no choice today.

* * *

Schumer is playing the "long game." I am so tired of Democrats who believe that, if you don't commit political suicide over a particular cause, then you are not worthy of respect. . . . Schumer has lived to fight another day.

* * *

This is a poker game. Schumer had a strong hand on Friday but, when he saw what McConnell and the GOP had in their hand over the weekend, he decided to fold his cards. . . . My prediction is that he will be holding a much stronger hand in seventeen days.

* * *

Even if McConnell and the Senate Republicans don't come up with something draconian, Ryan and the House Republicans—and certainly Donald Trump—will do it. . . . And that will define the 2018 midterms.

20: The 35th anniversary of the murder of Allen Dorfman

35 years ago today, Allen Dorfman—the long-time fiduciary manager of the Teamsters Central States pension and health-and-welfare funds, handpicked by Jimmy Hoffa—was murdered in a parking lot near Chicago while walking with Irwin Weiner, the Teamsters top bail bondsman, who not harmed in the attack.
Notably, few people did more to help build Las Vegas than Dorfman during the 1960s and 1970s with his targeted and often corrupt loans from the Teamsters’ funds.

Here is a quick, 1:17 CNBC interview with me about my brief encounter with defendants Dorfman and Weiner at the Gaylur Products trial in Chicago in April 1975 while I was a graduate student at Kent State . . . just three months before the disappearance of Jimmy Hoffa.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2snPay_mAvQ.

16: The reprint of my 1995 book about the murder of Senator Robert Kennedy, the 50th anniversary edition, will be released this spring

Going it alone. . . . As part of my effort to regain control of all eight of my previously published books, I have recently obtained the rights to my 1995 work, The Killing of Robert F. Kennedy: An Investigation of Motive, Means, and Opportunity. Adding a new Introduction, Epilogue, and Afterword, I will re-publish it myself this spring . . . in time for the 50th anniversary of this tragic 1968 murder on June 5-6.

Here is my new cover, front and back. Please note the original pre-pub 1995 quotes on the back cover. Three of my friends who commented—Vince Bugliosi, Bob Kaiser, and Jon Kwitny—are now gone but remembered. . . . The other greats—Bob Blakey, Larry Leamer, David Burnham, and Sy Hersh—are still warriors, fighting the good fights.

Additional comments by DEM


* * *

I’m just weary of all the bullshit up in New York. I want to be Joe the Boss of my own operation—across the board. . . . As an independent journalist for 44 years, I have lived my entire career as a free man, and I want to die a free man with complete control over my work.

* * *

My advice, Sally? Ask your agent to move aggressively to get the rights to any of your books that are dormant on your publishers’ lists, including but not limited to those which have not, at the very least, been converted into eBooks. . . . Once you have regained your rights, create your own personal publishing operation, which you will control and enforce. It’s difficult, but you will be Joe the Boss of your own fate and have ownership of your body of work. . . . A cautionary note: The books I have self-published have not been very successful, financially . . . which is mostly due to the fact that I am not a very good businessman. If you have a little business savvy – which I do not – you can make this work. . . . But, despite my limitations, I am still thrilled to have nearly my entire collection of books in my personal stable.

14: Jeep v. deer

Yesterday morning, while I was en route to an 8:30 meeting in Rockville, Maryland, a big dear ran out in front my beloved and dependable 2007 black Jeep Liberty and was killed instantly. Taking its revenge in
death, it destroyed the front-end of my car. The incident was memorialized on my windshield camera. I won’t be posting it. . . . God bless that damn deer. And God bless my beloved and dependable old car.

Additional comments by DEM

It happened on River Road, about a mile from the Beltway, en route to 270-N. . . . The deer just came out of nowhere. The film shows that I barely moved the car when the accident occurred.

* * *

Actually, I limped along I-270 in my car and actually made it to my meeting—on time. However, within seconds after I turned off the engine, my radiator bled out in a parking lot. . . . I had it towed back to D.C. and haven't driven it since. It is now at the body shop, and I am waiting for the final word . . . after a friend described the front-end as "destroyed." I fear that the repairs will be more expensive than the car is worth.

14: An SNL lament on the president and the porn star

Last night, SNL's Weekend Update lamented that we have come to a point where "Porn Star Blackmails the President" is only the fourth biggest story of the week.

12: WSJ: Did Trump pay a porn star for her silence?

If this Wall Street Journal story today is true, it means that Donald Trump can be blackmailed after an infidelity. . . . which gives considerable credibility to the Steele dossier, which suggests that the Russians used sex to blackmail Trump. . . . And, if that's true, what did the Russians get from Trump in return? . . .
https://www.wsj.com/articles/trump-lawyer-arranged-130-000-payment-for-adult-film-stars-silence-1515787678

Additional comments by DEM

Money laundering? I certainly believe it. . . . But, my friend, like everyone else looking at this, I am playing a game of checkers while Robert Mueller and his team—who are in a high-confidence mode and not leaking anything—are playing three-dimensional chess.

* * *

The Daily Beast confirms its 2016 negotiations with Stormy Daniels for her story. She backed out five days before the November election—after the alleged payoff was made. . . .

* * *

SNL's Weekend Update just lamented that we have come to a point where "Porn Star Blackmails the President" is only the fourth biggest story of the week.

* * *
This is yet another scandal which would destroy any other president. . . .


11: The Liar President shatters records . . . for dishonesty


Donald Trump spends much of his time, telling his base not to believe, among others, his opponents in the Congress, the courts, the military, the law-enforcement community, the intelligence professionals, the news media, as well as their own eyes and ears. He wants them to believe him—and only him, . . . as the Washington Post reports that Trump has made more than 2,000 provably false statements and/or flat-out lies since he became president nearly a year ago.

Please, Robert Mueller. . . . End this madness. . . . RICO, RICO, RICO.


Additional comments by DEM

More details of Trump’s lies:


*   *   *

What really blows me away is that his base—84 percent of the GOP—are cool with his all of this, . . . as long as he as he continues to trash immigrants and people of color, especially President Obama, and to further empower the rich and powerful at the expense of the poor and the powerless.

*   *   *

"Shithole" Donald Trump, who just can't stop lying, offers a "vague denial" that he used racist language to describe Haiti and African countries. . . .


8: The right-wing smear machine will now try to destroy Michael Wolff. . . . And he deserves our support.


As is well known, my work during the Bill Clinton impeachment debacle in late-1998 led to the shocking resignation of U.S. Speaker of the House Bob Livingston (R-LA) on the same day as the President’s impeachment, a very dramatic moment in American history. In the opinion of many, that event helped to derail the momentum leading to subsequent Senate trial, as well as most of the anticipated calls for President Clinton’s resignation.

And no one—including Livingston—even suggested that I had made any mistakes in my investigation. Of course, the President was acquitted of all charges at the Senate trial.

What is not well known is that, even though I had done nothing wrong, the Republicans simply started making things up in their desperate attempt to pretend that I had. In their view, I had to be destroyed.
After my role in Livingston’s resignation was revealed, the GOP launched a full-scale attack on me, engineered by the Republican National Committee (led by Jim Nicholson), the Landmark Legal Foundation (led by Mark Levin), the Wall Street Journal’s editorial page (led by Robert Bartley) and Fox News (led by Bill O’Reilly). In fact, the RNC, in cooperation with Levin and Landmark, filed criminal charges against me with the U.S. Department of Justice.

For nearly a year, I was under investigation by DOJ’s Public Integrity Section. Specifically, I was accused of blackmail, jury tampering, and obstructing the Senate impeachment trial. If indicted and convicted, I was looking at a maximum of five years in a federal prison, along with a steep fine.

To be sure, I was never charged, and I was cleared of any wrongdoing.

Now comes Michael Wolff, a prickly man but a fine reporter, who is in the midst of facing the full force of the right-wing smear machine, which is now working overtime in full cry to destroy him. What happened to me—and it was a freaking nightmare—was not even a fraction of what is about to happen to Wolff.

Assuming that he has made only a handful of inconsequential errors in the preparation of his 328-page book, Wolff deserves the full support of his colleagues in journalism, as well as those who are seeking The Truth about the wholly corrupt and completely dishonest Donald Trump, whom Wolff has effectively exposed.

Additional comments by DEM

It was just part of the joy of being a career-long freelance writer. . . . No institutional support—only individual concern from a handful of friends and colleagues. Otherwise, I was completely alone in the foxhole. . . . I still can't believe that I came out of that drama in one piece—which is why I'm concerned for Michael Wolff. Reporters are well known for eating their own.

Here in D.C., the law is one-party consent. . . BTW: On more than one occasion, I have had hostile sources deny their quotes. Mercifully, I recorded all of those disputed conversations—and prevailed in all of those cases when challenged. Of course, those hostile sources then charged me with illegal wiretapping. . . . But, once again, I recorded with one-party consent—under the same law that will, no doubt, save Michael Wolff if he recorded interviews over the phone, and his sources choose to deny.

I have supported Michael Wolff on my personal blog, as well as on FB and Twitter. In addition, I have bought three copies of his book—one for me and two as gifts. . . . If I had as much influence with The Authors Guild and the National Writers Union as I did fifteen years ago when I was a National Vice President of the latter, I would be dragging both organizations into activist roles in support of him and his work—although I would be surprised if that wasn't already happening. . . . Once again, I think this is an all-hands-on-deck time, and I think we should be doing anything and everything to rid the world of Donald Trump, a wholly corrupt and complete dishonest but high-functioning madman. But, of course, we should do so peacefully while working within the system. . . . Wolff has made an excellent contribution to that end, and I don't want to see him destroyed by right-wing knuckle-draggers for doing so.

Fire and Fury goes to number #1 on the New York Times Best Sellers list. . . . Jeez, what the hell was I worried about? The Trump machine is barely putting up a fight—and helping to sell this devastating book with Trump's own bad behavior, corroborating what Michael Wolff has alleged.
8: With all of his baggage, will Trump speak to Mueller under oath?

With all of his provable ties to the Mafia in New York and Moscow, as well as his shameless corruption and blatant dishonesty, Donald Trump would have to be mentally ill to speak with Robert Mueller’s team of experienced RICO prosecutors under oath. . . . Jeez, maybe he will.

* Additional comments by DEM

"Underprepared and overconfident." . . . Here is Trump biographer Tim O’Brien on what to expect when The Liar President takes the oath. . . .

5: Battening down the hatches, here’s my 2018 agenda

* What could be the final, climactic trial in the Anthony Pellicano wiretapping scandal—plagued by numerous previous delays—is now scheduled to begin on February 5 in Los Angeles. The courtroom drama will finally, at long last, provide me with a concluding chapter for my ninth book, *Hollywood Confidential,* . . . fifteen painful years in the making.

* I am currently working on my tenth book, an homage to and celebration of America’s courageous whistleblowers.

* This spring, I will be releasing the updated version of my 1995 book—*The Killing of Robert F. Kennedy: An Investigation of Motive, Means, and Opportunity*—for the 50th anniversary of this tragic murder on June 5.

* I will be making regular contributions to my *News and Opinions* blog—[http://www.moldea.com/CGW-blog.pdf](http://www.moldea.com/CGW-blog.pdf)—in which I will continue my writings about American politics and organized crime, including but not limited to the public investigations of the wholly corrupt and completely dishonest Donald Trump, as well as my own opposition research. . . . With regard to Trump, it’s all-hands-on-deck time. Our democracy is in grave danger.

* Although I have no immediate plans and certainly no contract, I would really love to write my eleventh book about Trump and his ties to the Mafia—both in New York and Moscow. Notably, though, Ronald Reagan was elected in 1980, and my book about Reagan and the Mafia wasn’t published until 1986.

* In addition, I am awaiting and will be reacting to:  a) the release of the Martin Scorsese-Robert De Niro film fantasy, *The Irishman,* about the murder of Jimmy Hoffa, based on a one-source book about a now-dead pathological liar who had given numerous conflicting accounts about the killing; b) the upcoming, potentially destructive U.S. Supreme Court decision on legalizing sports gambling for both college and professional sports; and c) my cameo role in an upcoming book by respected authors Eric Dezenhall and Gus Russo about the curious friendship between a former CIA agent and a former KGB agent—a friendship that wound up making important and even monumental but still-untold contributions to contemporary American history. Dezenhall and Russo will reveal those well-kept secrets.

ALSO:


* Also, the second edition of my memoir—*Confessions of a Guerrilla Writer: Adventures in the Jungles of Crime, Politics, and Journalism*—is currently available and includes new details about the Jimmy Hoffa murder case, among other well-known capers.

* I am also looking forward to the 50th reunion of our Garfield High School Class of 1968 in Akron, Ohio. Notably, we graduated on the same day that Senator Kennedy was shot and fatally wounded, which provides a certain symmetry for me in 2018.

**2: John Greenya’s new biography of Associate Justice Neil Gorsuch**


Today, our long-time friend and colleague, John Greenya, released his latest biography, *Gorsuch: The Judge Who Speaks for Himself*, a revealing look at The Liar President’s nominee to the U.S. Supreme Court, Neil Gorsuch of Colorado.

Below is a brief profile of John. Please note that he wrote one of his bestselling biographies with Ann Gorsuch Burford, Judge Gorsuch’s very controversial mother who was Ronald Reagan’s disgraced head of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Go get ‘em, Big John. . . .


*Additional comments by DEM*

John Greenya is one of a kind. For many, many years, he has managed to navigate the political minefield here in Washington. As his list of books confirms, he gets along with everybody.

**1: A song for 2018, destined to be the most turbulent year in our lives**


Luciano Pavarotti - *Nessun Dorma*: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xsp1oEvuGg.

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**2017**

*December 2017*
29: Marcus Raskin, co-founder of the Institute for Policy Studies, 1934-2017


Additional comments by DEM

In June 1984, shortly after I had moved back to Washington after living in New York, Marc called me to his office at IPS where I was still an Associate Fellow. When I arrived, he offered me a $5,000 grant to write anything I wanted about then-President Ronald Reagan. . . . Shortly thereafter, I started my third book project, Dark Victory: Ronald Reagan, MCA, and the Mob (Viking Press, 1986).

* * *


20: The WSJ spiked an editorial about Donald Trump and the Mafia

Since Donald Trump announced his candidacy in June 2015, I have been beating a tambourine, warning of his provable ties to the Mafia. And some of the best investigative journalists in America have been writing about it—even though the public response to this issue has inexplicably paled in comparison to their responses to Trump’s lesser scandals.

I continue to believe that Robert Mueller will charge at least some of Trump’s associates under the RICO statute, which has been and continues to be the best friend of federal attorneys who prosecute organized-crime groups. After all, any reasonable definition of "organized crime" is that it is conspiracy crime, enterprise crime, and crime by association—all of which are emphasized in the RICO statute.

Further, I believe that the threat of Mueller revealing Trump’s long-standing relationships with mobsters in both the United States and Russia could lead to Mueller’s firing—sooner rather than later.

Now comes word that the Wall Street Journal, the jewel in Rupert Murdoch’s publishing empire, killed an editorial during the 2016 Presidential campaign which condemned Trump for his ties to the Mafia. (h/t Curtis Blessing) Why am I not surprised that the WSJ is no different than another one of Murdoch’s holdings, Fox News?

Please, Robert Mueller. . . . End this madness.


Additional comments by DEM
Here’s a regularly updated thread I originally posted on October 17, 2015, which notes a long list of important stories about Trump and the Mafia as they appeared in print. . . . Roger Stone had much to say in the comments section.


20: The GOP celebrates a blatant act of public corruption

I'm watching CNN as Congressional Republicans whoop it up at the White House with big hugs and high-fives while Trump spikes the ball, disguising an orgy of blatant public corruption as a "big, beautiful tax cut for America's hardworking families." . . . We have become frogs in slowly boiling water.

19: The conning of America

To the delight of the very rich and the very powerful—especially the Adelsons, the Kochs, the Mercers, the Murdochs, and the Sinclairs, along with the other proprietors of America’s right-wing political establishment—the unpopular Republican leadership of the unpopular U.S. Congress is on the verge of passing an unpopular tax-reform bill, which will soon be signed by an unpopular and dishonest president who has six bankruptcies under his belt from his previous life as a wheeling and dealing con man.

Like a Mafia family busting out a local savings & loan, the Republicans continue their irreparable damage to our country by their shameless alliance with this corrupt president who is willing to sign anything they put under his stuffy nose.

The American public has been lied to and conned once again. Along with the oncoming Constitutional crisis, prepare ye for another inevitable economic collapse—which the Democrats, just like in 2008, will have to fix.

Trickle down this. . .

Additional comments by DEM

Donald Trump on adding to the huge federal deficit with his ridiculous tax cuts for the rich and powerful at the expense of the poor and powerless. . . .


17: Ethelbert Miller on baseball, the sweeter science

On February 18, 2018, our long-time friend and colleague—author, poet, and cultural visionary E. Ethelbert Miller—will publish his latest book of poetry, aptly titled “If God Invented Baseball.” Notably, even though we have argued about him for many years, Ethelbert dedicated a clearly tongue-in-cheek chapter, “Barry Bonds,” to me.

Ethelbert knows that I own the highest-graded certified collection of baseball cards, picturing the seven-time MVP in a Pittsburgh Pirates uniform (1986-1993), and I continue to believe that he is the greatest baseball player who ever lived. Despite the steroids thing—which, in Bonds’s case, I consider to be targeted and punitive—I continue to insist that he should be in Cooperstown.
Polite but firm, Ethelbert believes that I am just flat-out wrong and even delusional when it comes to Barry Bonds, the career and single-season homerun record holder, ... records that Ethelbert insists are fatally tainted.

What has always concerned me about my investment is that Ethelbert is among the world’s greatest experts about the complicated strategies in baseball, along with Paul Dickson, Thom Loverro, Bob Luke, and Tim Wendel. And I have never known anyone who can so accurately predict on-field performance moments before they actually happen as Ethelbert, who appears to be reading a crystal ball when watching a game at the ballpark.

For a good time, make sure to pre-order Ethelbert’s wonderful new book of beautiful poetry, celebrating the God-invented game of baseball. ... https://www.amazon.com/If-God-Invented-Baseball-Poems/dp/1947951009/ref=sr_1_1?c=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1513529662&sr=1-1&keywords=if+god+invented+baseball

12. Trump now becomes more dangerous than ever

Like a trapped animal, the corrupt, dishonest, and cowardly Donald Trump now becomes more dangerous than ever... as his long-term political survival is suddenly very much in doubt.

12. Doug Jones wins the Alabama Senate race

The gang at Fox News, the whorehouse of American journalism, looks like their dogs have just died... after projecting that Doug Jones, the Democrat, has just won the Alabama Senate race.

10. Helping to distance Trump from his base

I believe in Robert Mueller’s investigation, and that Donald Trump’s moment of reckoning is coming soon. When Mueller’s evidence is presented to Congress, I want the House and the Senate, both controlled by the GOP, to act appropriately, unencumbered by a Republican base that, at this moment, overwhelmingly approves of this corrupt and dishonest president... Meantime, I think we should be doing everything possible—with our words and deeds—to help distance Trump from his base. ... and that includes being critical of our own personal favorites when they suck up.

Indeed, we all have our crosses to bear. I certainly have mine. But this has nothing to do with morality or sin. This is about pure power politics in the midst of an increasingly desperate time in American history.

http://www.moldea.com/CGW-blog.pdf

6. The upcoming documentary about the heroic Ron Fino

Our friend and colleague, Ron Fino, will be the subject of an upcoming documentary, “Mr. Undercover,” which will reveal his life and times of dealing with the Mafia while simultaneously working undercover for the FBI. The son of Joseph Fino, the former interim boss of the Buffalo crime family, Ron was groomed in his youth for Mafia royalty. Mercifully, his sainted mother hijacked his conscience and soul, turning him away from the dark side and towards the light.
Ron’s remarkable and heroic 35-year cooperation with the law-enforcement community—and especially his trial testimonies in numerous state and federal criminal cases—brought down scores of major American, Italian/Sicilian, and Russian organized-crime figures.

I have known Ronnie for over twenty-five years, and, although he can get a little wild and crazy from time to time, he is one of the bravest and finest people I have ever met.

Go get ‘em, Ron. . . .

Here is the pretty damn exciting 2:20 trailer about the Fino documentary:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=boblW8t4wCI&app=desktop

4: The libel case that radicalized John Dowd against the news media


Shortly after arriving in Washington, I received a subpoena from Washington attorney Tom Green, who represented former U.S. Strike Force attorneys John Dowd and Mike Kramer in their libel case against Jim Drinkhall and the Wall Street Journal. I made no attempt to resist.

The Drinkhall controversy had already become an open wound within the community of investigative reporters, particularly among those of us who covered the Teamsters and the mob. And, because I was one of the few reporters who had actually agreed to testify against Drinkhall—who continued to be well liked and respected—I found myself with a serious public-relations problem. Some of my colleagues viewed me as a cop who had agreed to testify against another cop. One Wall Street Journal reporter, Edward Pound, refused to speak to me. Even, my old friend, Jon Kwitny, another Journal reporter who had helped Drinkhall get his job at the newspaper, was upset with what I had done but reserved any final judgment until the case concluded.

But, then, just days before the beginning of the trial, the Wall Street Journal suddenly settled, agreeing to pay $800,000 to the former prosecutors. . . .

Shortly after the settlement, Drinkhall left the Wall Street Journal.

Dowd v. Drinkhall is the case that radicalized John Dowd against the news media. . . .

Additional comments by DEM

This particular caper was very, very painful. . . . Regardless, remember that it was John Dowd who did the investigation for Major League Baseball that nailed Pete Rose.

* * *

That's funny, DeeDee . . . to a sinner who is doing nothing more than atoning for his sins.

* * *

3: Journalist Les Whitten is dead at 89

Pictured here are four great investigative journalists from the Jack Anderson sphere of influence: (l-r) Jack Mitchell, James Grady, Les Whitten, and Marc Smolonsky.

Les died yesterday at 89 . . . . It is no secret that Les and I had our problems, but he was a good and decent man, as well as a talented reporter.

God bless Les.

Additional comments by DEM

Here is the New York Times's story about Les Whitten's death—which is really quite good.


1: With thoughts and prayers that the dishonored General Flynn doesn’t take the same path as the dishonored Admiral Boorda

On May 16, 1996, as two reporters from Newsweek were en route to his home to interview him about decorations that he was not authorized to wear among the service-ribbons display on his uniform, 56-year-old Admiral Jeremy M. Boorda, the chief of U.S. Naval Operations, facing dishonor, committed suicide.

Today, Donald Trump’s former National Security Advisor, retired General Michael Flynn, amid allegations that he had committed treason, pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI about his secret conversations with the Russian ambassador during the transition period between President Obama and president Trump. He is facing five years in prison.

I hope and pray that the shameless Flynn doesn’t follow the path taken by Boorda . . . and that—in his transparent effort to save himself and possibly his son from prison—he provides the special counsel’s office with incriminating information about his corrupt former boss in the White House, as well as against the dishonest vice president Mike Pence.

Additional comments by DEM

If I were Robert Mueller, I would retain a team of U.S. Marshals to take away Flynn's shoelaces and put a 24-hour suicide watch on him. This newly convicted liar must be pretty fragile right now. . . . We want Michael Flynn to live a long and healthy life in the U.S. Federal Witness Protection Program.

* * *

I really don't think that Flynn would have copped a plea if he thought that Trump could/would pardon him. . . . I think that Trump's attorneys have made him hip to the simple fact that pardons could constitute a further obstruction of justice. And I strongly believe that Mueller already has his obstruction case against Trump, dead-bang. . . . I really believe that Trump is looking down the barrel of a criminal-conspiracy indictment . . . an unprecedented indictment of a sitting president. . . . RICO, RICO, RICO.

* * *
Just for bookkeeping purposes, here is my February 14 blog and FB thread, appealing to Flynn to flip and turn state’s evidence. I was one of many to do so. . . https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1851235975094272&id=100006236621784&pnref=story

November 2017

30: Slugging it out in a civilized environment

I have been covering a trial outside of Washington, D.C. this week. And I never tire of seeing two or more well-prepared attorneys, often with so much at stake, slugging it out in a court of law—but doing so in an orderly manner, governed by strict rules of legal procedure, professional conduct, and even personal behavior . . . with nearly everything said and done memorialized by a court reporter.

Although there are certainly many flaws in our system of justice—and the right decisions are not always reached by judges and juries—there is something genuine and reassuring about the adversarial process of litigation.

In our day-to-day encounters with others, we should try to be more structured and disciplined when we disagree. This is not to say that we should be more lawyerly, but we should try to be more civilized.

25: At lunch: Sirhan Sirhan and Charles Manson

Psycho killer Charles Manson died in prison on November 19. Notably, I had one indirect encounter with him. . . .

While researching and writing my 1995 book about the murder of Senator Robert Kennedy, I interviewed his killer, Sirhan Sirhan, three times for a total of fourteen hours at Corcoran State Penitentiary where he was in a “celebrity” cell block with Charles Manson, among other high-profile California murderers. During our second interview, I noticed Manson across the prison visitation room, and Sirhan confirmed it. . . And Manson noticed me, too.

The next time I visited Sirhan, he said, “Charlie and I were having lunch the other day and he asked, ‘Who was that guy you were with?’ And I said a reporter from Washington named Moldea.” Sirhan explained that Manson had told him to ask “that Moldea guy if he could get me a deal for $25,000 for a TV interview,” because he needed to pay a lawyer.

Sirhan saw me shaking my head and asked what was wrong. I replied, “I’m trying to picture this scene of you and Charles Manson having lunch together.”

Seeing Sirhan smile, I continued, “Sirhan, do me a favor, and don’t mention my name to Charlie anymore. I didn’t want my name to be part of his conscious thought.”

19: Battling The Irishman
From today’s *New York Post*, setting the stage for my battle against the upcoming film about Jimmy Hoffa, *The Irishman*, featuring numerous greats in the film industry, including Martin Scorsese, Robert De Niro, Al Pacino, Joe Pesci, Harvey Keitel, Ray Romano, and Steve Zaillian among many others.

Bet the ranch that I’m going to get my ass kicked. . . . But I will be heard, and I won’t be wrong.

From the article:

[N]ot everyone buys his story. Dan Moldea, author of the deeply researched *The Hoffa Wars*, insists that Sheeran did not kill Hoffa.

Moldea — who interviewed mob figures, investigators and prosecutors for his book — agrees that Sheeran flew to Pontiac and lured Hoffa into the car. But he believes that the murder was committed by Salvatore “Sally Bugs” Briguglio, an enforcer for the Genovese crime family. Moldea bases this on interviews with parties including the owner of a New Jersey dump where some believed Hoffa’s body was disposed.

“This is a one-source story about a pathological liar,” Moldea told *The Post* of Brandt’s book on Sheeran.

He voiced his displeasure about the De Niro-starring flick when he met the actor at a dinner in 2014. “De Niro had a lot of pride that he is doing the real story,” said Moldea. “I told him that he’s been conned.”


**Additional comments by DEM**

This will be Martin Scorsese’s homage to Oliver Stone’s bullshit film, *JFK*, with great cinema but terrible history.

*  *  *

With respect, in my opinion, the Scorsese-De Niro film catalog of films, especially about the mob, has been great. . . . But thank you for the kind words.

*  *  *

There is a long story here, Dennis. Notably, though, Sheeran's so-called deathbed confession, which conflicted with all of his previous confessions about Hoffa's murder, was all about money and nothing else. This is provable.

*  *  *

During the televised 2019 Oscar’s ceremony last night, Netflix broadcast an announcement of the release of *The Irishman* in the fall. See: [http://collider.com/the-irishman-netflix-teaser/](http://collider.com/the-irishman-netflix-teaser/) (February 25, 2019)

*  *  *

Let's go anytime during its two-week theatrical release in or about October 2019, required for Oscar consideration during the 2020 Academy Award ceremonies a year from now. Of course, Netflix, which owns the film, has to approve this plan . . . Netflix has bet between $140 million
and $175 million that Frank Sheeran, the pathological-liar hitman, has told the truth. . . . But, even when it's shown that the film is filled with lies, the reaction from the rabid Scorsese-De Niro-Pacino-Pesci fans will be like the right-wing base's reaction to the pathological-liar president Donald Trump. With its brilliant cast and crew, The Irishman could shoot someone on Fifth Avenue in New York and its base will still be cheering. (February 25, 2019)

*       *       *

Yes, Rich. We believe that Sheeran's story about the Gallo hit, along with many of his other tales, is bullshit. . . . There is considerable evidence showing that he was lying about this, too. (February 25, 2019)

16: Sadly, Al Franken must resign

Sadly, in order for the Democratic leadership to have any legitimacy while going after Donald Trump and wresting the moral high ground from the creeps and the hypocrites within The Christian Right and The Moral Majority, Senator Al Franken, who has been a great warrior, must resign. . . .

[ADDENDUM, posted below at or about 2:00 P.M. on November 18. . . . “Senator Franken’s apology to the woman was pure class. And I thought she demonstrated an equal degree of dignity by accepting his apology. . . . I hope this can work out without any further bloodshed—or any need for a resignation.”]

Additional comments by DEM

Gar and Jeff. . . . Under normal circumstances, I would so completely agree with you guys [that Al Franken should be permitted to face the Senate ethics panel]. But Donald Trump, the right-wing, and the other forces of evil—in spite of their own obvious problems—are going to use this like a cudgel and beat the hell of us with it. . . . And we are running out of time to straighten this mess out. A wholly corrupt and dishonest regime is running this country.

*       *       *

I hear you, Craig—and you know I respect you. But, in my opinion, this is a time for all hands on deck. No looking back. . . . Franken, a good man whom I have met and also respect, will be replaced by a Democrat and the battle will continue. I don't want the master of diversions and misdirections to use Franken to further deflect public attention away from Robert Mueller's investigation.

*       *       *

I really don't know the parameters of the Senate ethics panel. . . . I do remember that—after I nailed Senator David Vitter—the ethics panel refused to investigate because Vitter was a congressman at the time of his business with Jeanne Palfrey, aka The D.C. Madam. . . . At the time of Franken's indiscretion, he wasn't in Congress. . . . Could somebody please clarify this?

*       *       *

As a sinner sitting on the sidelines, I would love to see Senator Franken demand a showdown on the issue of morality with Donald Trump . . . even though I don't think it would play out as we would want it to.

*       *       *
As we all know, Trump is the master of diversion and misdirection. He doesn't care about Truth. He uses his own "alternative facts." The Democrats have already proven that they aren't prepared to compete with him. And, yes, I believe that this proposed budget is a complete bust out of the U.S. economy by the rich and powerful at the expense of the poor and powerless.

* * *

Well, we can spend the next several months defending Senator Franken, a good man whose admission of a bad mistake will be cynically used by Trump's supporters to beat us into the ground with charges of hypocrisy... while diverting public attention away from Robert Mueller's investigation of Donald Trump and those around him. Or we can spend that time and energy going after Trump and those members of his Cabinet who are quietly corrupting the basic foundations of our country. . . . Take your pick.

* * *

Bob. . . . If you're right, be prepared to fight a battle for Senator Franken's survival that: 1) will be a complete and total waste of time, 2) will divert public attention away from Trump's corruption, and 3) will cause the ratings of Fox News, the whorehouse of American journalism, to skyrocket.

* * *

Becky. . . . The problem is that the battle for the soul of our nation is coming down to a handful of votes in the U.S. Senate. Both sides are willing to go to war to win or preserve a Senate seat.

* * *

If they can do it very quickly, censure would be a great solution. The problem is that they can't or won't do it quickly. It's not in the Republicans' interest to do so. Meantime, the Fox News gang will be doing their number, dragging this out while diverting attention from the Mueller probe, and giving the corrupt Donald Trump cover for his own bad behavior.

* * *

Senator Franken's apology to the woman was pure class. And I thought she demonstrated an equal degree of dignity by accepting his apology. . . . Jesus, I hope this can work out without any further bloodshed—or any need for a resignation. (November 18, 2017)

* * *

I was Larry Flynt's investigator during the impeachment process 20 years ago, Paul. My work brought down the Speaker of the House. I am hardly in the church choir. And I would never and could never claim "moral purity" over anything or anybody. . . . But until we start to separate Trump from the people who give him his 84-percent approval rating, the GOP-controlled Congress is not even going to consider removing him from office. We have to find ways to lead Trump's base out of the darkness and into the light. And the same old "we support the members of our tribe regardless of what they do" is not going to bring many of them over. And we will be stuck with Donald Trump for eight years. . . .

* * *

I did opposition research for Franken in 2008—pure and chaste from afar—during the tail end of his campaign against Norm Coleman. I'd like to think that my team helped make the difference in his 300-vote win. . . . (November 19, 2017)
15: An important new work on “climate, nuclear and security affairs” is released

Our friend and colleague, Dr. Janne Nolan, a member of the international affairs faculty at George Washington University, today released an important new work, impacting on grave issues revolving around nuclear security and climate change.

According to the press release: “In its initial report released today, the Working Group on Climate, Nuclear, and Security Affairs, chaired by the Center for Climate and Security, has articulated a first-of-its-kind framework for understanding and addressing the complex connections between climate change, security, and nuclear issues. The report arrives as the 23rd Conference of the Parties concludes its meeting in Bonn, Germany to plan implementation of the Paris Climate Change Agreement, and in the aftermath of President Trump’s tour of Asia, during which nuclear weapons issues featured prominently.”

Janne—the Working Group’s Co-chair, Chair of the Nuclear Security Working Group, and Center for Climate and Security Advisory Board Member—was the first person to explain to me that there is nothing between a U.S. President and the silos in the event that the president decides to launch a nuclear attack.


Additional comments by DEM
And here’s a profile of Janne: https://climateandsecurity.org/advisory-board/dr-janne-e-nolan/

14: Just wondering. . . . Is Sean Hannity on Robert Mueller’s radar screen?

I just watched Sean Hannity's talk show on Fox News, the whorehouse of American journalism, during which Hannity was absolutely crazed, flailing away with his long-running smear campaign against Bill and Hillary Clinton and his newly constituted assault on Robert Mueller. . . . Hannity was so over-the-top that I started to wonder whether this guy might be employing a desperate defense under the guise of an aggressive offense. . . . I wonder whether Hannity, who is friendly with many of Mueller's targets, is actually on Mueller's radar screen.


Additional comments by DEM

14: Trump wants to use the DOJ to investigate his political enemies

Is this the latest new normal that will be imposed on and tolerated by America? . . . That Donald Trump may use the U.S. Department of Justice to investigate his political enemies—even if such investigations serve no other purpose than to divert public attention away from the investigations of Trump, the members of his family, his friends, and his associates? https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/14/us/politics/trump-
Additional comments by DEM

David. . . . That would be a very, very dangerous chain of events. . . . By going after Hillary Clinton, I think that Trump is just trying to feed his base some red meat while he goes about the business of sabotaging and/or derailing Robert Mueller's investigation. That is his number-one goal—and I bet it was the number-one topic of conversation between Trump and Putin during their meeting(s) during the conclave in Vietnam. Like Trump, Putin is getting smoked by Mueller's investigation.

* * *

Burt, as you know from your own research, the damage that is being done here in Washington while we exchange views is mind-numbing—not just by the corrupt and dishonest Donald Trump but by the corrupt and dishonest members of his cabinet and his lower-level political appointments to a variety of posts throughout the government, as well as his unqualified nominees to the federal bench. . . . It is going to take a generation or two to undo the damage that Trump has done in just ten months. . . . And, considering his 84-percent approval rating among his GOP base, the situation is only going to get worse.

* * *

While the Fox News evening lineup wants to prosecute Hillary Clinton for her alleged role in the Uranium One matter, afternoon anchor Shep Smith, in a moment of independence, lays out the case against the false claims leveled by his network and Donald Trump. . . .

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o5-iVi880Cw

* * *

This is a blatant abuse of presidential power . . . This is bullshit.


12: Howard Rosenberg of 60 Minutes on five friendly fire deaths in Afghanistan


Our friend and colleague, Howard L. Rosenberg, a long-time producer for CBS Sixty Minutes, produced a remarkable two-segment masterpiece of investigative journalism tonight, detailing the tragic circumstances of the June 2014 friendly-fire deaths of five American soldiers in Afghanistan, including two Green Berets. . . . Great reporting, Howard.

Additional comments by DEM

Here's the link to Howard's story, as reported by CBS's Bill Whitaker. . .

https://www.cbsnews.com/news/why-were-five-u-s-soldiers-killed-by-an-american-bomber-in-afghanistan/

12: At the brink, a search for the peacemakers

During its coverage of the Roy Moore caper, NBC News interviewed voters at a local business in Prattville, Alabama, reporting: "Inside the store, a man who declined to give his name said, 'This is Republican town, man. [Judge Moore] could have killed Obama, and we wouldn't care.'"

Sadly, there are people on the other side who feel exactly the same way about Donald Trump. . . . And that means that this ongoing political war between and among Americans has gone way too far.

While refusing to compromise our beliefs and support for people on the public stage whom we value and trust—and fierce opposition to those with whom we disagree—we need to find the means to do so without harboring such thoughts of destroying each other.

I fear that we are at the brink and in desperate need of respected and well-connected peacemakers who are independent and tough enough to stand up to those on the extremes of the political spectrum who refuse to compromise and are determined to bring down our entire system in pursuit of their own selfish goals and objectives.

And we, as citizens, must be strong and wise enough to support those courageous peacemakers who dare to play that very dangerous role.

**Additional comments by DEM**

I apologize for the Kumbaya moment, but I get alarmed when people fantasize about killing each other.

* * *


**10: On the upcoming Scorsese-De Niro film, The Irishman**

(removed from FB)

On the upcoming Scorsese-De Niro film, *The Irishman*: This is a one-source story about Frank Sheeran, a pathological liar who was motivated by money to confess to a crime he did not commit. . . . But, no doubt, it will be a great motion picture. [http://www.moldea.com/Sheeran-threatens-to-sue-Moldea.pdf](http://www.moldea.com/Sheeran-threatens-to-sue-Moldea.pdf).

**7: A moment of sanity yields accolades that Trump is sane**


Without the bombast and threats but with a nuclear war looming on the horizon, Donald Trump has a moment of sanity in South Korea, and the press, weary of its outstanding reporting routinely dismissed as “fake news,” collapses like a house of cards and now declares him to be sane. . . . I ask again—How many second chances, how many resets, how many more benefits of the doubt does this guy get?

**3: “Like a Mafia family busting out a local savings & loan . . .”**


Regarding the newly proposed GOP tax-reform plan. . . . On my March 7 blog eight months ago, I wrote and continue to insist: “[T]he Trump radicals are preparing to loot the federal government, like a Mafia family busting out a local savings & loan. They will try to give nearly everything away—via government
contracts, tax breaks, repealed regulations, privatization, and dismantled federal oversight agencies—to a new and emerging class of American oligarchs, who will rival those in Russia."

Friends and colleagues . . . America is losing its soul.

Additional comments by DEM

The Paradise Papers and the argument against the GOP's tax plan. . . .

*   *   *

According to *the New York Times* just now, Senate Republicans will try to repeal ObamaCare as part of the final vote on their horrible tax-cut plan, aka "The Millionaires' Bust Out of the U.S. Economy." . . .

*   *   *

While the public is obsessed with sex, the Republicans, led by the corrupt and dishonest Donald Trump and his prison bitches in Congress, are quietly preparing to destroy America as we know it with their draconian tax bill, creating a wider division between the rich and powerful and the poor and powerless while squeezing the middle class in the process. . . .

1: More right-wing hypocrisy after an act of gun violence versus a crime by an immigrant

When some crazy white guy shoots up a town, a school, or a theater, the right-wingers plead for calm, adding that the aftermath is for grieving—not for a politicized debate about gun-control . . . But, within seconds after an immigrant commits a crime, those same right-wingers immediately renew the political debate for draconian anti-immigration laws.

Additional comments by DEM

Another white guy opens fire in a Texas church, wounding or killing over 50 souls, and the right-wing gun nuts are offering nothing more than truckloads of "thoughts and prayers." . . . Meantime, guests on Fox News are advocating that the faithful should come to their places of worship well-armed to thwart any future events. (November 5, 2017)

*   *   *

Inasmuch as an immigrant doesn’t appear to have been involved in the shooting, Fox News has returned to dressing up Donald Trump's trip to Asia and his now-familiar "bull in a China shop" routine while we await his nefarious meeting in Vietnam with Vladimir Putin.

*   *   *

The *New York Times* Editorial Board puts a clock on the need for gun control. . . .
As a writer and author, I have certainly never been a great stylist—not even close. Truth be told, I have subscribed to more of a “noble savage” form of literature. However, as an investigative journalist, I have learned how to take complicated subjects and turn them into readable forms. To be sure, I have tried to do that with all eight of my published nonfiction books.

The person who taught me and edited the first seven of those books before I submitted them to their publishers is Nancy Nolte, whom I met during the turbulent spring of 1970 while I was a sophomore at the University of Akron and a student in her class about modern European history. She liked my term papers and invited me to submit any of my other writings for her review. And I did so for several years. Even after she and her family moved to Boulder, Colorado, and I moved to Washington, D.C. in 1976, she continued to speak to and correspond with me.

During the 47 years we have known each other, “Mrs. Nolte”—as I have always respectfully called her, even after she received her Ph.D. at the University of Colorado—has drilled into my head that the most important element in successful writing is storytelling. The key to great storytelling is capturing the emotional involvement of the reader. And the main ingredient to capturing the emotional involvement of the reader is the creation of immediacy.

In 1995, I published my fifth book, The Killing of Robert F. Kennedy, which received not one but two great reviews in the New York Times—a solo daily and a second in the Sunday New York Time Book Review. In his review in the latter, Gerald Posner—the author of Case Closed, the best-selling anti-conspiracy book about John Kennedy’s murder—finally gave credit where credit had long been due, saying: "Mr. Moldea dedicates the book to his writing coach, Nancy Nolte, and properly so, because this is the best written of his books, finished in a clear and easy style."

Happy 93rd birthday, my dear Mrs. Nolte.

Additional comments by DEM

No doubt, [your mentors] knew how you felt about them. Larry. . . . Along with Mrs. Nolte in Boulder, my mentors were Bob Davis (Akron), Walter Sheridan (Washington, D.C.), Ralph Salerno (New York), and Jack Tobin (Los Angeles). . . . Walter, Ralph, and Jack are gone, but all three knew how much I admired and respected them.

* * *

When Mrs. Nolte was trying to teach me how to write, she used Tom Wolfe’s The New Journalism anthology as our text. Also, his wonderful work, The Right Stuff, is among my five favorite books.
As always, I called Mrs. Nolte on her birthday, October 31. She didn’t answer, and I left a message. Then, that same afternoon, I posted my homage to her on my blog, copying it on Facebook. On November 2, her three sons, who had traveled to Boulder and were together, called to tell me that she had died on October 28, three days before her 93rd birthday.

Here is Mrs. Nolte’s obituary, published in the Daily Camera in Boulder on January 21, 2018:

Nancy passed away peacefully with family at her side on October 28th. She was born on October 31, 1924, in Lockport, New York, to James Morgan Williams and Dorothy Alice Smith. She loved books and education. Starting as a Chemistry major at Westminster College, she transferred to Syracuse University where she earned two bachelor's degrees in 1946, one in Liberal Arts and another in Journalism. She furthered her education with a Bachelor's degree in Classics, and a Master's and PhD in History from the University of Akron, in 1968, 1973 and 1985. She worked for Western Publishing in New York City, editing and writing Little Golden Books, working with people such as Richard Scarry who illustrated her book, The Little Ginger Bread Man. She mentored writers and students throughout her life. She met her husband Stuart, who was a mechanical engineer, at the Episcopalian run Trinity House in New York City. They were married in 1950 and enjoyed 49 years of marriage. After raising her family, she worked at the University of Colorado, teaching History and English. She is survived by her three sons, James (Penelope), Christopher (Susan), and David (Laura). She is also survived by three grandchildren and one great-grandchild. She was preceded in death by her husband Stuart, brother James, and one grandchild. A private memorial was held, and internment was in Green Mountain Cemetery, Boulder, Colorado. See: http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/dailycamera/obituary.aspx?n=nancy-williams-nolte&pid=187916046.

30: Fox News—Diverting and misdirecting for Donald Trump


Aiding the well-oiled Trump diversion and misdirection machine—even in the aftermath of the Manafort-Gates indictments and the Papadopoulos guilty plea—Fox News, the whorehouse of American journalism, is doubling down on the ridiculous allegation that Hillary Clinton was colluding with the Russians during the 2016 Presidential campaign . . . even though the Russians were provably working to defeat her and to elect Donald Trump.

When is the FCC going to rule that Fox News is nothing more than a right-wing political operation and not a real news organization. . . . Fake news? Fox invented it. And Donald Trump rode it to the presidency.

Additional comments by DEM

Once again, here are the details of my attempt in December 2015 to launch a civil RICO case against Fox News. . . .


* * *


"None of these attacks or insinuations are grounded in good faith. The anti-Mueller brigade cares not a whit about possible bias in the Justice Department or the F.B.I. It simply wants the investigation shut down out of a fear of what it might reveal. But if your man is really innocent, what’s the worry?"

* * *


**29: Awaiting the motherlode of all Constitutional crises**


Donald Trump appears to realize the onslaught he is about to face—while he is simultaneously at war with nearly everyone in power, including but not limited to the key leadership of his own political party in Congress. More than anything, this unrepentant demagogue continues to be emboldened by the 84-percent approval rating among his inexplicably loyal Republican base who continue to love and to support his bigoted kick-ass style. By ignoring the consequences of his conflicting and often dishonest words and deeds while demonstrating their own mind-blowing hypocrisy, the sheep in his flock have shown a blind willingness to follow him into Hell.

During the next few days, that support, which has made Trump invulnerable, might be tested as Bob Mueller begins to release the results of his investigations—which might also implicate some Democrats in wrongdoing. . . . Watch for Trump to concoct breathtaking diversions—lots and lots of now-familiar diversions—to help him get through this period.

Get ready for the motherlode of all U.S. Constitutional crises.

**Additional comments by DEM**

The already over-the-top smears of President Obama and Hillary Clinton are about to go into overdrive. . . . The smear of Bob Mueller is about to begin in earnest.

* * *

RICO, RICO, RICO. . . .

* * *


* * *

Overshadowed by the Manafort indictment. . . . The guilty plea of George Papadopoulos, a Trump foreign policy advisor. . . . [https://assets.documentcloud.org/documents/4163402/Papadopoulos-Statement-Offense.pdf](https://assets.documentcloud.org/documents/4163402/Papadopoulos-Statement-Offense.pdf)

* * *

According to his plea deal, Papadopoulos has been secretly cooperating with Mueller's team for several months. . . . Gee, did they wire him up? If so, whom did he memorialize?
If President Obama had insisted, like Donald Trump just did, that he should be allowed to use the DOJ to punish his political enemies, the gang at Fox News, would have gone o... https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/trump-breaches-boundaries-by-saying-doj-should-be-going-after-democrats/2017/11/03/1c157c08-c0aa-11e7-97d9-bdab5abaj381_story.html?utm_term=.2b51e8d2ac28&wpisrc=nl_headlines&wppm=1 (November 4, 2017)

How Christopher Steele and his famous dossier came to be... https://www.theguardian.com/news/2017/nov/15/how-trump-walked-into-putins-web-luke (November 15, 2017)

This is one of the most amazing stories I have read about the corrupt and dishonest Donald Trump—and how he feels American justice closing in on him and what he is desperately doing to derail the inevitable... https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/09/us/politics/donald-trump-president.html?emc=edit_ta_20171209&nl=top-stories&nlid=71046532&ref=cta (December 9, 2017)


Unless Giuliani is crazy, the only rational explanation is that the Trump people somehow learned that this story was going to come out—and they decide to trot out Giuliani to get ahead of it by revealing it himself... Still, considering Trump's public comments about the Stormy Daniels's payoff, he is going to get smacked around for this. (May 2, 2018)

26: Did Jimmy Hoffa, Carlos Marcello, and Santo Trafficante Kill President John Kennedy?
A 10-24 presentation to The Mob Museum by Dan E. Moldea

On July 17, 1979, upon the release of the final report of U.S. House Select Committee on Assassinations about the murder of President John Kennedy, its chief counsel, G. Robert Blakey—one of the world’s experts on organized crime in America and the author of the 1970 RICO Act—declared: “The mob did it. It’s a historical fact.”

Again, that took place in July 1979.

Now, let me tell you what happened two years earlier, leading up to that moment.

But first, I want to state that any reasonable definition of “organized crime” is that it is enterprise crime. It is conspiracy crime. And it is crime by association. . . . So please keep that in mind during these next few minutes.

In 1977, forty years ago, I was finishing up the research for my first book, The Hoffa Wars, about the rise and fall of Jimmy Hoffa. In late-September, I called one of my best sources, Ed Partin, whom I had earlier met through my friend and mentor, Walter Sheridan, who was a top lieutenant for Robert Kennedy during their work together on the Senate Rackets Committee when Kennedy was its chief counsel and later when Kennedy served as Attorney General.

Walter Sheridan headed Kennedy’s “Get Hoffa Squad,” and it was Sheridan, who flipped Partin in September 1962. At that time, Partin was Hoffa’s trusted doorkeeper at his hotel during the Teamster boss’s extortion trial in Nashville. And it was Partin who would later reveal that Hoffa had arranged for the fixing of one of the jurors in the extortion case.

To be clear, if Kennedy and Sheridan were eating labor racketeers and Mafia guys for breakfast during their work at the Senate committee, then they started eating them for lunch and dinner, too, after Kennedy became the Attorney General.

In my opinion, when it came to fighting the Mafia, Bobby Kennedy was the greatest crimefighter in American history. He was breaking the back of the American Mafia, a war that was highlighted with the October 1963 public televised testimony of Joseph Valachi, a soldier in the Vito Genovese crime family, one month before the President’s murder.

Department of Justice wiretaps on Mafia guys during Robert Kennedy’s tenure indicated that the frustration level was so high that many were actually fantasizing about murdering both of the Kennedys.

The reason why Ed Partin turned state’s evidence in September 1962 was because Hoffa had approached him to kill Robert Kennedy and his entire family by blowing up their northern Virginia home with plastic explosives. Partin, who had a houseful of children himself, objected to Hoffa wanting Kennedy’s wife and children murdered.

After Sheridan arranged for Partin to take a polygraph test, which he passed, the Kennedy Justice Department used him as their key government witness at Hoffa’s 1964 jury-tampering trial in Chattanooga.

It was Ed Partin’s testimony that sent Jimmy Hoffa to jail.

When I called Partin in September 1977, he gave me additional details about Hoffa’s plot to kill Robert Kennedy. In addition, he told me about Hoffa’s alleged role in the pre-CIA-Mafia plots to kill Fidel Castro.

Just to be clear, these were the plots before the involvement of Robert Maheu, whom I would later interview at length. Maheu told me that events against Castro were already unfolding before he joined the plots in August 1960.

Instead of Chicago mobsters Sam Giancana and Johnny Rosselli—who were brought into the plots by Maheu—the mobsters involved with Hoffa, were John LaRocco and Gabriel Mannarino of the Pittsburgh Mafia, as well as Jimmy Plumeri and Salvatore Granello, two capos in the Tommy Lucchese crime family.

In addition and most importantly, the fifth mobster was Russell Bufalino, the boss of the northeastern Pennsylvania Mafia—who would later authorize the murder of Jimmy Hoffa in July 1975.

Hoffa had felt betrayed by Castro after Hoffa had personally arranged for a $300,000 Teamsters pension-fund loan to a company which used the money to ship a fleet of C-74 Globemaster aircraft to the new Cuban government. This package was allegedly a gift to Castro, whom Hoffa and the mob believed would allow them to keep their gambling and narcotics businesses operating in Cuba. Of course, Castro
double crossed Hoffa and the mob, shutting down the gambling casinos and the narcotics routes out of the country.

Partin also told me about a $500,000 contribution that Hoffa and Carlos Marcello, the boss of the New Orleans Mafia, had made in 1960 to then Vice President Richard Nixon who was running for President against John Kennedy, a member of the Senate Rackets Committee.

The transaction was witnessed by I. Irving Davidson, a Hoffa and Marcello associate in Washington, D.C., who had been a major gun-runner for Fulgencio Batista during the Cuban Revolution.

Partin told me that Irv Davidson—on behalf of Marcello—later made a ham-fisted attempt to get him to recant his testimony against Hoffa. Partin explained that—during Hoffa's appeal process in the aftermath of his conviction in Chattanooga—the mobbed up New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison, as a favor to either Hoffa or Marcello or both, had actually tried to implicate Partin as a suspect in his already off-the-wall investigation of the murder of President Kennedy.

Notably, Garrison had declared, “There is no organized crime in New Orleans.” And he insisted that Marcello was simply a “respectable businessman.”

Frank Ragano, an attorney for Hoffa, had approached Partin and told him that he could make Garrison go away—if Partin agreed to sign an affidavit recanting his earlier testimony in Chattanooga against Hoffa. Partin, who was offered as much as a million dollars from the mob, refused, and Hoffa went to Lewisburg Penitentiary in March 1967.

After my 1977 conversations with Partin, Walter Sheridan gave me a March 15, 1967, FBI 302-interview report with Irv Davidson, captioned, "Assassination of President John F. Kennedy," in which the FBI stated:

Edward G. Partin . . . will be subpoenaed by [Garrison’s] grand jury in New Orleans, Louisiana, in the near future in connection with his possible involvement in captioned matter. Davidson stated that he has heard there is a photograph available of Partin in the presence of Jack Ruby (deceased), convicted of killing Lee Harvey Oswald.

When I interviewed Davidson in 1977, he grudgingly admitted to, among many other things, his role in this drama to frame Ed Partin via Jim Garrison.

And it was Davidson, who, in 1980, unwittingly introduced Joseph Hauser, an undercover FBI informant, to Carlos Marcello as part of a sting operation called BRILAB for which Marcello was convicted and sent to a federal prison.

I was approached to write Hauser’s book in which Hauser would allege that Marcello had given him “thinly veiled admissions” that he was involved in the President’s murder. And Hauser claimed that these admissions had been recorded by the FBI.

During Marcello’s subsequent time in prison, another FBI-trained informant revealed that Marcello, speaking of President Kennedy, had told him on tape: “Yeah, I had the son of bitch killed. I’m glad I did. I’m sorry I couldn’t have done it myself.”

During my 1992 interviews with Frank Ragano, I asked him about Ed Partin’s earlier statement to me that Ragano had offered to make Jim Garrison back off from his bogus investigation of Partin’s alleged involvement with Jack Ruby.

Ragano confirmed Partin’s story, admitting that he did make that offer to Partin. Ragano added that he had the clout with Garrison to guarantee it.

In an article I later did for the Washington Post, I wrote:
Ragano has told me that Garrison did nothing more during his 1967-1969 investigation than divert public attention away from Marcello. "Garrison was shielding Marcello from being implicated in the Kennedy murder case," Ragano says.

Notably—although not without controversy, after his conviction on criminal-tax charges—Frank Ragano, who was Tampa Mafia boss Santo Trafficante's long-time attorney, went public.

Most importantly, while promoting his memoir in 1994, Ragano, who had also done legal work for Hoffa and Marcello, alleged that Hoffa had asked him to carry a personal request to Marcello and Trafficante to help arrange the murder of President Kennedy.

In September 1962—while speaking with an FBI informant named Jose Aleman about a Teamsters pension-fund loan they hoped to receive from Jimmy Hoffa, along with a discussion about the upcoming 1964 Presidential election which Kennedy was expected to win—Santo Trafficante said, speaking of Kennedy: "No Jose, he's going to be hit." And then, according to Aleman, Trafficante “made it clear” that it was Jimmy Hoffa who was making the arrangements for the President’s murder.

Of course, Trafficante had earlier been solicited to participate in the failed CIA-Mafia plots to kill Castro, who had thrown the Tampa mob boss in prison shortly after the revolution.

The question for me in 1977 was whether one assassination plot—the plot against Castro—had evolved into another—a plot against President Kennedy.

By mid-1977, no one had even suggested, at least in writing and in any detail, that the President's murder was a straight mob hit with Hoffa's participation.

For my investigation of the CIA-Mafia plots and President Kennedy’s murder, I retained an outstanding investigator named Michael Ewing, a respected former U.S. Senate aide. Mike had gained possession of some previously undisclosed phone records of Jack Ruby, showing that during the days and weeks prior to Kennedy's murder, Ruby had called and received calls from several people close to Hoffa, Marcello, and Trafficante.

Mike and I interviewed several of those callers, including but not limited to Irwin Weiner, the Teamsters’ top bail bondsman; Hoffa leg-breaker Barney Baker; and Earl Ruby, Jack’s brother who owned a laundry business in Detroit, along with friends and associates close to Chicago mobsters Leonard Patrick and David Yaras, among others.

And it was widely known that Ruby had once worked for Paul Dorfman, then head of the Chicago Waste Handlers Union, whose son, Allen Dorfman, was selected by Hoffa as the fiduciary manager of the Teamsters biggest pension and health and welfare funds.

Jimmy Hoffa also personally knew Jack Ruby, as Hoffa’s son, James P. Hoffa, Jr., told me during one of my many interviews with him.

Upon completion of our work, Ewing and I concluded that Jimmy Hoffa, Carlos Marcello, and Santo Trafficante might have arranged and executed the murder of President Kennedy. I personally believed that this killing was a straight mob hit. I did not believe then, nor do I believe now, that either the CIA or the FBI, as institutions, were involved in the conspiracy.

While investigating the JFK murder and working with the Warren Commission, the FBI was compromised by J. Edgar Hoover’s stubborn refusal to admit the existence of a national crime syndicate. And the CIA was similarly compromised by its secret Castro plots with the Mafia. In my opinion, these were institutional coverups.

In 1977, Mike and I shared our information with Mafia expert, Ralph Salerno, the former supervisor of detectives for the New York City Police Department, and, soon after, with Dick Billings, a former investigative reporter for Life magazine.
Shortly thereafter, Ewing, Salerno, and Billings were hired by the U.S. House Select Committee’s new chief counsel, G. Robert Blakey—who believed, when he accepted the job, that the Warren Commission’s final report was honest and accurate.

But Ewing, Salerno, and Billings, now in key roles on the committee’s staff and armed with subpoena power and the ability to compel testimony, turned Blakey around. Blakey admitted that he had been wrong about the Warren Report and then re-focused his investigation on the Mafia.

In my opinion, Bob Blakey and his team who worked for the select committee did an honest job and sincerely pursued the truth before running out of time and money, coming up with a tremendous amount of information and new witnesses, living and dead, linking Hoffa and the Mafia to the players and circumstances of the President’s murder.

Most impressively, the committee documented the relationship between Oswald and Charles “Dutz” Murrett, a bookmaker who was a father figure to Oswald and was reportedly very close to Marcello. Oswald had lived with the Murrett family for several years in his youth.

The committee even discovered that Robert Kennedy suspected that Hoffa had somehow been involved in his brother’s murder. But the younger Kennedy knew that it would take the power of the Presidency to uncover the circumstances behind that crime.

Then, on July 17, 1979—a year after the release of my book, The Hoffa Wars, which was excepted by Playboy and nationally syndicated by the New York Times—the select committee released its final report—principally written by my friends and colleagues, Mike Ewing, Ralph Salerno, and Dick Billings.

The committee report concluded, in part—just as I had in my book—that Jimmy Hoffa, Carlos Marcello, and Santo Trafficante had “the motive, means, and opportunity” to have President Kennedy killed . . . although there was some equivocation about Hoffa.

And, once again, Bob Blakey, who later co-authored a book about the committee’s work with Billings, declared, “The mob did it. It’s a historical fact.”

Now, you can dismiss everything I’ve said in my 40-year argument that Hoffa and the Mafia killed President Kennedy. I do not claim to own Absolute Truth.

But it is much more difficult to dismiss the simple fact that if former CIA Director Allen Dulles—who was at the epicenter of the CIA-Mafia plots to kill Fidel Castro and was also a member of the Warren Commission—had simply told the other members of the commission about the CIA-Mafia plots, I find it very difficult to believe that this stunning revelation would not have created an entirely new avenue of investigation, focusing on the Mafia’s possible role in the murder of President Kennedy, which certainly should have been investigated when the trail was still hot and the principal suspects were still alive.

Thank you.

[The annotated version is available at http://www.moldea.com/MobMuseum10242017.pdf.]

26: “Did the Mob Kill JFK?” – A 10-24 Debate at The Mob Museum

Long-held secret records about the 1963 murder of President John F. Kennedy—perhaps as many as 30,000 documents—are scheduled to be released online today by The National Archives . . . unless Donald Trump intervenes and stops this long-awaited disclosure.
Meantime, this past Tuesday night, October 24, author and investigative journalist Gus Russo and I debated the question, “Did the Mob Kill JFK?,” in front of a packed house at The Mob Museum in Las Vegas.

The program was videotaped and is available by clicking the link below. Here is the timing of events on the recording:

Happy music

4:19: A statement about the JFK murder by moderator Geoff Schumacher of The Mob Museum

9:04: Introduction of the debaters by Schumacher

10:40: Dan Moldea opening statement, supporting the proposition that the Mafia killed President Kennedy

27:07: Gus Russo response, supporting the thesis that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone

42:42: Moldea reply

48:10: Russo rebuttal

53:43: Questions from the moderator

1:10:10: Questions from the audience

1:37:27: End

https://livestream.com/accounts/6847704/events/7757855/videos/164878343

Additional comments by DEM

Here is the annotated version of my opening statement at the 10-24 debate at The Mob Museum in which I alleged that Jimmy Hoffa, Carlos Marcello, and Santo Trafficante arranged and executed the murder of President Kennedy: http://www.moldea.com/MobMuseum10242017.pdf.

* * *

Okay, friends and colleagues . . . Here are the files and documents. Have at it . . .

https://www.archives.gov/research/jfk/2017-release

* * *


http://www.nybooks.com/articles/1979/05/03/hoffa-and-jfk/

22: Trump’s “crazy man” routine


I am so tired of—but still frightened by—Donald Trump's "crazy man" routine, which allows him to get away with everything because of the perception that he is capable of anything.

Additional comments by DEM

Sorry, Kay . . . For the first time since 11-20-1983 when the film, The Day After, aired on ABC, I am afraid of nuclear war—in which millions of people would be killed . . . As much as I believe in
Bob Mueller and his investigation, he can only prosecute. He cannot remove a sitting, mentally-ill president. Only the Republican Congress can do that. And—as I think we all know—they are not up to the task.

* * *

This is bullshit. We have come to expect better from our Presidents in both parties. . . .


19: **Chief of Staff John Kelly’s inexplicable defense of Donald Trump**


Instead of serving in the badly needed role as the only real adult in the Oval Office—as many of us hoped and believed—General John Kelly, Donald Trump’s chief of staff, proved today with his inexplicable defense of Trump’s latest act of disrespect for a Gold Star family that he is just another soulless stooge for a president who lies about everything and cares about no one but himself. . . . And, most egregious, Kelly has clearly forgiven Trump for using Kelly’s dead son, a Marine who was killed in combat, as a political prop.

**Additional comments by DEM**

Yes, Len. . . . In my 1978 book, *The Hoffa Wars* (pages 351-352), I wrote that General Haig, President Nixon’s chief of staff, had heard rumors that his boss was mobbed up. So Haig used military intelligence—specifically Russell Bintliff of the CIC—to quietly investigate. When his worst fears were confirmed, Haig orchestrated the release of the damning June 23, 1972, tape, which led to Nixon’s resignation. . . .

Today, in 2017, General Kelly is busy making excuses for the mobbed-up Donald Trump.

19: **In this week’s Newsweek, Jeff Stein meets his nemesis, General Cung, nearly 50 years after Vietnam**


I have known our friend and colleague, investigative journalist Jeff Stein, for 36 years. But I never knew more than the basic outline of his tour as an intelligence operative in Vietnam, 1968-1969. In this week’s edition of *Newsweek*, Jeff, who still speaks “rusty Vietnamese,” recounts in considerable detail his fascinating wartime experience, as well as his recent return to Vietnam to meet old friends and enemies. . . . Notably, he still doesn’t spill about what he did to earn his Bronze Star. But he did publish a great book, “A Murder in Wartime,” in 1992—in fact, a great detective story—about an infamous crime involving Green Berets who executed a suspected double agent.

Read about Jeff and his nemesis, General Tran Tien Cung (who are pictured together at Cung’s home near Danang), along with their FUBAR reality nearly 50 years ago.


18: **Gambling Compliance: Author Says National Football League Wants Its Own Sportsbooks**

Dan Moldea, an investigative reporter in Washington, D.C. who authored a controversial book almost 30 years ago on the impact of gambling on the National Football League (NFL), says the NFL is moving inexorably toward owning and operating its own sportsbooks.
Mammoth television contracts helped the NFL become the nation’s most popular sports league, but Moldea says additional revenue sources are essential for the league to continue to prosper.

Sports betting will be one of those sources, he said.

The NFL did not respond to a request for comment.

“The amount of money required to buy an NFL team when I wrote Interference is nothing compared to what an owner has to pay today,” Moldea told GamblingCompliance in a recent interview.


Additional comments by DEM

Here is the NFL, et al, petition currently pending before the U.S. Supreme Court. . . .

17: Regarding Larry Flynt’s full-page ad in the Washington Post on Sunday:

DEM: From my blog on August 15, 2017

During the presidential campaign last year when I was ferociously supporting Hillary Clinton from afar while condemning the widespread smear campaign against her, I was praying for a steel-cage death match of opposition research with Roger [Stone]. . . . But my occasional benefactor and protector on these missions—such as our landmark role during the impeachment battle of 1998-1999—inevitably decided that he didn't have the stomach to go for Donald Trump's throat. And so, he stood down, leaving me alone and without my needed war chest. And, without the resources I needed, I was reluctant to go into battle just to commit suicide or be eaten alive by Roger, Steve Bannon, and their "murderers' row" of opposition-research killers. . . . Further, I never thought in a million years that Trump would defeat Hillary, so I assumed that my "special contributions" would not be necessary and, thus, not be missed. . . . Obviously, I was wrong, and I am trying to atone for that.

Just to be clear, I am not involved in this operation. And I have no idea what is really going on.

13: Sallust on starting and ending war

Below is the quotation that I placed at the beginning of my 1978 book about the rise and fall of Jimmy Hoffa, a shameless demagogue in the American labor movement who was prepared to go to war with anyone who opposed him... With all of Donald Trump’s current saber-rattling against Iran and North Korea—as well as America’s continuing military actions in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, and elsewhere—it is fitting to apply that same quote to our situation today:

“It is always easy to begin a war, but very difficult to stop one, since its beginning and end are not under the control of the same man. Anyone, even a coward, can commence a war, but it can be brought to an end only with the consent of the victors.” (The Roman historian, Sallust, in Jugurtha LXXXVIII)
Additional comments by DEM

There is warfare, and then there is warfare. And there are battlefields, and then there are battlefields. . . . [source]

A North Korean Electromagnetic Pulse (EMP) attack? According to some, this form of warfare—against which the U.S. is completely unprepared—could kill “90 percent of Americans.” . . . [source]

12: Applauding speculation that Jonetta Barras is the “reincarnation” of Ida B. Wells

My long-time friend and colleague, author and journalist Jonetta Rose Barras, and I appeared on a panel last month to celebrate the great 19th Century author, muckraker, and early civil-rights activist, Ida B. Wells, after a fabulous performance of the wonderful play about her life and times by the prolific Michon Boston. . . . During the question-and-answer period following our presentation, there was considerable speculation that Jonetta is the “reincarnation” of Ms. Wells. Knowing Jonetta, I applauded that belief.

Additional comments by DEM

My September 13 post about Michon's play. . . .

11: Netflix to launch its Mindhunter series, based on the John Douglas-Mark Olshaker bestseller

On Friday night, October 13, Netflix will launch a remarkable new original series, Mindhunter, detailing the fascinating pursuits and captures of notorious serial killers. The series is based on the book by the same name, co-authored by the legendary FBI profiler, John Douglas, and our long-time friend and colleague, Mark Olshaker, an Emmy Award-winning filmmaker who has authored or co-authored fifteen non-fiction books and novels.

Two of the executive producers for the Mindhunter series are David Fincher, the executive producer of House of Cards, and the actress, Charlize Theron, who won an Academy Award for her stunning portrayal of a real-life serial killer in the film, Monster.

Early reviews for the series have been spectacular.

https://www.netflix.com/title/80114855

Additional comments by DEM

Here are profiles of Mark Olshaker and John Douglas, as well as a list of their chilling and fascinating books: [source]
Here is the book, *Mindhunter*, upon which the Netflix series is based:

https://www.amazon.com/Mindhunter-Inside-Elite-Serial-Crime-ebook/dp/B000FC0RRY/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=Olshaker

### 10: Brookings releases a treatise about the obstruction case against Donald Trump


**Additional comments by DEM**

Here is the 125-page appendix to the Brookings treatise. . . .


* * *

I don't know about the president and civil litigation, Scooter. . . . With regard to whether a president may/can be indicted, there is certainly not unanimity about that. Among others, Leon Jaworski said no. Ken Starr said yes. . . . I believe that Mueller might roll the dice and indict—if not on the obstruction case, then on a separate criminal conspiracy case. . . . RICO, RICO, RICO.

### 9: Robert Mueller cometh. . . .


Robert Mueller cometh. . . . “The time for honoring yourself will soon be at an end, . . . Highness.”

(Maximus Decimus Meridius)

https://www.facebook.com/HuffPostPolitics/videos/534028156941336/

### 9: Bob Corker does his Paul Revere thing


Senator Bob Corker (R-Tennessee) is doing a much overdue “have-you-no-sense-of-decency, Mr. Trump,” Paul Revere-thing, warning of an inevitable attack—this time from within—by a dangerous would-be despot. A small handful of Republicans who have yet to be emasculated by bully-boy Trump and still have their sanity and some semblance of dignity are nodding in agreement from the sidelines.

The reaction so far from Corker’s Republican colleagues in Congress? . . . Nothing. Total silence.

In lieu of governing, they prefer to be ruled by the despot with the 84 percent approval rating among their mashugana Republican base.

Profiles in Courage—not.

**Additional comments by DEM**

“Have you no sense of decency, Mr. Trump?” . . . This is a Joseph N. Welch moment for Senator Bob Corker.

https://www.senate.gov/artandhistory/history/minute/Have_you_no_sense_of_decency.htm
7: Trump must be desperate, looking for some other reason to fire Rex Tillerson


Poor Donald Trump must be beside himself this weekend, trying to find a quick and easy rationale for firing or demanding the resignation of Secretary of State Rex Tillerson. . . . In TrumpWorld, it just wouldn’t look right for Tillerson to be cast out simply because he called Trump a “moron” in front of an audience at the Pentagon in July. . . . Apparently, being the worst Secretary of State in modern American history is not a legitimate firing offense, especially by the worst president in modern American history.

And then, of course, there is the rumored suicide pact among Tillerson, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, and Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin. Reportedly, if one of them resigns, they will all resign. . . . Are we in the midst of a calm before that storm?

CIA Director Mike Pompeo, a shameless Tea Party stooge, stands in the wings, waiting to replace Tillerson.

Bob Mueller . . . Will you please end this madness?


Additional comments by DEM

Nuclear war be damned, Trump’s right-wing base is so crazy and filled with hatred that—as long as he continues to trash immigrants and people of color, especially President Obama—they will follow him into Hell. . . . Among his supporters—the hypocritical flag-wavers, gun-nuts, and Bible-thumpers—personal principles are both flexible and negotiable. They have lost any semblance of moral high ground.

* * *

I hear you, Cecilia. But I think he's going to need a deflective reason in this case. . . . Being called "a moron" by his own Secretary of State—I think he actually called him a "fucking moron"—is going to stick, long-term, and leave an indelible mark on this very arrogant and thin-skinned president who views his subordinates as nothing more than cannon fodder. . . .

https://www.thedailybeast.com/white-house-aides-wanted-rex-tillerson-to-resign-for-calling-trump-a-fucking-moron

4: My 31-year old book, Dark Victory, goes to number-one on Amazon’s white-collar crime list


Many thanks to the mobbed-up Donald Trump.

September 2017

24: “Did the Mafia kill JFK?” An October 24 debate at The Mob Museum in Las Vegas

On the evening of October 24 at the old federal courthouse in downtown Las Vegas, I’ll be a combatant in a heavyweight steel-cage death match, hosted by The Mob Museum, with another author and journalist who specializes in investigations of the Mafia. . . . Gus Russo of Baltimore. Gus and I, who have been good friends and colleagues for many years, will debate the topic, “Did the Mafia kill President Kennedy?”

Because I, for better or worse, was the first person to make the case in my 1978 book, “The Hoffa Wars,” that the murder was arranged and executed by Teamsters boss Jimmy Hoffa, New Orleans Mafia chief Carlos Marcello, and Tampa Mafia kingpin Santo Trafficante in what I believe was a straight mob hit, I will accent the positive during the debate.

Notably, a year after my book was released, the U.S. House Select Committee on Assassinations concluded that Hoffa, Marcello, and Trafficante had the “motive, means, and opportunity” to have the President killed. And the chief counsel of the committee, the legendary G. Robert Blakey declared upon the release of the committee’s 1979 report, “The mob did it. It’s a historical fact.”

A gifted investigator and writer, Gus—who is one of the world’s experts on the overall JFK case, as well as The Chicago Outfit—will lay out the evidence that I have been wrong for the past 40 years and that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone when he killed the President on November 22, 1963 – and that Jack Ruby acted alone when he killed Oswald two days later.


The debate will be live-streamed on The Mob Museum’s website.

Attached is the announcement for the debate. . . .


**Additional comments by DEM**

Here is Playboy’s excerpt of my 1978 book, The Hoffa Wars, in which I discussed the possible role of Hoffa and the Mafia in the murder of President Kennedy. . . .


21: A special Authors Guild mind-blowing deal for LexisNexis

Authors Guild members. . . . Get a special deal for LexisNexis at the mind-blowing cost of $19.95 a month—$239.40 a year. That’s 80 percent off the regular price. . . .

http://mailchi.mp/authorsguild/lexisnexis?e=ecf84ce7e9

20: Prediction . . . Mueller will try to indict a sitting president


I’m a complete optimist. . . . I don’t just think that Robert Mueller already has Donald Trump good—I think he has him beautiful . . . at least on the obstruction charge. However, I also believe that Mueller doesn’t trust Congress to impeach and remove based on the obstruction case alone.

Consequently, I believe that Mueller is preparing the motherlode of all RICO cases. He is going to roll the dice, go for the gold, and try to indict a sitting president as part of a RICO criminal conspiracy. . . . Pure speculation on my part.
**Additional comments by DEM**

Remarkably, every prediction of Trump's imminent fall has fallen well short. . . . I'm starting to think that this guy could survive acid rain and nuclear winter.

* * *

Also, he might be trying to make a case against Mike Pence, the sad clown who has been lying his ass off about a bootful of issues, ranging from Russia to Mike Flynn. . . . I would certainly welcome the application of The Spiro Agnew Option in Pence's case.

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The ICIJ strikes again with a great database about Trump's allies in the Paradise Papers. . . . [https://www.icij.org/article/us-president-donald-trumps-influencers/](https://www.icij.org/article/us-president-donald-trumps-influencers/)

* * *

I would double down on my original bet . . . In the coming weeks and months, watch how fast a "subject" can become a "target." Mueller is going to indict this very corrupt and dishonest president. . . . [https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2018/04/trump-target-subject/557243/](https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2018/04/trump-target-subject/557243/) (April 4, 2018)

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**17: Was Jimmy Hoffa’s body moved from Jersey City to Paterson?**


Rank speculation—but getting it on the record nonetheless: After Tony Provenzano and his co-conspirators learned that Ralph Picardo had talked to the FBI about his jailhouse conversation with Steve Andretta, who allegedly gave up some of the details about the murder of Jimmy Hoffa, did Tony Pro & company decide to move the 55-gallon drum containing Hoffa’s DNA from the Moscato dump in Jersey City to what is now a parking lot in the Bunker Hill section of Paterson, New Jersey?

**Additional comments by DEM**

I’m not sounding any alarms about this. . . . As some of you know, I use Facebook like a filing cabinet. . . . Meantime, once again, here is what I believe happened to Hoffa, based on the best evidence. [http://www.moldea.com/Hoffa-40.html](http://www.moldea.com/Hoffa-40.html).

* * *

Hoffa was killed by Salvatore Briguglio in Detroit. His body was supposedly shipped—via Gateway in a 55-gallon drum—to New Jersey, winding up at the Moscato dump under the Pulaski Skyway, which connects Jersey City and Newark. . . .

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**15: The Cleveland Indians and the greatest MLB winning streak in 101 years**
In the history of Major League Baseball, there have been 296 no-hitters, 23 perfect games, fifteen unassisted triple plays, and four 20-strikeout games. But since 1916, there has been only one team that has won 22 games in a row: the 2017 Cleveland Indians who did it last night. . . . Congratulations to the Tribe, as well as to our family and friends in northeastern Ohio who cheer for them.

I’m hoping for a Cleveland Indians v. Washington Nationals 2017 World Series. As much as I enjoy the Nats, I would be cheering for Cleveland . . . where nearby Akron—the town I grew up in as a beleaguered Indians fan—will always be home.

14: Being fair to the schizophrenic President Heckle and Mister Jeckle

Tired of being written off as “fake news,” our national news media organizations are now bending over backward, trying to be less critical in their day-to-day coverage of the schizophrenic President Heckle and Mister Jeckle. With their new low-bar standards, they are praising Donald Trump’s latest teleprompter-read speech about the 9-11 tragedy, carefully written by one of his in-house propagandists, as well as—to the chagrin of the do-nothing Republican Majority in Congress—his recent head-slapping deals with the Democratic Minority.

White House-beat reporters are also gushing over Trump’s post-hurricane trip today to Florida—the same state that he already seems to visit every weekend.

Because it’s been so quiet on the perpetual scandal front, many believe that Trump is in yet another reset, his 101st second chance. . . Actually, the Trump presidency is more like an aggressive cancer in a momentary remission.

13: Michon Boston’s play about the 19th Century muckraker, Ida B. Wells

Late notice: Michon Boston’s widely praised play—celebrating the life and times of the great 19th-Century author, muckraker, and early civil-rights activist, Ida B. Wells—will be presented tonight at 7:00 at The Hill Center at the Old Naval Hospital: 921 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE. Admission is $12 . . . with proceeds going to the Gwen Ifill Fund for Journalism.

Following the performance, my long-time friend, Jonetta Rose Barras, who writes for the Washington Post, and I will join Michon on a panel about the state of investigative journalism in the 21st Century. (Of course, I believe that investigative journalism is in the midst of what could become its golden age.)

“The way to right wrongs is to turn the light of truth upon them.” (Ida B. Wells, on the scourge of lynching)

For details, please click http://www.hillcenterdc.org/event/idas-letter-by-michon-boston/

Additional comments by DEM

Great play. Big crowd. What a woman. . . . I was so proud to be asked to speak at this wonderful event. http://idabwellsmuseum.org/

10: Tonight’s Charlie Rose-Steve Bannon interview, arranged by 60 Minutes producer Ira Rosen

Great play. Big crowd. What a woman. . . . I was so proud to be asked to speak at this wonderful event. http://idabwellsmuseum.org/
Our friend and colleague, Ira Rosen, a long-time producer for *CBS Sixty Minutes*, hit a grand-slam home run tonight with his work on Charlie Rose’s revealing interview with Steve Bannon. It was television news at its very best. . . . Well done, Ira.


**Additional comments by DEM**

I think we would all do well not to take this guy too lightly. Until watching the *Sixty Minutes* interview, I had no idea of his commitment to his personal core values and his breathtaking ferocity in pursuing and enforcing them. Steve Bannon might well be the most formidable real-life villain in recent political history.

* * *

According to *BuzzFeed*, here’s how Bannon is preparing for The Big Fight. . . .
https://www.buzzfeed.com/tariniparti/how-steve-bannon-is-preparing-for-war?utm_term=.kcdqo58j0B#bqJjaqOmNv

* * *

BTW: Here’s a thing I blogged and posted here on August 18—just after Bannon left the White House—about an investigative report I did a few years ago about Andrew Breitbart, whom Bannon replaced at the right-wing online publication. . . .

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If Steve Bannon gets his way, can you imagine the sewer dwellers that could replace the knuckle dragger now in power. . . .  http://www.npr.org/2017/10/14/557805965/bannon-it-s-a-season-of-war-against-the-gop-establishment (October 16, 2017)

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Author Michael Wolff quotes Steve Bannon using the T-word, adding that there is zero chance that the alleged traitor didn't tell his father about what would have been acts of treason. . . . If true, this is huge. https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2018/01/03/new-trump-book-bannons-treasonous-claim-ivankas-presidential-ambitions-and-melanias-first-lady-concerns/?utm_term=.93820ed99233 (January 3, 2018)

8: To those riding out Hurricane Irma: Memorialize

God bless all of our family and friends—and everyone else—in Florida. . . . To those who are riding it out, I suggest that you memorialize as much of this nightmare as possible. . . . Keep a journal. Take lots of pictures. https://www.nytimes.com/2017/09/08/us/hurricane-irma-miami-florida.html?emc=edit_na_20170908&nl=breaking-news&nlid=71046532&ref=cta&_r=0

Additional comments by DEM


8: The Republic Report: How money corrupts democracy

For many of us, the Republic Report is must reading. Edited by our friend and colleague David Halperin, a well-known and respected Washington attorney and author, the free online publication routinely offers ground-breaking independent investigative reports about how money corrupts democracy.

According to the report’s mission statement: “Corruption of our politics poses an existential threat to our republic. Will we be a self-governing nation of the people, by the people and for the people, or will we be ruled by special interests and big money lobbyists?

“Republic Report is dedicated to rooting out the corruption that is so corrosive to American values. We investigate and uncover the buying and selling of politicians and of institutions entrusted with upholding the public interest. We expose how big money distorts major policy decisions – harming our economy and our people.”

In Washington, D.C., along with protecting whistleblowers, that mission is the noblest of all causes.

The Republic Report is a project of the non-profit group, Essential Information.
https://www.republicreport.org/

5: The New Normal and the parable of the frog in boiling water

Donald Trump militarizes our civilian government, and his supporters nod with tacit consent. He speaks casually about engaging in nuclear war, and many of the same people grudgingly acknowledge the possible need.

Those who accept Trump’s “New Normal” have become characters in the parable of the frog in boiling water.

Please, Robert Mueller. . . . End this madness.
Additional comments by DEM


3: I. Irving Davidson died, and there was no public announcement

The other day, I ran a background check on I. Irving Davidson, a long-time, well-known Washington “fixer,” and discovered that he had died four years ago on November 30, 2013. Born in 1921, he was 92, according to the Social Security Death Index. Because I had heard nothing about his passing, I called his daughter yesterday. She confirmed his death, adding that, “by choice,” there were no family-authorized announcements or obituaries.

In July 1976, while I was writing my first book, The Hoffa Wars, investigative journalist Marc Smolonsky at Jack Anderson’s office introduced me to Irv Davidson, one of the most colorful and memorable characters I have ever known. Just a few days earlier, Ed Partin, the key government witness against Jimmy Hoffa during his 1964 jury-tampering trial, told me that Davidson, working in concert with the Mafia, had been one of Cuban President Fulgencio Batista’s top arms dealers prior to the Cuban Revolution.

Partin also told me that he was present at a meeting in New Orleans in 1960 when Davidson met with Hoffa and Carlos Marcello, the city’s top Mafia boss, preparing to make an illegal campaign contribution to Vice President Richard Nixon during his bid for the presidency against Senator John Kennedy, a member of the U.S. Senate Rackets Committee, whose brother, Robert Kennedy, was the committee’s chief counsel. The Kennedys had already become Hoffa and Marcello’s worst enemies.

“I was right there, listening to the conversation,’” Partin told me on tape. “Marcello had a suitcase filled with $500,000 cash which was going to Nixon. It was a half-million-dollar contribution. The other half [of the million promised] was coming from the mob boys in New Jersey and Florida.”

When I later met with Davidson for our tape-recorded interview, he openly admitted his arms dealing in Cuba, saying: “I sold a tremendous amount of tanks and whatnot to Batista in 1959. About a month or two before Batista fell, I delivered a big package to him."

Although he admitted his close working relationships with Hoffa and Marcello, Davidson refused to comment about the alleged payoff to Nixon.

And the stories about Irv Davidson go on and on. . . .

I was with Marc Smolonsky, as well as our friend and colleague James Grady, the I time I last saw Davidson at Gawler’s Funeral Home on Wisconsin Avenue after Jack Anderson died on December 17, 2005. (I could not attend Jack’s funeral.)

Rest in peace, Irv. . . . You took a lot of secrets to your grave.

(Photograph by Dan E. Moldea. Copyright © 2002)

http://www.moldea.com/IrvingDavidson.html

Additional comments by DEM
Here was Irv Davidson’s business card.

2: A growing acceptance of the use of nuclear weapons, even in civilian areas


Here’s a scary thought from the academic journal, *International Security*. . . . More and more Americans are comfortable with the first-strike use of nuclear weapons against military targets in Iran . . . even when they are in and around civilian populations.


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**August 2017**

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27: Meeting Rosalynn Carter at the White House . . . circa November 1979


First Lady Rosalynn Carter meets Luca Brasi at the White House . . . circa November 1979. (Photo credit, unknown)

**Additional comments by DEM**

I don't think that I will ever put up the only other picture I took with a First Lady . . . except, by then, she had already become a U.S. Senator.

* * *

Although I was only in her presence for about ten seconds, I could instinctively tell what a nice and kind woman she is. . . . BTW: She just turned 90 on August 18. And her husband is widely viewed as the greatest ex-President in American history.

26: Is Trump creating his own personal goon squads?


I spent four years investigating a 32-member, Detroit-based goon squad which operated throughout the country—covertly created, heavily financed, and carefully maintained by the Teamsters Union. Long story short, it was founded in 1971 without the fingerprints of its creator, Frank Fitzsimmons, then president of the union, who used it as his personal cudgel for dealing with dissenters and protesters who challenged his authority. When necessary, those rebel reformers who refused “to listen to reason” were subjected to beatings, bombings, shootings, and violent sabotage. The goon squad’s members who did the dirty work were selected because of their abilities to do whatever was necessary, as well as their willingness to keep quiet about it.

I’ve been thinking a lot about that goon squad since the tragic events in Charlottesville, which were clearly provoked by white nationalists and Neo-Nazis who openly support Donald Trump who, in the days that followed, inexplicably reciprocated that support—albeit by twisting and torturing the English language.

Why in God’s name would Trump risk everything with such words and deeds about such despicable groups of people?
Since the appointment of Special Counsel Robert Mueller on May 17, several of us who investigate organized crime have been insisting that Trump is justifiably both obsessed with and terrified of the investigation and are predicting that Mueller’s grand finale will be a massive RICO indictment and ultimately a dead-bang case for impeachment, exposing the widespread corruption of Trump and many of those around him.

I now believe that Trump is in the midst of creating his own goon squad, composed of many of the same gun-toting white nationalists and hate-driven Neo-Nazis who were present in Charlottesville, along with thousands of others around the country who appear ready to fight and to die for Donald Trump.

Witness a recent a one-minute, eighteen-second interview with long-time Trump advisor Roger Stone who predicts that impeachment would launch massive violence and another American civil war.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8hFRLbFaJEw

Additional comments by DEM


* * *

I think those who are predicting civil war have seen Braveheart too many times. . . . The fight would not be on a single battlefield.

* * *


21: Trump’s speech about Afghanistan tonight

Post-Afghanistan-speech reaction tonight? . . . This guy continues to divert attention away from Robert Mueller’s investigation of his personal corruption and alleged collusion with a foreign enemy. Surrounding himself with generals to run our civilian government, he now officially views himself as a “wartime president.” The result will be nothing more than death and destruction abroad, as well as further division and misdirection at home.

Additional comments by DEM

Just to be clear, I had clicked the "post" button for my blog and then FB before he finished saying "God bless the United States of America." . . . This latest cynical gimmick is a cinch to figure out.

Just to be clear, I had clicked the "post" button for my blog and then FB before he finished saying "God bless the United States of America." . . . This latest cynical gimmick is a cinch to figure out.

* * *

Jeez. . . . I listened to this guy’s speech—or, more to the point, his provably dishonest, paranoid-schizophrenic rant—at his rally in Phoenix tonight. . . . Can there be any further doubt that
Donald Trump is unfit for his job—and could possibly even be a dangerously mentally unbalanced person? . . .

I always assumed that there was some sort of method to his madness. . . . Tonight, I saw no method . . . just madness. On a new and entirely different level, we are at risk. . . .

He still enjoys the support of 84 percent of his Republican base. And all of those Congressional leaders in the House are up for reelection, along with a third of the members of the Senate—and they are all accountable to that same base. . . . Could the GOP dissenter muster up half of the House to impeach and then two-thirds of the Senate to convict? . . . I think not. (August 22, 2017)

21: Instructing students to learn about hate crimes from a convicted Neo-Nazi
HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/PERMALINK.PHP?STORY_FBID=1938233293061206&ID=100006236621784&PNREF=STORY

Our friend and colleague, Kevin Fornshill, teaches a course on hate crimes at George Mason University. Kevin, a former detective with the U.S. Park Police, has become one of the country’s leading experts on the alt-right and white-nationalist groups. A year or so ago, I heard him speak at a conclave of private investigators in northern Virginia, and his presentation, which included a very graphic slide show, was absolutely riveting.

The attached article by journalist Michael E. Miller of the Washington Post details an assignment that Kevin gave his students, instructing them to correspond with an ex-Neo-Nazi, a former rabid anti-Semite, who had been convicted of firebombing a synagogue and was serving a long stretch in a Colorado federal prison.

“Could students studying hate crimes learn from someone who had actually committed one?” . . . The Post explores that question posed by Fornshill.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/the-kkk-attacked-her-family-now-shes-writing-to-a-neo-nazi/2017/08/10/dc4946a2-7dfd-11e7-b2b1-aeb62854dfa_story.html?utm_term=.e20e5b25679c

Additional comments by DEM

BTW: Kevin Fornshill is the U.S. Park Police officer who found Deputy White House Counsel Vincent Foster’s dead body at Fort Marcy Park on July 20, 1993. During the investigation for my 1998 book about Foster’s suicide, A Washington Tragedy, I interviewed Fornshill, who gave me a walk through the park, showing me the exact location where he discovered Foster’s body. To memorialize that moment, I snapped this photograph of Kevin at the Foster death site.

20: The great Dick Gregory dies

The late, great civil-rights activist, Dick Gregory, meets Luca Brasi at The Clubhouse in Washington, D.C., February 12, 2016. (Photo credit: Jeff Stein)

Additional comments by DEM

Here’s the February 12, 2016, thread about the wonderful afternoon Jeff Stein and I spent with Dick Gregory. 

* * *

19: Here’s to a long life for Donald Trump—so that he may suffer the consequences of his inevitable downfall

Beloved by bigots, gun-nuts, religious hypocrites, and arm-chair warriors, Donald Trump is on course to be the worst and most destructive president in American history. . . . I want him to live a long and healthy life, so that he can fully suffer the consequences of his inevitable downfall and public disgrace.

Additional comments by DEM

Jeff. . . . I don’t remember when your experience with me ended, but, rest assured, I have been a Democrat since 1974 when I was 24 years old and still living in Akron, Ohio—after having supported Democrat Gene McCarthy for President in 1968 and Democrat George McGovern for President in 1972, along with Democrat John Seiberling, our great Congressman, every time he ran.

I often refer to my time as a Republican as a cautionary tale, especially my 1974 run for the Ohio State Legislature while I was in graduate school at Kent State during which I was the only Republican candidate in Ohio to openly advocate Richard Nixon’s impeachment. An anti-war and pro-civil rights candidate, I received an enthusiastic endorsement from the Akron Beacon Journal—but I was badly defeated in the Republican primary. The former national chairman of the RNC who ran the GOP in Akron, Ray Bliss, with whom I had numerous battles when I was student body president at the University of Akron in 1972-73, personally crushed me.

With regard to the Republicans I supported, I think I can name all of them . . . . Louie Farris and Thad Garrett, both unsuccessful candidates for the Ohio State Legislature, as well as Frank Gaffney, an unsuccessful candidate for Summit County sheriff. All three were good friends of mine. Please tell me if you can remember any others.

If you’re really interested, I detail my early days as a Republican—why I became one and why I left the party—on pages 5 and 14-27 of my 2013 book, Confessions of a Guerrilla Writer.

* * *

BTW: One of the reasons why Ray Bliss was so upset with me while I was running in the Republican primary for the Ohio State Legislature in the spring of 1974 was that I was also openly supporting Democrat John Gilligan for Ohio governor and Democrat Dick Celeste for lieutenant governor. As a graduate student at Kent State, there was no way that I could support Jim Rhodes, who was running against Gilligan.

18: To understand Steve Bannon at Breitbart News, you need to be aware of Andrew Breitbart

With Steve Bannon’s ouster from the White House today, he immediately returned to Breitbart News where he will be free to continue his right-wing revolution, actively defending Donald Trump against his enemies while simultaneously keeping Trump true to the draconian-conservative cause. Bannon intends to place Breitbart, “the platform for the alt-right,” at the epicenter of America’s political storm.
Notably, Bannon became the executive chair of Breitbart News shortly after the death of its founder, Andrew Breitbart, who died at age 43 of a heart attack on March 1, 2012.

Attached is the cursory summary of a lengthy investigation I conducted in 2010 of Andrew Breitbart, who was already a god among those on the far-right.

To understand Breitbart News, you should become acquainted with the late Andrew Breitbart.

[Webpage link]

Additional comments by DEM

Here’s the late David Carr, who died in 2015, on the late Andrew Breitbart, two years after my investigation of Breitbart. . . . [Webpage link]

* * *

Here’s the story everyone’s talking about in which Steve Bannon, declaring his independence from the Trump White House, told reporter Peter Boyer at the Weekly Standard, “The Trump presidency that we fought for, and won, is over.” [Webpage link]

* * *

Because that report on Andrew Breitbart was part of a much larger package of opposition-research reports about numerous subjects, I cannot make it public—although I have published portions of those collective reports from time to time. . . . For instance, here is an action that resulted from my report about Sean Hannity. . . . [Webpage link]

* * *

Our friend, Ira Rosen, was the producer for this remarkable interview on Sixty Minutes. . . . [Webpage link]

18: A note to Antifa: Stop the self-destructive behavior

[Webpage link]

Violence meeting violence via Antifa? . . . It's nothing but an escalation of the self-destructive behavior exhibited by MoveOn.org and Black Lives Matter during the campaign. Their disruptive tactics in 2016 gave the GOP the opportunity to conjure up sympathy, helping them to run the table by winning the White House and both houses of Congress.

A note to Antifa. . . . Stop the goddamn stupidity. Stand down and allow the crazy right to reveal itself unimpeded. . . . The only way we get through this period is by practicing non-violence.

[Webpage link]

Additional comments by DEM

Here is what I wrote on March 15, 2016, about the damage MoveOn.org and Black Lives Matter were doing to the progressive cause:
That’s a good example of the damage that violent lefties—like The Weathermen back then and Antifa today—can do to peaceful progressive movements. . . . The best strategy against Trump and his emerging right-wing goon squads is non-violent resistance.

17: A prayer: “Dear God, please protect us from Donald Trump”

I am just a flawed sinner, but I do say a prayer every night. I have for years. Recently, I’ve added a brief addendum, asking God to protect the world from Donald Trump. . . .

(With picture: “Dear God: If you want us to impeach Trump, give us a sign. . . . Like, blot out the sun anytime in the next week.” h/t Nancy Goebner . . . via The Great Linda Deutsch)

Additional comments by DEM

Prayer and investigative journalism shall be our salvation . . . not necessarily in that order.

Beloved by bigots, gun-nuts, religious hypocrites, and arm-chair warriors, Trump is on course to be the worst president in American history.

16: A split between Trump and the business community over his support for white nationalists?

Our friend and colleague, world-famous corporate crisis manager Eric Dezenhall, appeared on CNBC’s “Squawk Box” this morning, discussing the downside of corporate America’s blind support for Donald Trump in the aftermath of the president’s bizarre press conference yesterday in which he appeared to triple-down on his defense of those in the white-nationalist movement. In response, a handful of corporate leaders had already resigned from two of Trump’s influential business advisory councils, foreshadowing more resignations.

The Dezenhall interview, along with those of other corporate-governance experts, appears to have supercharged today’s anticipated mass exodus of additional corporate council members—which was suddenly stopped this afternoon when Trump, trying to save face, jump-shifted everyone and disbanded both groups.

Here is Eric’s appearance on CNBC this morning—which has helped to provoke what could be a seminal split between the business community and Trump, who never apologizes and takes responsibility for nothing that goes wrong:

Additional comments by DEM:

And here is the New York Times’s story this afternoon about Trump’s disbanding of the councils:
Photograph of Paul Manafort, Roger Stone, and Lee Atwater in 1985


A political murderers’ row . . . The now-under siege Paul Manafort, the enigmatic Roger Stone, and the late Lee Atwater in 1985. . . . Roger? Whaddya know? Whaddya say?

(Photo credit: Harry Naltchayan, Washington Post)

Additional comments by DEM

This is Washington, D.C. People on opposite sides—even when they are capable and willing to cut each other's throats—often find the means to coexist in this small town. . . . I have been here for 41 years. And it is that kind of action, even when I'm getting my clock cleaned, that makes it very difficult to fall out of love with what this wonderful town is and what it represents. . . . Just to be clear, I have never met Roger Stone. I don't think I have ever spoken to him on the phone—although I could be wrong about that. But we have exchanged a few written messages—sometimes harsh, usually friendly. He is a long-time fan of my 1978 book about the rise and fall of Jimmy Hoffa. . . . During the presidential campaign last year when I was ferociously supporting Hillary Clinton from afar while condemning the widespread smear campaign against her, I was praying for a steel-cage death match of opposition research with Roger. . . . But my occasional benefactor and protector on these missions—such as our landmark role during the impeachment battle of 1998-1999—inexplicably decided that he didn't have the stomach to go for Donald Trump's throat. And so, he stood down, leaving me alone and without my needed war chest. And, without the resources I needed, I was reluctant to go into battle just to commit suicide or be eaten alive by Roger, Steve Bannon, and their "murderers' row" of opposition-research killers. . . . Further, I never thought in a million years that Trump would defeat Hillary, so I assumed that my "special contributions" would not be necessary and, thus, not be missed. . . . Obviously, I was wrong, and I am trying to atone for that. . . . http://www.moldea.com/CGW-blog.pdf

* * *

(August 16, 2017)

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(June 15, 2018)

14: When being a bigot is not a deal-breaker


I don’t know who said this first, but he/she was prophetic. . . . Those who still support Donald Trump have revealed themselves. They might not be bigots, personally, but they have now proven that, for them, being a bigot is not a deal-breaker. . . .

God bless the visionaries, as well as those people who are willing to admit when they’re wrong.
**Additional comments by DEM**


* * *

I don’t think we should be publicly celebrating those who led an illegitimate, violent, and failed attempt to overthrow the United States Government—because of their insistence on preserving the sinful business of slavery. Certainly, these long-dead, despicable traitors and their southern confederacy should be chronicled in students’ American history classes and texts. But to erect or preserve statues in their honor is just flat-out wrong. . . . Tear ’em down.

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13: Same old, same old: Some WH staffer will tell Trump what to say to get yet another second chance


Same old, same old, we all know what’s going to happen next. . . . In the midst of this current firestorm, some White House staffer will write an accommodating speech, saying all the right things, which Trump will reluctantly read with minimal editorial departures from the prepared script. . . .

As a result, he will get his latest second chance, yet another reset, and the umpteenth inevitable benefit of the doubt . . . because, of course, we want our presidents to succeed.

Please, Robert Mueller. . . . End this madness.

**Additional comments by DEM**

Today, we witnessed the latest of Trump’s second chances, restarts, resets, and benefits of the doubt . . . No doubt, he will need more in the future.


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13: Trump ratchets up the violence, taking the Mueller probe off page one

Donald Trump pushes the world closer to nuclear war by unnecessarily ratcheting up the most irresponsible, pro-war rhetoric uttered by any U.S. President since Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Then, he specifically refuses to condemn white nationalists—American Nazis—who commit and condone murder but support him and his right-wing presidency. Official Washington and the mainstream media react harshly.

Meantime, Special Counsel Robert Mueller’s investigations of Trump as president, his corruption as a businessman, and his collusion with the Russians have become page-two news. . . . Mission accomplished.

9: Trump puts millions of lives at risk with his tough talk

Macho-man Donald Trump—who couldn’t care less about anyone but himself and lies about everything—is threatening North Korea with “fire and fury” amid the surprisingly cogent Rex Tillerson’s advocacy of peaceful diplomacy. Is this the Trump administration’s lame effort at good-cop, bad-copping Kim Jung Un, as has been widely speculated? After all, Trump has surrounded himself with generals in top positions, indicating that he has fantasies of becoming a wartime president.

Notably, the U.S. was run out of Iraq—after promising but failing to find weapons of mass destruction which cost thousands of lives. And, after sixteen years of conflict in Afghanistan, we still can’t close the deal there, either. And now the Trump White House—whose top military and foreign policy advisors were generals in Iraq and Afghanistan—is trotting out “experts,” like Sebastian Gorka, who arrogantly warned North Korea this morning on Fox News: “Don't test America, and don't test Donald J. Trump. We are not just a superpower. We were a superpower. We are now a hyper-power.”

After taking a global bow in the wake of bombing an empty airstrip in Syria last April and managing to kill a few members of the Syrian military in the process, Trump appears to have developed a taste for blood and is clearly willing to place millions of lives at risk so that he can live up to his “if you pull out a knife, I’ll pull out a gun” reputation.

Additional comments by DEM

Playing with fire and fury, Trump doubles down on his threat:
https://www.nytimes.com/.../asia/north-korea-trump.html...

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The great Robin Wright of the New Yorker on Trump's U.N. speech. . . .

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Nothing like a war of words between two petulant and unforgiving children playing serious and even deadly leadership roles on the world stage. . . . Kim Jong-Un has responded to Donald Trump’s insults at the United Nations by calling him a “mentally deranged” old man – which
might or might not be true. . . . Is there an adult in the room here . . . or anywhere?  

* * *

Real-mature Trump responded this morning by calling the North Korean dictator “a madman who doesn’t mind starving or killing his people.”  

* * *

Senator Bob Corker goes rogue on The Moron President. . . .  

* * *

The Liar President now wants a military parade in Washington. . . .  

3: Grunt crime reporter will try to swim with the sharks

Fiercely independent grunt crime reporter in Washington, D.C., boldly thinks he can swim with the mainstream sharks, reprinting his past four years of online posts about crime, politics, and journalism—warts and all—and creating a regularly updated and searchable personal news-and-opinion site. . . . The assault on the beach is now complete. The war is moving inland. All hands on deck.  
http://www.moldea.com/CGW-blog.pdf

Additional comments by DEM

With Robert Mueller now impaneling a special federal grand jury, this entire investigation is going to get deadly serious—as Donald Trump simultaneously rallies his troops to resist anything that comes. . . . I would sell apples on the street corner, if necessary, to secure a role in this goddamn fight.

1: RICO will be among the principal tools used by Special Counsel Robert Mueller

Clearly, the quickest fix is a simple and provable obstruction of justice charge. But, long term we should all get very familiar with the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO), the federal conspiracy law used against criminal organizations, written in 1970 by the great G. Robert Blakey while he was a young attorney at the Department of Justice. . . . Betting dollars to donuts, RICO will be among the principal tools used by Special Counsel Robert Mueller—assuming that he will continue to operate without interference—when he and his outstanding prosecution team move to end this madness.

I don’t usually cite Wikipedia, but, with regard to RICO, it offers a pretty good summary.  
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Racketeer_Influenced_and_Corrupt_Organizations_Act

Additional comments by DEM
Here is Professor Blakey’s treatise, “RICO: The Genesis of an Idea,” about his creation, which has brought down and taken apart so many organized-crime groups.

(At the end of the abstract, readers may download the entire document.)

* * *

Gus: To me, this entire matter is a major criminal enterprise with clear predicates which demand a RICO prosecution. . . . I believe that if Trump tries to pardon himself in a blatant effort to avoid either impeachment or prosecution—or both—it would be further evidence of his ongoing efforts to obstruct justice. . . . My friend, we are beyond the looking glass on this situation.

* * *

Please note that the class-action litigation against Trump University—which Donald Trump settled for $25 million in November 2016—was a civil RICO case. . . .

* * *

The Special Counsel will present evidence before a federal grand jury—a fairly routine procedure. . . . RICO, RICO, RICO. . . . (August 3, 2017)

* * *

Here is a remarkable spreadsheet from the Sunlight Foundation, tracking Donald Trump’s growing conflicts of interest. (h/t Joe Stephens) https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1-YJDLJt94zaieFeB2qdLB9WUdNPIryWBFNuXAAZ8/edit#gid=0 (August 31, 2017)

Here the announcement from Sunlight. . . . https://sunlightfoundation.com/2017/08/29/putting-sunshine-on-president-trumps-conflicts-of-interest/

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**July 2017**

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**30: The 42nd anniversary of Hoffa’s murder; Kinuko Craft’s portrait of Hoffa**

42 years ago today, Jimmy Hoffa disappeared. And 39 years ago, I published my first book, *The Hoffa Wars*, about Hoffa’s rise and fall, which was excerpted by *Playboy* and syndicated in the U.S. by the *New York Times* and worldwide by *The Observer* of London. . . . The artwork for my story in *Playboy*, which is attached, was painted by the wonderful artist, Kinuko Y. Craft, who then gave the portrait to me as a gift. It is one of my most treasured possessions. . . . Sadly, I continue to be Ahab, and this damn case is still my white whale.
Additional comments by DEM


* * *

And here is my recent update about the disposal of Hoffa’s body . . . http://www.moldea.com/HOFFA-RAVO.pdf

26: Jeff Sessions, the DOJ, and firing Robert Mueller


Okay, please help me understand this . . . Donald Trump is upset with his attorney general, Jeff Sessions—a right-wing former U.S. senator from Alabama who gave up his seat to serve in Trump’s cabinet—because Sessions, rife with his own conflicts of interest, recused himself from all things related to the FBI’s investigation of the Trump campaign’s ties to Russia during the 2016 campaign. Yet, providing Trump with political cover, Sessions, post-recusal, still played an active role in Trump’s firing of FBI Director James Comey who was aggressively directing the Russian probe.

In the aftermath of Comey’s dismissal, which provoked widespread criticism and demands for a wider investigation, Sessions’ deputy, Rod Rosenstein, another Trump nominee, selected former FBI Director Robert Mueller as the DOJ’s special counsel to investigate the Russian meddling caper. (Rosenstein replaced Sally Yates as deputy attorney general. She was fired by Trump after she refused to defend his draconian immigration policy in court.)

Openly admitting that he had fired Comey to get rid of the Russian investigation, Trump opened himself up to a legitimate charge of obstruction of justice, making him a person of interest to the Mueller probe which could lead to Trump’s impeachment and/or to an unprecedented indictment of a sitting president. Thus, every waking minute that passes, Mueller and his remarkable team of federal prosecutors are learning more and more about the secret personal finances of Trump, his family, friends, and associates as they relate to the Russian inquiry.

Consequently, Trump desperately wants Mueller gone. But, because of his recusal, Sessions cannot fire Mueller. And Rosenstein has already indicated that he will not dismiss Mueller without adequate cause, adding that he is even willing to recuse himself from supervising Mueller if his earlier advocacy for Comey’s firing becomes an issue.

If instructed by Trump to fire Mueller, Rosenstein would likely resign. In that case, he would be replaced by the associate attorney general, Rachel Brand, also a Trump nominee, who had also worked in the Bush and Obama administrations. It is unclear whether Brand would carry out a Trump order to fire Mueller.

During the Saturday Night Massacre on October 20, 1973—the defining moment of the Watergate scandal—Attorney General Elliot Richardson and his deputy, William Ruckelshaus, both resigned after President Richard Nixon ordered one and then the other to fire special prosecutor Archibald Cox, who was then dismissed by U.S. Solicitor General Robert Bork, who then became the acting attorney general.

Last January, Trump nominated Washington attorney Noel Francisco, a former law clerk for Supreme Court Associate Justice Antonin Scalia, as his solicitor general. However, Francisco has not yet been confirmed by the Senate. Meantime, the current acting solicitor general is Jeffrey Wall, a former law clerk to Supreme Court Associate Justice Clarence Thomas. (One of the early candidates for the permanent position as solicitor general was George Conway III, a former tobacco attorney who helped set the perjury
trap for President Bill Clinton during his sworn testimony in the Paula Jones case, which led to the Monica Lewinsky scandal. Conway is also married to Trump counselor Kellyanne Conway.)

The threat of another Saturday Night Massacre drama could be averted if Trump either fires or forces the resignation of Jeff Sessions. Seeing the downside of firing the attorney general in another obvious effort to obstruct the Russian probe, Trump has taken the unprecedented and shameless tactic of demeaning and humiliating Sessions in his daily tweets and public statements from the White House. Regardless, Sessions has indicated, at least to date, that he has no intention of resigning.

Then again, Trump could wait to fire Sessions until Congress adjourns for the summer, which would allow him to make a recess appointment. Without Senate confirmation, the new, fully-empowered attorney general, no doubt a sacrificial lamb, could carry out Trump’s order to fire Mueller—which would, no doubt, provoke a quick return to Washington by the Congress, as well as a Constitutional crisis of monumental proportions.

With his 84-percent approval rating among his Republican base, Trump is likely betting that the members of the U.S. House cannot conjure up a majority to impeach him. And, even if they do, the U.S. Senate will never get the necessary two-thirds vote to convict and remove him from office.

Additional comments by DEM

I am certainly no fan of Jeff Sessions, but what Trump is doing to him is absolutely despicable. Indeed, to Trump, loyalty is a one-way street. He is more than willing to cut the throats of those who have supported him—if they get in the way of his personal agenda. . . . Here's a look at the situation by the New York Times today. https://www.nytimes.com/2017/07/25/us/politics/trump-attacks-own-attorney-general-jeff-sessions.html?emc=edit_th_20170726&nl=todaysheadlines&nlid=71046532

* * *

Robert. . . . You might be right. But if Sessions voluntarily leaves as attorney-general just to take another job, he will do so with the full knowledge that the move was for no other purpose than to open the door for Trump to fire Robert Mueller. And everyone else will know it, too. (July 30, 2017)

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The day after the 2018 midterm elections, Trump asks for Jeff Sessions's resignation—and gets it... This drama is about to go into high gear. https://www.nytimes.com/2018/11/07/us/politics/jeff-sessions-fired-trump.html?action=click&module=Spotlight&pgtype=Homepage (November 7, 2018)

Matthew Whitaker, whom Trump has just selected as the acting attorney general, published this piece, trashing Bob Mueller's investigation, on August 6, 2017—eleven days after I published the posting, above... https://www.cnn.com/2017/08/06/opinions/rosenstein-should-curb-mueller-whittaker-opinion/index.html?fbclid=IwAR0xuk2_a4SFg26id6a5KEmfBcHStTZHzr9iO9IDXDHwegWsXrITT0oDLje (November 7, 2018)

22: Will Trump sign or veto the Congressional sanctions against Russia?

As those of us from Akron, Ohio, might say, "This is where the rubber meets the road."... Will Trump sign or veto the Congressional resolution on sanctions against Russia in retaliation for its meddling in our 2016 election?

Additional comments by DEM

Facing the humiliation of a massive override of a potential presidential veto, Donald Trump today grudgingly signed the Russian sanctions legislation—which passed the House, 419-3, and the Senate, 98-2.... Lessons learned? Stand up to the shameless bully, and watch him fold. We still live in a democracy. (July 28, 2017)

20: Who is Vinnie Ravo? A possible new character emerges in the mystery of Jimmy Hoffa

July 20, 2017

MEMORANDUM

TO: File
FROM: Dan E. Moldea

SUBJECT: Who is Vinnie Ravo? After 42 years, a possible new cast member emerges in the mystery of the disposal of Jimmy Hoffa

Two years ago, I published a story on the 40th anniversary of the July 30, 1975, disappearance of ex-Teamsters boss Jimmy Hoffa. Based upon the best existing evidence, I reported that Phillip “Brother” Moscato, an associate of the Vito Genovese crime family, had suggested to me during a 2007 tape-recorded interview that he and Salvatore Briguglio, Hoffa’s alleged killer, had buried Hoffa’s body at Moscato’s landfill in Jersey City, New Jersey.¹

Notably, as early as November 1975, the FBI had suspected Moscato’s scrapyard as the site for Hoffa’s remains and had conducted a cursory search of the 47-acre property. Nothing was found. The following month, when Briguglio and Moscato, among others, were subpoenaed to testify before a federal grand jury in Detroit that was investigating Hoffa’s murder, both men invoked their Fifth Amendment privilege against self-incrimination.2

The informant who provided this inside information to federal investigators was a convicted killer, Ralph Picardo, a one-time friend and associate of both Briguglio and Moscato. A few days after Hoffa disappeared, Picardo received a prison visit from Stephen Andretta, one of Briguglio’s alleged co-conspirators in the Hoffa killing. All of these men—Andretta, Briguglio, Moscato, and Picardo, along with brothers Thomas Andretta and Gabriel Briguglio—were close associates of Anthony Provenzano, a capo in the Genovese crime family who had orchestrated Teamsters corruption in northern New Jersey for many years. At one time, Picardo was the personal driver for Provenzano, who had also served time with Hoffa at Lewisburg Penitentiary—where the two men once had a fistfight in front of other inmates.

With the hope of making peace, Hoffa reportedly had an appointment to meet with Provenzano on the afternoon he vanished at the Machus Red Fox restaurant in Bloomfield Township, just north of Detroit. Another Mafia figure, Anthony Giacalone, Provenzano’s brother-in-law, was also slated to attend the meeting. Reportedly, Giacalone and Provenzano did not show up and had well-established alibis.

During the now-famous prison visit, Andretta reportedly gave Picardo some of the details about the crime, including a partial cast of characters of those who were allegedly involved, like Briguglio. In addition, Picardo told the FBI that after the murder in a Detroit suburb, Hoffa’s body was stuffed into a 55-gallon drum and shipped via a Gateway Transportation truck back to New Jersey.

In my story two years ago, I published a portion of my 2007 interview with Moscato:

I told Moscato that the first time I had heard his name was in early December 1975 after the Briguglio and Andretta brothers, along with McMaster and Barr, had appeared before a federal grand jury in Detroit.

Saying he had also been subpoenaed by that grand jury, Moscato told me he had known Salvatore Briguglio and Steve Andretta “since we were kids,” adding, “Sally, as far as I was concerned, was one of the greatest guys. We hung out together. We had a little business together. Super guy.”

Contrary to what had been previously reported, Moscato insisted that FBI agents were not looking for the remains of Faungo, a loan shark whom Sally Bugs was said to have murdered, during their search. “No, they were looking for Hoffa,” Moscato insisted.

“What was the story with that?” I asked.

“Well, they said that me and Sally Briguglio buried Hoffa in my dump.”

“They thought you were part of this?” I laughed.

“Yeah. Well, I was close with all them guys. And there was a rat by the name of Ralphie Picardo . . .”

“Ralph Picardo. He was in Trenton State Penitentiary.”

Moscato laughed, “You’ve been doing your homework, huh?” He then continued, “Ralphie, I knew for years. I helped him out in business, in the trucking business. I helped him. [Armand] Faungo helped him. Sally [Briguglio] helped him to get him started in his trucking business. He was around us a lot. And after he shot this guy, he wanted to get out of jail. So he goes and tells the FBI that he knows where Hoffa's buried. That he was with me and Sally when we buried Hoffa in my dump.”

“Picardo said that he was with you and Sally?”

“Well, so they took them [the FBI] out there. They dug the dump up for three months.”

2 Moscato told me that I am the only journalist he had ever spoken to about the Hoffa case.
"I thought they were looking for Faugno," I said.

"No," Moscato replied.

"In a fifty-five-gallon drum? They were looking for Hoffa himself?"

Moscato continued: "That was Hoffa in the fifty-five-gallon drum. [Picardo] said a pick-up truck brought . . . . the truck in and Hoffa was in it, and we buried him."

"I never heard that story that you were part of it. I never heard that one before."

"That's what it was all about."

Moscato declared during one of our recorded interviews that Picardo "basically had it right."

Another federal informant, Donovan Wells, told me during my 2009 interview with him that he was with three of the suspected co-conspirators on the night before Hoffa disappeared. While having dinner in Detroit with long-time Hoffa rival, Rolland McMaster, and McMaster’s brother-in-law, Stanton Barr, who was the head of the steel division of Gateway Transportation, Provenzano came to their table and asked to speak privately with McMaster at the bar. When they returned to the table a few minutes later, Provenzano pointed to McMaster and Barr and asked, "Do you guys know where you're going to be tomorrow?"

McMaster responded, "Yeah, we're all straight on that."

On the afternoon of Hoffa’s disappearance, McMaster and Barr were with executives of Gateway in Gary, Indiana. However, two of McMaster’s top henchmen, Larry McHenry and Jim Shaw, had no alibis for that afternoon. Notably, Shaw was a driver for Gateway.3

Wells told me that he believes that McMaster’s farm in Wixom, Michigan, was the scene of Hoffa’s murder. Wells thought that Hoffa was buried there, too. Wells was the informant who provided information in 2006 to the FBI, which had arranged an excavation at McMaster’s farm in a failed search for Hoffa’s body. While exiting, according to the New York Times, FBI special agent Judith Chilen "added that she was convinced that his body had been buried on the farm and that there was 'no indication that it has been moved.'"

During one of my 2013 interviews with Moscato, I asked him whether he thought that Hoffa had been both murdered and buried on McMaster’s farm near Detroit. He did not comment on a possible site for the murder. However, with regard to the burial of Hoffa’s body, Moscato referred me to our 2007 interview, saying, "I think I've already told you what happened."

During his alleged conversation with Picardo, Andretta did not specifically pinpoint Moscato’s dump as the site for Hoffa’s body. When the FBI asked for his best guess, Picardo identified the property, saying that he was aware of at least one murder victim whom Briguglio had buried there.4

For years, persistent rumors have alleged that, after the Provenzano team heard that Picardo had been flipped and was talking to the FBI, they decided to move Hoffa’s body from Moscato’s dump to another location.

Moscato died in February 2014 without telling me everything he knew.

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3 I am the only journalist who has interviewed McMaster, Barr, McHenry, and Shaw.

4 I am the only journalist who has interviewed Salvatore Briguglio and Stephen Andretta, as well as their brothers Gabriel Briguglio and Thomas Andretta, who were also suspects in the case. Sal Briguglio was murdered in March 1978.
Six months later, I began pursuing a related avenue of investigation. In July 2015, after the publication of my story about the 40th anniversary of Hoffa’s murder, I interviewed a new source close to Moscato who suggested that a one-time trusted friend of Moscato’s was also involved in the disposal of Hoffa’s body.

The name I received was Vincent Anthony Ravo, aka Vinnie Ravo, another Genovese crime family associate, who had lived in Passaic, New Jersey. Born on June 10, 1935, Ravo had died in prison on March 26, 2006. During his career, Ravo had been arrested for assault, drug trafficking, kidnapping, larceny, possession of stolen property, weapons charges, and murder. Despite his criminal record, Ravo owned and had partial and/or hidden ownerships in several licensed bars and restaurants in northern New Jersey.

The New Jersey State Commission of Investigation conducted hearings in February 1992 of the Mafia’s influence on the state’s bars and restaurants. Vinnie Ravo was a principal target of the commission’s probe. In part, the commission stated in its final report:

The Commission found that Vincent Ravo, an associate of the Genovese/Gigante organized crime family, has had interests in several licensed establishments in northern New Jersey, in violation of state ABC regulations. An investigation in 1986 by the State Police ABC Enforcement Bureau alleged that beginning in 1982 Ravo had an undisclosed interest in The Bench in Carlstadt. Ravo is also believed to have had an ownership or management interest in two other premises, Satin Dolls in Lodi and The Emergency Room/Kathy’s Kafe in Garfield. All three establishments operated under various names during the period covered by the Commission’s investigation, during which its staff found many examples of misleading financial transactions, incidents of undisclosed interest and other violations of ABC regulations.

It was during this part of the investigation that the name of New York Giants linebacker Lawrence Taylor surfaced because of an apparent interest he once had in the 1st and 10, a successor name to The Bench, and because of his open friendship with Ravo. Taylor also is an owner of LT’s Sports Bar and Restaurant on Route 17 in Rutherford. Although the Commission did not find that Ravo had an interest in LT’s, one of Ravo’s girlfriends, whom the ABC once accused of embezzlement, is the bookkeeper there.

Ravo’s organized crime associates have included John DiGilio, one of the most vicious and feared members of organized crime in New Jersey who was murdered in 1988, Frank Scaraggi, who died of natural causes, and Philip “Brother” Moscato. (Emphasis added)

The Bench, which was near Giants Stadium, was a popular hangout for members of the Giants’ football team. Repeated attempts to contact Lawrence Taylor, the legendary Hall of Fame linebacker for the Giants, were unsuccessful. A woman who answered a landline number listed in his name said that Taylor did not speak to reporters and hung up.

Ravo’s widow, Constance, refused to comment about Lawrence Taylor and The Bench, hanging up before her late-husband’s name was even mentioned.

Additional comments by DEM

Here’s the New Jersey State Commission of Investigations’ 1992 report about the Mafia’s influence in several of the state’s bars and restaurants, featuring Vinnie Ravo and “The Bench”—with Lawrence Taylor of the New York Giants in a cameo role. . .

http://www.state.nj.us/sci/pdf/scbars1.pdf

* * *

Speaking of Lawrence Taylor, here is a 1994 story in the New York Times, reporting that he was subpoenaed to testify before a grand jury in New York State about his relationship with Vinnie Ravo. . . . Notably, Taylor was not a target of the investigation.


20: Donald Trump, Robert De Niro, and the Agalarovs of Russia
https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=1924481284436407&type=3&theater
Russian oligarch and real-estate developer Aras Agalarov, a friend and associate of both Vladimir Putin and Donald Trump, is known as “The Donald Trump of Moscow.” Agalarov has also reportedly served as a personal liaison between Putin and Trump.

His son, Emin Agalarov, a Russian rock star, arranged the now-infamous June 2016 meeting among Donald Trump Jr, Jared Kushner, Paul Manafort, and the Russians who had allegedly offered supposedly “damaging information” about Hillary Clinton to the Trump campaign.

BTW: The Agalarovs are also partners in the Moscow franchise of two upscale Nobu restaurants with Robert De Niro, the co-owner of the Nobu chain.

More to come. . . .

Additional comments by DEM

Four days ago, the New York Times published a story about Aras and Emin Agalarov. The Times detailed their association with Donald Trump and noted their business partnership in the Moscow restaurant franchise with Robert De Niro. . . .


* * *

A good friend, Jeff Goldberg, just sent me this November 12, 2013, article in the Moscow Times, in which Donald Trump and Araz Agalarov confirm their plans to build a Trump Tower in the Russian capital. https://themoscowtimes.com/articles/donald-trump-planning-skyscraper-in-moscow-29441

16: Hillary Clinton’s opposition-research team: “Ronins” who failed to protect


In an article over the weekend in Politico, the research director for a pro-Hillary Clinton opposition-research group boasted of his work during the 2016 campaign. . . . But, considering the outcome of the election, this guy and his crew ought to be exhibiting some humility.

In the world of opposition research, you protect as well as attack. Although those on Hillary’s research team raised a lot of money, they orchestrated nothing more than an impotent and ineffective assault against Donald Trump and the Republicans.

And, worst of all, they failed to defend their client—one of the finest and most talented people in American politics—who was effectively lied about, smeared, and then destroyed.

I have a one-word description for Hillary Clinton’s 2016 opposition-research team . . . “Ronins,” who are not unlike those disgraced Samurai warriors who failed to protect their masters.


Additional comments by DEM

I wonder. . . . How many people believed the bullshit about Hillary Clinton that was covertly released by the Russians—as well as their stooges in the Trump deplorables’ camp—during the 2016 campaign in the most recent incarnation of the 25-year smear campaign against this woman? . . . And despite the revelations about all of the false allegations against her, how many people still believe them, even after they have been proven not to be true? . . .
The smear of Hillary Clinton was not only on Facebook. It was also on Twitter. . . .

While pretending to drain the swamp, Donald Trump is busy poisoning the well. Meantime, Special Counsel Robert Mueller represents competence, dignity, integrity, and professionalism. . . . To the Trump crowd, it is Mueller who must go.

To people with lots of books who are in the midst of downsizing, here's a solution I discovered and have used repeatedly—Bound Book Scanning of Monsey, New York. . . . Send 'em ten or more books in a single order, and, for $5 a book, they will take 'em apart page-by-page, scan, digitize, and pdf 'em.

In lieu of maintaining walls of bookcases and shelves of old and out-of-print books—which, no doubt, look scholarly and even cool—I now carry most of my library on a flash drive in my pocket. And I'm talking about, literally, scores of books. . . . The company also has other options at different pricing for non-destructive procedures for books that customers want returned intact. . . . Just to be clear, I don’t know the people who run this company, but I like and appreciate what they do.

Here’s the webpage for the $5 per book deal:  http://www.budgetbookscanning.com.

Additional comments by DEM

At one time, as with so many other writers, I easily had a couple of thousand books perched on the shelves of a dozen or so bookcases. . . . When I started to downsize a few years ago—long story—I contributed the bulk of my collection to the Bryn Mawr bookstore in Georgetown—no tax break requested. However, for those books that I had endnoted and footnoted in my own books, I decided to PDF them, via Bound Book Scanning, so that I could keep them forever. Now, I only purchase Kindles and eBooks—although I still buy print books as gifts for family and friends.

Mike Allen of Axios is a good reporter who compiles a daily bulletin about American politics and plays it down the middle. Point one of this morning’s bulletin is the following—food for thought for the “I-believe-Trump-and-anything-to-the contrary-is ‘fake-news’” crowd. . . .

One of the casualties of the first six months of the Trump presidency is a common understanding of what is normal in our politics. It's easy to grow numb to abnormal actions, words and tactics. But even our readers who love or feel loyalty to Trump need to remember:

- **It's not normal** for the presumptive nominee's son to take a meeting with a Russian lawyer who claims she has dirt compiled by Russian governmental forces who want to see your guy win.
• **It's not normal** for the President to sign off on a public cover-up of that meeting when confronted with the facts.

• **It's not normal** for the President to hold a Cabinet meeting that consists of his staff gushing over him.

• **It’s not normal** for the President to undermine his West Wing staff by continually asking friends and visitors for their opinions on various replacement options.

• **It's not normal** for the President to make a deal with his Russian counterpart for an "impenetrable Cyber Security unit," let his Treasury Secretary out on a Sunday show to enthusiastically defend the idea, then pull the plug that night after ridicule from fellow Republicans.

• **It's not normal** for the President to interrupt his day to watch the press briefing on TV, and critiquing the answers à la "SportsCenter."

• **It's not normal** for the President to obsess about cable-news coverage of himself, and instantly react to stories before checking the specifics.

• **It's not normal** for the President to irritate and offend key allies by failing to re-articulate the country's devotion to their alliance, only to offer the reassurance weeks later, after the damage is done.

• **It's not normal** for the President to publicly criticize the mayor of London on the basis of flawed facts, right after a terror attack that killed seven.

• **It's not normal** for the President to attack TV news hosts by name, including a personal attack on a woman's intellect and appearance.

Be smart: It's just not normal.

**Why it matters:** We're getting inured to the daily whirlwind. Each day's jaw drop or outrage seems to be topped by tomorrow's. Keep your head, even if all about you are losing theirs.


Additional comments by DEM


12: Experts testify before the U.S. Senate about previous Washington scandals


“The Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime and Terrorism held a hearing to consider past investigations by the legislative and executive branches in light of current investigations into Russia and the 2016 elections.”

Two of the finest people in Washington, D.C., Danielle Brian of POGO and former Watergate prosecutor Richard Ben-Veniste, testified.
11: The Dishonest Son and The Liar President

The Dishonest Son of The Liar President is now being widely accused of treason against the United States of America because of his covert dealings with a foreign adversary. Meantime, some of the same rabid Republican lawmakers, who impeached President Clinton for lying about a brief consensual affair with a young woman, are now twisting and torturing the English language while coming up with lame and tired excuses for the Trump team’s long-standing affair with Russia.

Additional comments by DEM

"Yes, I tried to rob the bank, but there was no money in the vault. . . . Therefore, I am innocent and misunderstood."

* * *

Take a guy who's in the construction industry in New York and the casino industry in New Jersey—whose companies go bankrupt, forcing him to deal with some bad dudes in Russia to get him back on his feet. . . . This situation has always been and continues to be an organized-crime thing, a mob thing, a Mafia thing. And I believe this scenario will be decisive in the end.

* * *

A conservative columnist at the New York Times laments the damage that Trump is doing to the presidency and to our country. . . .


* * *

The Liar President never fails to shock . . . this time creating a lie for his Dishonest Son, who was more than happy to embrace it:


10: 42 years ago, a prelude to Hoffa’s murder: The bombing of Dick Fitzsimmons’ car

I was the first journalist to report that two of Rolland McMaster’s henchmen, Larry McHenry and Jim Shaw, bombed Dick Fitzsimmons’ union car in the parking lot of Nemo’s bar near Tiger Stadium in downtown Detroit on July 10, 1975—42 years ago today. . . . In a related event, Jimmy Hoffa disappeared twenty days later and was presumed murdered in a plot that allegedly involved Salvatore and Gabriel Briguglio, Stephen and Thomas Andretta, and Frank Sheeran, according to the FBI—which never extracted anything more than the Fifth Amendment from any of them.

Although Hoffa was killed before I had a chance to meet with him, I am the only person in the world who has interviewed all of these other men—McMaster, McHenry, Shaw, the Briguglios, the Andrettas, and Sheeran, as well as Phillip “Brother” Moscato, who also took the Fifth but clearly suggested to me during a tape-recorded interview that he had buried Hoffa with the help of Sal Briguglio, the man who actually killed the former Teamsters boss.

Everything old is about to become new again.
Additional comments by DEM

My story about the Hoffa murder from the 40th anniversary two years ago: http://www.moldea.com/Hoffa-40.html

7: A secret transcript of the Trump-Putin meeting (satire)

Trump (in English): Vladimir, I am so honored to see you, my friend. . . .

Putin (in Russian): Yeah, yeah, yeah. . . . Listen, bitch, I need to know what the hell is going on with that Special Prosecutor’s investigation. I got these prick dissidents back on the streets in Moscow again, protesting the fact that I became a multi-billionaire while on a civil servant’s salary. And they ain’t getting that shit from the Russian press. They’re getting it from your goddamn media back in America.

Trump: What do you want me to do, Vladimir? I’m on the hook, too. Every second that goes by, Bob Mueller is learning something new about my personal finances and those of my family and friends. . . . He’s flipping sources. He’s presenting evidence to a federal grand jury. . . . What the hell am I supposed to do?

Putin: Do your fucking job!

Trump: Listen, I have my basket of deplorables working overtime. I fired the FBI director two months ago. And I have taken a handful of innocent mistakes and used them to challenge the credibility of the entire mainstream media in my country. . . . I’ve turned CNN into roadkill, and I’m even portraying the holy New York Times as “fake news.” . . . Plus, I’m in the process of eliminating Barack Obama from America’s history books. And I’ve completely smeared and destroyed Hillary Clinton—

Putin: We did Hillary, not you.

Trump: Of course, sir, but my team helped. We collaborated with you on the 2016 election campaign.

Putin: Hey, boy, I won you the goddamn presidency and made you—next to me—the most powerful man in the world. . . . And this is the thanks I get? I get Robert Mueller? . . . Do I have to remind you about all the shit we have on you? . . . The videos? The signed contracts with our Russian Mafiya who brought you back from the abyss when your fucking life was collapsing in New York?

Trump: I don’t forget my obligations, Vladimir. . . . Let me work out the Mueller situation. . . . But even some of the Republicans will turn against me if I move against him.

Putin: Can they get a majority vote in your House of Representatives to impeach you?

Trump: I don’t think so . . . but maybe.

Putin: Even if the House gets a majority and the case goes to trial, could your Senate get the two-thirds necessary to convict and remove you from office?

Trump: No way, not while I’m polling at eighty percent among the suckers in my Republican base.

Putin: So there you are, bitch. You’re home free. . . . Fire Mueller.

Additional comments by DEM

As usual, Donald Trump is lying. There is no way that he boldly challenged Vladimir Putin—not once but twice—during their two-hour, no notes meeting about the nefarious hacking of the
American election when Trump, himself, has repeatedly and publicly denied that Russia was behind the hacking. . . . There is nothing that The Liar President says that can be trusted.

* * *

I was joking last July. Today, as the Washington Post reports, this is no longer a joking matter. . . .

* * *

Today, Bret Stephens of the New York Times put up his faux transcript of the private meeting between Putin and Trump. . . . His is good, but I like mine better.

7: Did Trump-Putin discuss the Mueller probe?

What would two Mafia bosses discuss during a routine sitdown? . . . Money—how to get it and how to keep it without getting prosecuted. . . . I’d bet dollars to donuts that Robert Mueller’s investigation was a major topic of today’s Trump-Putin two-hour, no-notes discussion. . . . They are both being deeply affected by the Special Counsel’s probe, which includes scrutiny of their personal fortunes. And I’d bet that they discussed what to do about it.

Additional comments by DEM

Yes, Mueller is in danger of losing his job. And we are in danger of losing The Truth and our country.

* * *

The New York Times now reports that there was a private, second meeting between Trump and Putin at the G-20 conference nearly two weeks ago. . .

* * *

Trump speaks to the New York Times about Jeff Sessions, Jim Comey, and Bob Mueller. . . . Trump has completely undercut his attorney-general for recusing himself from the Russian investigation, saying that he would have never nominated him had he known what Sessions was going to do. . . .

* * *

Defying America’s entire intelligence community, Trump absolves Putin and Russia from doing anything nefarious during the 2016 U.S. election. . . .
Trump says that Putin convinced him that he and the Russians were not behind the hacking of the 2016 U.S. election. . . . But Putin says that the subject was never brought up during their talks . . . . Between these two provable liars, who is telling the truth? . . .

Bet that Putin and Trump have discussed the Mueller case from the outset--and never stopped talking about it: 

7: On the Trump-Putin meeting today

With Donald Trump’s incomprehensible meeting with his alleged puppet master, Vlad Putin, later today, I will be thinking about those pictures of the Russians yukking it up with Trump in the Oval Office in May—as well as Trump unilaterally giving them classified information as a gift. . . . Also, I won't be believing a word about anything that is reported about this event—good, bad, or indifferent. I assume that it will be choreographed and well-staged to make us believe whatever they want us to believe.

Additional comments by DEM

So . . . according to Rex Tillerson, Trump and Putin had a meaningful discussion about Russia’s hacking of the 2016 election which helped make Trump U.S. president? . . . Yeah, yeah, yeah—sure, sure, sure.

5: On Washington, D.C. . . . and an admonition for those in the red zone

“Meantime, life in Washington continues. The big-time politicians, the partisan special-interest groups, and the high-priced journalists—most of whom have masters of their own—continue to be judged by the quality of people they seek and destroy: The bigger the target, the greater the reward. But, in this particular case, Vincent Foster was never a major target. . . .

“Still, when Foster ended the bitter note found in his briefcase with, ‘Here ruining people is considered sport,’ he spoke a final truth before committing his desperate act. In doing so, however, he failed to recognize that, in Washington, the sport is best played with tolerance, as well as dignity and finesse. In this town, the real survivors are the bridge and chess players, not the brawlers who skate on the thin ice upon which the game of politics has always been played.”

3: Vietnam combat veteran Fred Downs, featured in the *New York Times* after receiving a new prosthetic


Our friend, colleague, and long-member of our authors’ dinner group, Fred Downs, who lost his left arm in Vietnam, is featured in today’s print edition of the *New York Times* after receiving a state-of-the-art prosthetic. . . . (h/t Jim Grady)


3: On conspiracy theories


“Placing into a new context what I had known all along about this case, I now realize that even law enforcement officials—who possess the training, qualifications, and experience to determine the significance of crime scene evidence—do make mistakes if their abilities are not put to the test under the proper circumstances and conditions.

“In other words, if one does not account for occasional official mistakes and incompetence, then nearly every such political murder could appear to be a conspiracy, particularly if a civilian investigator—with limited access and resources—is looking for one.”


*Additional comments by DEM*

Yes, Diana. It is particularly relevant now with Donald Trump in the White House, declaring war on the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, and the television networks, among others, while enthusiastically embracing the likes of whack-job conspiracy theorists like Alex Jones, the Breitbart News crew, Christopher Ruddy/NewsMax, and the gang at Fox News.

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**June 2017**

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27: My brief encounter with Mafia underboss Sonny Franzese


Eleven years ago, I was approached by a friend in Los Angeles to write the memoir of one of the toughest and most notorious Mafia figures in American history, John “Sonny” Franzese, the long-time underboss of New York’s Colombo crime family. Franzese was released from a federal prison last Friday at 100 years old.

I really wanted to do the project and was instructed to put together a proposal for Franzese, providing an overview of the publishing process. After Franzese approved the proposal, he invited me, via our mutual friend, to his home in Brooklyn to meet with him.

However, just as I was preparing for my trip, I received a call from one of Franzese’s top lieutenants, who then tried to shake me down for a large percentage of my already meager cut of the anticipated royalties.
On principle, I refused to accept the shakedown and complained to Franzese—again through our mutual friend who essentially told me that this was the price of doing business.

I immediately pulled out of the project without ever meeting or even speaking with Franzese.

But I did revisit a lesson that I have learned during my 43 years as a crime reporter. . . . As a rule, never do business with Mafia guys or their associates. More often than not, civilians, like me, simply cannot trust them or their self-proclaimed words of honor.

Attached is the proposal that I prepared for Franzese, which, once again, he approved before I walked away from the project. . . . [link to proposal]

* * *

Speaking of the Mafia's high command in New York, here is my review in the Washington Post of Joe Bonanno's 1983 autobiography, Man of Honor. [link to article]

* * *

Like his father, Michael Franzese was the genuine article. I still don't understand how and why he survived when he left his life of big-time crime—except out of respect for Sonny.

* * *

Ed. . . . I've heard that Sonny, who must be over 100 years old, is ailing. . . . Unless some other writer stepped up and got shook down in an effort to write his memoir, this powerful mob guy—who has seen and done everything—will pass, taking a boatload of secrets with him.

* * *

Sonny tells some of his stories to Newsday. . . . [link to article]

* * *

My dream? . . . I hear a knock on the door. When I answer, no one’s there. But on the steps are six large boxes. I carry them inside. . . . Opening each, I find Donald Trump’s complete set of federal, state, and local income-tax returns going back to the early 1980s. . . . Long story short, the world is saved.

* * *

At the end of the dream—yada, yada, yada—I get a full pardon from President Clooney.

* * *

In its cynical self-fulfilling prophecy, the GOP neglects, obstructs, and even sabotages ObamaCare. . . . and then condemns it for not working.
Additional comments by DEM

The simple fact is that President Obama didn’t have the votes he needed to pass the bill he wanted on health care. From the outset, nobody claimed that it was a perfect solution. Consequently, Obama compromised and signed a bill that he and the Democrats hoped could be improved over time. . . . Even though the word, “compromise,” has inexplicably become associated with appeasement and weakness, that is the way Washington used to operate. People here compromised. And, to me, that was one of Washington’s greatest strengths that truly helped make America great.

* * *

Bravo to all of the Senate Democrats and to those nine Republicans who said "no" to the full repeal and replace legislation. . . . It’s not over yet, but it's starting to look like that Senate Republicans will be forced to allow Senate Democrats into the process. . . .

* * *

Republican Senate Fat Cats lose the vote on the Skinny Bill. . . . As far as I’m concerned, at least for tonight, John McCain is a hero. https://www.nytimes.com/.../senate-health-care-vote.html...

22: Former KGB agent Gennady Vasilenko toasts the late-CIA agent Jack Platt

Former Russian KGB agent Gennady Vasilenko toasts the life and times of his late friend and business partner, former CIA agent Jack Platt, at a final celebration for Jack at The Old Brogue in Great Falls, Virginia, last Saturday afternoon, June 17. (Photo credit: Copyright © Dan E. Moldea 2017)

Additional comments by DEM


* * *

My earlier thread on Jack’s death:

* * *

Those of us in journalism remember that Jack provided inside information about intelligence operations with the same frequency as a kosher butcher sells pork sausages. . . . Gennady is just as bad—and, sadly, he says, he knows nothing about Donald Trump and his former colleagues in the Russian government.

* * *

Sergei Skripal, the former Russian intelligence agent who was poisoned last week in the U.K, was part of the 2010 spy swap—which included Gennady Vasilenko—in the aftermath of the Anna Chapman espionage scandal. . . . https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/mar/05/who-is-sergei-skripal-ex-spy-exposed-substance-salisbury-hospital (March 12, 2018)

**18: On the very dangerous Alex Jones**


With Megyn Kelly’s controversial program tonight on NBC, everyone seems to have an Alex Jones horror story. And I am not an exception. . . . In 2008, he suggested that I had murdered Deborah Jeane Palfrey, the D.C. Madam. . . . Here’s an excerpt from my 2013 memoir, *Confessions of a Guerrilla Writer*, pages 584-585:

A nutty talk-show host in Austin, Texas, named Alex Jones, had interviewed Palfrey the previous March—during which he asked her if she planned to commit suicide. She replied on tape, “No I'm not planning to commit suicide. I'm planning on going into court and defending myself vigorously and exposing the government.”

The simple fact was that circumstances had changed for Palfrey. She did not wind up “vigorously” defending herself in court, and, since she never presented a defense, she certainly never exposed the government.

However, Jones—who believed that Palfrey had been murdered in some bizarre connection to the 9/11 terrorist attacks—had a piece of news and appeared willing to exploit it in a cynical effort to sell his books, videotapes and “infogear” on his website. He fired up his flock of sheep to ratchet up the conspiracy theories, using my statements in Adam Zagorin’s *Time* magazine piece as evidence of my complicity in her murder.

On one of his sites, *Prison Planet*, Jones used his stooges to attack my quotes in *Time* by simply linking my previous conclusions that there were no conspiracies in either the Robert Kennedy murder case or the Vincent Foster’s suicide.

In addition, Geraldo Rivera, now of Fox News, presented a program about Palfrey’s death—with Alex Jones as his principal guest—during which Rivera, who specifically cast suspicion on me and showed my photograph on full-screen, concluded, “It does not appear likely that she committed suicide.”

Another radio talk-show host, Dr. Katherine Albrecht, also tried to implicate me in Jeane’s supposed murder, adding that I wrote “cover-up books.” Inexplicably, she also accused me of protecting and cooperating with Vice President Dick Cheney while serving as “the mouthpiece of the power elite” and claiming that I was “thick as thieves with Washington insiders.”

Under normal circumstances, I would have laughed at such allegations.

However, along with Albrecht, nearly seventy blogs and websites picked up Alex Jones’s defamations against me and repeated them. The situation became so bad that I wound up creating a webpage on my own website specifically to address Jones’s charges, as well as to list those who were repeating them in print, on radio and television, and on the Internet. . . .

And, just for good measure, the *New York Times* weighed in, placing me at the epicenter of the conspiracy theories by stating:
Most controversially, Dan Moldea, who tried to develop a book proposal for a Palfrey biography, is quoted by *Time* magazine saying that Ms. Palfrey told him she would sooner kill herself than go to prison again (she served a sentence for prostitution in California in the 1990’s).

That claim is being called a part of a cover-up by many of those disinclined to believe that Ms. Palfrey’s death was suicide, because she had often said the opposite—that she was *not* the kind to kill herself.

In Washington, I was besieged with calls. In addition, camera crews from three of the four principal local television stations showed up in front of my apartment building in what amounted to ambush interviews. Two of the reporters who interviewed me actually had the gall to ask for my whereabouts at the time of Palfrey’s death in Florida. . . . They wanted my alibi.

The CBS-television affiliate in Washington, WUSA-9, stated:

Moldea’s claim [that Palfrey told him that she would commit suicide in lieu of returning to prison] has the web abuzz. “Murder!” says the conspiracy theorists. They accuse Moldea of participating in a cover up. . . .

[END OF EXCERPT]

Of course, I was cleared of any wrongdoing. But this entire nightmare began with Alex Jones’s fake news.

Tonight, regardless of how NBC cuts or recuts the Kelly program, based on all the criticism the network has received, Jones, regardless of whether he is portrayed as a despicable scam artist or not, will receive a prime-time national television audience which will enhance his desperado image, as well as his multi-million-dollar empire.

BTW: Here are the official reports of the formal police investigation of the D.C. Madam's suicide. The interview with me starts on page 7 of the PDF file. . . . Please note on page 9 that Alex Jones refused to respond to police requests for an interview to substantiate his allegations: [http://www.moldea.com/DJP-death-report.pdf](http://www.moldea.com/DJP-death-report.pdf)

*Additional comments by DEM*

She also put him in bed with Donald Trump, the president of the United States, who is currently enjoying an 80-plus approval rating with his Republican base. She gave the clear impression that Trump and his base respect this nutcase. And I will bet you dollars to donuts that Trump will not come out today and denounce Alex Jones, who couldn't care less what Democrats think of him. He will parlay last night's edited and re-edited portrayal—based on all of the public pressure NBC received—into a big win and lots of money, as well as more support to and from Donald Trump.

*  *  *

I never thought of it that way, Marty, but you're right. . . . There are still a lot of people walking around who believe that I played a nefarious role in the death of Jeane Palfrey, who became a friend of mine and had said of me when she asked me to write her book: "I didn't want a writer of sensational Hollywood works. I really need a hard-core investigative journalist here. I thought, this is the man to do it. He's a good and decent man, and very upfront and straightforward." *(Washington Post, August 8, 2007)*

*  *  *
You can take Megyn Kelly out of Fox News, but you can't take Fox News out of Megyn Kelly. . . . BTW: She will always believe that Jesus Christ and Santa Claus were just a couple of white guys.

* * *

From our friend and colleague Nina Burleigh at Newsweek. . . . Alex Jones and other right-wing talk-show hosts are now calling for a “civil war,” specifically acts of violence against liberals and the enemies of Donald Trump. . . . http://www.newsweek.com/trump-alex-jones-infowars-violence-639912. (July 24, 2017)

* * *


15: VP Mike Pence lawyers up

With his well-rehearsed Reagan mannerisms, as well as his own special brand of pained sincerity, phony optimism, and faux outrage, Vice President Mike Pence, who has twice been caught misleading the American public about the Michael Flynn case, has lawyered up. . . . https://www.nytimes.com/2017/06/15/us/politics/pence-hires-criminal-defense-lawyer.html?hp&action=click&pgtype=Homepage&clickSource=story-heading&module=first-column-region&region=top-news&WT.nav=top-news

Additional comments by DEM

Here is the profile of Richard Cullen, Pence's criminal attorney, that appears on the website of Cullen's law firm, McGuireWoods: https://www.mguirewoods.com/People/C/Richard-Cullen.aspx.

* * *

Beyond his mere role as a witness, this guy could have some real legal problems. . . . With regard to the Michael Flynn caper alone, the obvious questions continue to be . . . What did Pence know? When did he know it? Did he lie about what he knew? And has he obstructed justice in the process?

* * *

In a situation like this, everyone close to Trump will likely need a lawyer. No doubt, Pence can afford one. . . . But just wait until we see how the grunt members of the White House staff, like Sean Spicer, react when they have to lawyer up, as well. Even if they don't know anything, their legal bills will be $10,000 or more.

* * *

Jeez. . . . Is Mike Pence the target of an obstruction case? (September 5, 2017)

* * *

14: On the shooting attack in Virginia which wounded the GOP’s House Whip


An anti-Donald Trump, anti-Hillary Clinton, pro-Bernie Sanders screwball tried to kill a group of Republicans on a baseball field in Alexandria, Virginia, today. Like so many others, I pray for the recovery of those wounded and injured.

In addition, I appreciate the police officers who shot and killed the assailant. If they hadn’t stopped the well-armed gunman, he would have slaughtered a lot of people on and around the fenced-in field.

And I credit Bernie Sanders for speaking candidly on the floor of the Senate this morning and acknowledging that the would-be killer, whom he passionately condemned, had done some volunteer work for him—even though he, obviously, did not know or have any personal connection with him.

Further, I respect the calls by the Republican leadership of the House and Senate for unity in the aftermath of this tragedy.

But to prove that this is not just another cynical, disingenuous kumbaya moment, I ask the GOP leadership—who control all three branches of government—to provide a demonstration of their desire to compromise for the good of all Americans.

For starters, I suggest the following acts of good faith . . . 1) admit that President Obama was born in the United States and is not a Muslim, 2) acknowledge that all of the GOP’s investigations of the Benghazi tragedy were nothing more than part of an ongoing smear campaign against Hillary Clinton, who was cleared of any wrongdoing, 3) stop calling the “Democratic” Party the “Democrat” Party,” and 4) allow the investigations of Donald Trump’s alleged corruption to move forward without further obstruction. In fact, please allow the creation of a 9-11-type commission to augment the work of DOJ Special Counsel Robert Mueller.

When I see these or similar acts of goodwill from the all-powerful Republicans, I will know that we have finally reached a badly needed turning point in American politics.

Additional comments by DEM

As the history of the Tea Party shows us . . . Nearly any Republican in Congress who even considers compromising with the Democrats will get a primary challenge during the midterm elections next year.

* * *

Just released by the New York Times. . . . The kumbaya moment quickly ends, as illustrated by this story about the GOP leadership’s desperate attempts to repeal ObamaCare which completely cuts the Democrats out of the legislative process. . . .

“As they draft legislation to repeal the Affordable Care Act, Senate Republican leaders are aiming to transform large sections of the American health care system without a single hearing on their bill and without a formal, open drafting session.

“That has created an air of distrust and concern — on and off Capitol Hill, with Democrats but also with Republicans.” (June 15, 2017)

* * *
The media has made much of the crazy Alexandria gunman’s anti-Trump and anti-GOP posts on Facebook. Frankly, some of my posts make his look pretty tame. . . . Just to be clear, inasmuch as I am one of those nonviolent, work-within-the-system kind of guys, I make no apology for publicly opposing this wholly dishonest president, as well as the leadership of the Republican Party, which I continue to view as an emerging organized-crime group, heavily influenced by Fox News, an ongoing criminal enterprise. . . . Absolutely, we must always remain nonviolent. But we should never stop punching.

13: Donald Trump, Chris Ruddy, “fake news,” and the death of Vincent Foster

TRUMP’S CLOSE FRIEND HAS A LONG HISTORY WITH FAKE NEWS

Donald Trump attacks those whom he claims publish “fake news.” However, his close friend and occasional surrogate, Christopher Ruddy—the publisher of the right-wing site, NewsMax, who created a firestorm by suggesting that Trump might fire Special Counsel Robert Mueller—launched his career in political journalism by exploiting the suicide of Vincent Foster, President Bill Clinton’s Deputy White House Counsel. He suggested that Foster was murdered and that the President and Hillary Clinton might have played a role in the crime and/or the cover-up.

In 1998, I published A Washington Tragedy, a book about Foster’s suicide—and it was a suicide—in which Ruddy’s partisan investigation, which was funded by right-wing media tycoon Richard Mellon Scaife, was chronicled. (I released an updated version of the book in 2015.)

Here is a brief excerpt from my book, specifically about the flawed work of Chris Ruddy, who remains a close friend of and an advisor to Donald Trump.

*****

EXCERPT. . . . [A]nother new name in the Foster investigation appears: Hugh H. Sprunt, a successful Texas-based businessman. Sprunt, who had received his bachelor and master’s degrees in Earth and Planetary Science from MIT and his MBA and law degree from Stanford, has taken up a new hobby: to become an independent sleuth on the Foster case.

On October 23, Sprunt faxes a memorandum to Reed Irvine and Joe Goulden at AIM, giving his detailed analysis of the note with the four columns of abbreviations and dates that was found by the Park Police among Foster’s possessions and that appeared to be his worksheet on the Clintons’ blind trust.

Later, in another memorandum, Sprunt appears to annihilate Ruddy’s claim in his special report that Foster’s body had been found by the first cannon instead of the second. Comparing a map of the area around Fort Marcy Park with the sketch-map of the crime scene that Ruddy had published in his special report, Sprunt reveals that Ruddy had erred by failing to confirm the north-south-east-west configuration in the sketch-map, which was based on a map paramedic George Gonzalez had earlier drawn for the reporter.

“[I]t appears to me at this point,” Sprunt writes, “that the cumulative effect of these errors in the sketch map may well mean that Mr. Ruddy’s hypothesis about the body being at cannon one instead of at cannon two (official position) is not correct. That is, we appear to have a total error approaching 90 degrees. . . I would hate to see Chris Ruddy lose general credibility if the ‘cannon one’ versus ‘cannon two’ issue turns out to have been a canard. I think it important for all independent investigators of Whitewater-related matters not to burn bridges needlessly and to evaluate all the evidence objectively.”

In fact, in the next edition of his special report, Ruddy dramatically modifies his north-south-east-west configurations in his text, publishes a new crime-scene map with the 90-degree variation, and adds an acknowledgement to Sprunt—without ever relenting on his claim that Foster’s body had been moved from the first cannon to the second or admitting the errors in his previous edition.
12: On LeBron James in the aftermath of losing the NBA championship to Golden State

I am so proud of LeBron James and his wonderful contributions to our beloved hometown: Akron, Ohio. . . . God bless LeBron.

* * *

Additional comments by DEM

Geoff. . . . I want The Man to be happy. He's earned it. . . . If he goes Hollywood, God bless him. I just hope he does it more gracefully than his move to Miami. . . . But, regardless of what he decides, he will always return to Akron.

* * *

Rest in peace, Garfield High School. You shined brightly for many, many years.

* * *

Our first and second-grade teacher at Firestone Park was Vivian DeWitt. She, too, was an inspiration, as well as a guide. Many of us stayed in touch with her through college.

12: Politifact lists the provable lies of Donald Trump

How many second chances, how many resets, how many more benefits of the doubt does this guy get? . . . Here is a remarkable list of provable, totally documented, flat-out lies told by the wholly dishonest Donald Trump, compiled and updated by the widely respected, Pulitzer Prize-winning site, Politifact. . . . http://www.politifact.com/personalities/donald-trump/statements/byruling/false/

* * *

Additional comments by DEM

Also, see the Washington Post’s amazing “ongoing database of the false and misleading claims made by President Trump.” https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/politics/trump-claims-database/?utm_term=.8fb267855ab0

* * *

Please, Mr. President, don’t listen to your attorneys. What do they know? Please keep tweeting about anything and everything. . . . More tweets. (June 15, 2017)

* * *

The New York Times on The Liar President. . . .

* * *

The appointment of General John Kelly and the firing of The Mooch provide The Liar President with yet another opportunity for yet another second chance, yet another reset, and the umpteenth benefit of the doubt.

* * *
Phone calls filled with praise from the President of Mexico? The Boy Scouts? . . . They never happened. When will The Liar President and his dishonest personal stooges stop lying?  (August 3, 2017)

* * *

Transcripts of conversations with the leaders of Mexico and Australia prove even more lying by The Liar President. . . . https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2017/politics/australia-mexico-transcripts/?utm_term=.5576e33efa0d  (August 3, 2017)

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The headline in today's Washington Post tells the story. . . . Donald Trump has made a whopping 1,628 false and/or misleading statements during the past 298 days. . . . https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/fact-checker/wp/2017/11/14/president-trump-has-made-1628-false-or-misleading-claims-over-298-days/?utm_term=.d3cadd0c1262

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After Trump’s two years in office, the Washington Post provides the latest tally for his provably false and misleading statements. . . . https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2019/01/21/president-trump-made-false-or-misleading-claims-his-first-two-years/?utm_term=.f2bf99e798b6  (January 21, 2019)

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I am no fan of Michael Cohen, but I am cheering for him today, hoping that his testimony will be accompanied by overwhelming documentation for his claims of Donald Trump's lies, deceit, and corruption: https://www.nytimes.com/2019/02/26/us/politics/michael-cohen-trump-congress.html?emc=edit_na_20190226&nl=breaking-news&nlid=71046532ing-news&ref=cta (February 27, 2019)

* * *

The sheep in Trump's flock must be very proud of this remarkable achievement in dishonesty: https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2019/04/29/president-trump-has-made-more-than-false-or-misleading-claims/?utm_term=.e9934285747a (April 30, 2019)

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8: On Comey Day, Fox News is in its Trump prison-bitch mode

Early morning on Comey Day, Fox News, the whorehouse of American journalism, is already in its full-tilt boogie, Trump prison-bitch mode. . . . Meantime, Fox News and its parent company continue to be under federal investigation in New York, suspected of operating as a criminal enterprise.

Additional comments by DEM

Critics at Fox News are attacking James Comey for not ratting out Donald Trump for suggesting inappropriate behavior. . . . Who at Fox did that to Roger Ailes?

* * *

As Fox News and the GOP continue their wishful thinking and false charges, here is Pulitzer Prize-winner Charlie Savage of the New York Times, saying that Comey did not leak illegally. Essentially, he acted in self-defense against Donald Trump, who lied about him.

* * *

In the aftermath of James Comey's testimony, the Republicans have created a default position, . . . using incompetence as a weapon.

* * *
Fox News has finally “retired” its “fair and balanced” and “we report, you decide” mantras. . . .

7: James Comey’s testimony before the Senate Intelligence Committee

James Comey will burn in hell for his inappropriate and unforgivable role in the 2016 Presidential election which unleashed Donald Trump and his dogs of war on the American people and on the entire world community. . . But Comey’s remarkable “just-the-facts-ma’am” testimony, released a day in advance, demonstrates high degrees of accuracy, believability, and credibility which demand both admiration and respect. . . .

Additional comments by DEM

The disgraceful testimonies of Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats and NSA Director Michael Rogers today demonstrate that no one can trust anything stated, even under oath, by anyone who works for Donald Trump, who insists on absolute loyalty to him, personally, over service to God and country.

* * *

Dan and Peter: We don't have a lot of good options here. We cannot trust the chairs of the House and/or Senate Oversight and Intelligence Committees. We cannot trust the Director of the CIA. We certainly cannot trust the Attorney General. . . . Like it or not, Comey is our best hope to reveal The Truth about the provable corruption and alleged treason of the Trump Administration. . . . So all is not good, but, for the moment, the good guys are still in the game.

* * *

Peter: I totally agree with you. . . For instance, I still don't think that Russia's assistance to the Trump campaign began with his race against Hillary Clinton. . . . I believe that the Russians provided aid to him during the GOP primaries, too. I remember having several exchanges with Roger Stone during the primary battles in which he was in high confidence and appeared to know and understand events before they happened.

* * *

Comey will be in combat tomorrow. During his previous appearances before Congress, he made several mistakes during his sworn testimonies, such as his false claim that “hundreds of thousands” of Hillary Clinton’s emails wound up on Anthony Weiner’s computer via Huma Abedin. . . . Watch for the Republican senators to use these unforced errors as a political rubber hose.

* * *

Ben: You are really giving Comey a huge benefit of the doubt for his bad behavior during the election campaign, which I am not prepared to give—not by a long shot. . . . When the FBI doesn't have enough evidence to persuade the DOJ to indict, it is supposed to say nothing. And even if Comey felt the need to disclose Hillary Clinton's situation because he believed that the public had a right to know, why didn't he do the same with the attempted hacking of the election campaign by the Russians in favor of Donald Trump of which he was also fully aware? . . . Why falsely trash
Hillary in July, and then repeat the smear in October while giving Trump a complete pass for everything?

*         *         *

Craig: And, as you know as well as anyone, he will be taken to task for his decision not to report the alleged obstruction of justice earlier. . . . I assume that Comey will be well-prepared for all questions revolving around that issue. Fox News has been beating a tambourine about it since his allegations surfaced . . . This is going to be pure political jiu-jitsu tomorrow.

*         *         *

Bottomline, my opinion? Comey leveled some long-term damage on Trump, which will likely be used by Special Counsel Robert Mueller in his ongoing investigation. Indeed, Comey persuasively accused Trump of lying—which should come as no surprise to anyone who has followed the life and times of Donald Trump, perhaps the most notorious liar in America. . . . In short, Trump survived Comey’s public testimony, allowing Trump to continue inflicting his mind-numbing damage to America and the world.

Meantime, the Republican majority busily deflected Trump’s alleged obstruction towards an erroneous story in the New York Times last February, as well as towards the infamous Loretta Lynch-Bill Clinton airport-tarmac meeting, which, according to Comey, gave him cause to take unilateral action about the investigation of Hillary Clinton last July.

All in all, interesting testimony which was ruined by the bad interrogators who failed to get everything out of Comey that he wanted to give.

With regard to Comey’s admission that he gave his memoranda to a friend who was a law professor at Columbia University, for the purpose of leaking them to the New York Times, the Trump team and Fox News will have a field day with that information while falsely accusing him of illegal leaks, yet another distraction to Trump’s alleged obstruction. . . . What will go untold is that Comey wanted to disclose the documents in response to the flat-out lies Trump was telling about the Comey firing. (June 8, 2017)

4: Bill Knoedelseder’s I’m Dying Up Here premieres on Showtime

Tonight is the long-awaited premiere of I’m Dying Up Here, based on the outstanding book about the origins of the comedy clubs in Los Angeles by our friend and colleague, the very cool Bill Knoedelseder. For a good time, tune into Showtime at 10:00 P.M., Eastern. . . . BTW: Here is Bill’s interview about his book with David Letterman, who was among those Bill wrote about when Letterman, Leno, and other comics were just starting out in show business: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hyr6LqBkNQM.

Additional comments by DEM

Showtime renews I'm Dying Up Here. Congratulations, Bill . . .

2: As the investigations proceed, the fates of Trump and Putin are linked

After months of denying any Russian involvement in the hacking of the 2016 U.S. election, Vladimir Putin has now conceded that Russian “patriots” might have been involved. Clearly, the Russian president is feeling some heat, and it’s going to get hotter very soon.
The long-suffering Russian people aren’t blind, and they certainly aren’t stupid. The more information that comes out about Donald Trump, his team, and their relationships with Russia, the greater the scrutiny about the mind-numbing riches that multi-billionaire Putin has accumulated while serving as a low-paid public servant.

Just as Trump is fighting for his political survival, so, too, is Putin. The fates of both men are hanging in the balance as the investigations in the House and the Senate, as well as that of DOJ Special Counsel Robert Mueller, begin in earnest.

Expect Trump and Putin—both of whom are looking for fall guys—to move heaven and earth in their joint and/or separate attempts to discredit, obstruct, and/or sabotage all of these probes.

Additional comments by DEM

Richard Nixon: The Watergate burglary was in June 1972. He resigned in August 1974. . . . Bill Clinton: The Paula Jones deposition was in December 1997. He was impeached by the U.S. House in December 1998 and was acquitted by the U.S. Senate in February 1999. . . . Indeed, these things take some time.

* * *

As long as Putin can still kill at will, I guess I have to agree. . . although I can only imagine how the Russian people are reacting to the news coming out of the Trump investigations about their president as the richest man in the world while they are scuffling around, looking for food, clothing, and housing. . . . Didn't Putin blame Hillary in or about late 2011 or early 2012 while she was Secretary of State for ratcheting up a popular uprising against him in Russia? Isn't that when he started to intensify the clamp down on his own citizens—and when he swore revenge against Hillary, which he finally achieved during the 2016 campaign? . . . My point is that the worse things get for Trump, the worse they will become for Putin.

* * *

The protests against Putin’s corruption are ratcheting up in Russia—no doubt, based, in part, on information the protesters are received from the U.S. media in the midst of the investigations of the corruption Donald Trump

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**May 2017**
29: After Tiger Woods’s DUI arrest, remembering him at the 16th at the 2005 Masters

When thinking of Tiger Woods, I will always remember this moment. . . .
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lkVDrULXH7c

Additional comments by DEM

Sad, but true—although I really don't think that his personal problems are any of my business. To my knowledge, he wasn’t a hypocrite with conflicting views about private behavior—one for him and another for everyone else. . . I want to remember the Tiger Woods who birdied the last hole of regulation, tied an 18-hole playoff, and then won a sudden-death final hole in the 2008 U.S. Open at Torrey Pines—with a broken tibia and a bum knee. . . . Pure guts. And an inspiring moment in sports history.

26: TrumpWorld: The poor willingly sacrificing for the rich

TrumpWorld: Where the poor and the powerless willingly ask how much more they may sacrifice for the comfort of the rich and the powerful who couldn’t care less about them.

22: The Melania Trump-Jackie Kennedy moment in the Middle East

While Donald Trump is in the Middle East—busy making deals that will benefit the rich and powerful while screwing the poor and powerless—his long-suffering wife, Melania, certainly not in the same league as Michelle Obama, still appears very poised and charming, even when her husband leaves her in his wake without as much as taking her arm. If he wasn’t such an unpleasant bullying bombast, Melania would be in the midst of a Jackie Kennedy moment in which the world would be lauding this very attractive woman for her class, grace, and style.

17: DEM on impeachment now: Is Trump provoking it?

Self-destructing at break-neck speed, Donald Trump gives every indication that he is intentionally risking an impeachment battle—and wants the process to move as quickly as possible.

Why? His approval rating among Republicans is still at an inexplicable 84 percent, according to the most recent Gallup Poll. Consequently, the congressmen who represent his loyal base—all of whom are up for reelection in 2018—do not appear to have the motivation to oppose both Trump and the constituents in their individual districts.

In other words, Trump, who could soon be named as an unindicted co-conspirator in a federal RICO case, is betting heavily that an impeachment resolution, even if it survives the U.S. House Judiciary Committee, would fail to receive the required majority vote in the full House. And, even if he were to be impeached, the current Republican-controlled Senate could not muster up the necessary two-thirds vote to convict and remove him from office.

In my opinion, Trump is also gambling that—in the aftermath of surviving one attempt to remove him from office—there will not be a second attempt, even if he were to shoot someone on Fifth Avenue, as he joked during the GOP primaries.

In addition—just like Bill Clinton after his acquittal by the Senate in February 1999, fourteen months after his alleged impeachable acts were committed—Trump assumes that simply by surviving, he would become
stronger than ever, causing his popularity to skyrocket and allowing him to carry out his draconian political agenda unimpeded after the 2018 midterm elections.

Of course, all of this is mooted if a group of people whom Trump respects—assuming that such a group exists—confronts him with the mounting evidence and convinces him to spare the country from another long national nightmare and to resign from office.

Additional comments by DEM

PREDICTION: Special Counsel Robert Mueller will soon start dropping subpoenas all over town. When he gets to the White House, Trump will very publicly defy the subpoenas, refusing to comply and citing national-security concerns or whatever lame excuse his attorneys can concoct. Since he, arguably, cannot be charged with criminal behavior while in office, the only solution is political, and that is a resolution in the U.S. House for impeachment.

I continue to believe that Trump, by design, is rushing towards that moment—while he still has the votes in the House and the Senate, and, more importantly, the blind and incomprehensible support of the sheared sheep in his fat flock. . . .


*          *          *

Here's Trump's attorney for this upcoming process, Marc E. Kasowitz. He is a brilliant lawyer, as well as very, very tough guy. The pro-impeachment forces will have to go through him.

*          *          *

A nightmare scenario . . . If I’m right—and Trump actually wants to provoke the impeachment-and-removal process, knowing that there aren’t the votes in the House to impeach and certainly not the two-thirds necessary in the Senate to convict—all he has to do is fire Special Counsel Robert Mueller, and the Democrats will immediately initiate their one and only opportunity to force Trump out of office.

The shameless and hypocritical GOP base, which currently supports Trump with an 80-plus-percent approval rating, will never give up on their fake swamp-draining champion, and the entire process will fail. Trump will survive, and, if necessary, pardon himself and his key co-conspirators. Then, he will retaliate against his enemies with the full force of the United States Government. Through this, he will become stronger than ever . . . while we open the door to the grave possibility of becoming a nation that’s ruled, not governed.

Despicable but fearless, Trump is getting ready to go for it all. (June 13, 2017)

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Clearly, Trump is on the verge of challenging Congress to impeach him and put him on trial, knowing that there aren’t enough votes to convict and remove him. . . . Roger Stone has now advised Trump to fire Bob Mueller and Rod Rosenstein, an act which could begin the process. . . .


*          *          *

Bob Bauer, the former White House Counsel under President Obama discusses the potential legal fallout from the Trump campaign's alleged collaboration with the Russians (h/t Curtis Blessing). . .

To me, this is absolute proof that The Liar President—taking his 84-percent approval rating within his Republican base out for a walk—is ready to roll the dice and beg for impeachment, knowing that the House and/or the Senate will not defy the base. . .

I think I predicted this two years ago: https://www.cnn.com/2019/05/07/politics/pelosi-impeachment-trump-congress/index.html (May 7, 2019)

15: WP: Trump revealed classified information to the Russians

It appears that the greatest threat to our national security is Donald Trump. Once again, how would the Republicans have reacted if President Obama or Hillary Clinton pulled a stunt like this? . . . Here's the Washington Post's breaking story.

Additional comments by DEM


Here is the best regularly updated list of the key cast members in the Trump-Russia drama: http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2017/06/russia-trump-putin-scandal-key-players-dossiers

What is the connection between Clinton-hater Peter Smith and Clinton-hater George Conway?


James Clapper and John Brennan charge that Trump is being "played" by Vladimir Putin. . .
15: Trump plans to nominate Gingrich’s third wife as the ambassador to the Vatican

The New York Times reports that thrice-married Donald Trump plans to nominate Newt Gingrich’s third wife, the former Callista Bisek, as the new ambassador to the Vatican. . . . Notably, here is how I discovered the Gingrich-Bisek affair on behalf of Larry Flynt during the impeachment drama in December 1998. (See my book, Confessions of a Guerrilla Writer, page 471)

* * *

“Among other discoveries, we had obtained information linking Newt Gingrich—who was in the midst of his second marriage—to a young congressional staffer. This was the same Gingrich who, two months earlier, had the audacity to describe President Clinton as ‘a misogynist.’

“Specifically, in my status report to Flynt on December 7, I wrote: ‘[A source] alleged that Newt Gingrich had an affair with [Wisconsin Republican Representative Steve] Gunderson’s secretary, who now works as a scheduler for the House Agriculture Committee.’ Through my research, I identified the woman as Callista Bisek, who was a $36,000 a year assistant hearing clerk and scheduler for the committee.

“Remarkably, because Gingrich had already announced his resignation from the U.S. House earlier in the month, Flynt decided not to expose his relationship with her.

“Flynt was more interested in Gingrich’s successor, Bob Livingston, the new speaker-designate.”

* * *

We ended up identifying Bisek as Gingrich’s mistress in a published report shortly after President Clinton was impeached by the U.S. House on December 19, 1998—the same day that Livingston, because of my investigation of him, announced his resignation from Congress—and then acquitted of all charges on February 12, 1999, after his trial before the U.S. Senate.

Remarkably, during the 2016 Presidential campaign, both Trump and Gingrich made an issue of President Clinton’s sex life but suffered minimal consequences for their own indiscretions and the blind loyalty of voters who had conflicting standards of private behavior for public officials—one for those they like and another for those they don’t like.

13: While Trump is under siege, Hillary Clinton should stay quiet—for now

To solidify the right-wing base after the dramatic firing of FBI Director James Comey, Donald Trump and his media bitch, Fox News, have cynically dragged Hillary Clinton back into the spotlight, feeding their flock a much-hated foe who can deflect attention away from Trump’s current legal and political problems.

Notably, Trump and his troupe won’t have to try very hard to persuade Clinton to return to the stage. Still wounded after her stunning defeat last November—which she primarily blamed on Comey for his inappropriate statements about the probes of her emails and their server—Clinton can’t seem to turn down any opportunity to fight for vindication, despite Comey’s ham-fisted and ill-timed exoneration of her activities. Meantime, Trump’s supporters have simultaneously attacked Comey for supposedly letting Clinton off the hook, adopting their now-familiar “Lock her up” mantra, which has been renewed since Trump’s current troubles began to intensify.

On May 2, Clinton appeared at a women’s conference and boldly identified herself as an active member of “The Resistance” against Trump. In addition, she announced that she is working on a new book about the
2016 election—in which she lost the electoral vote but won the popular vote by a wide margin, denying Trump, whom Clinton had accused of being a “puppet” for Russian President Vladimir Putin, any legitimate claim to a mandate.

Predictably, in her upcoming book, Clinton, with the help of her opposition-research operation, will likely launch her own renewed attacks against Trump, the alt-right, and the “basket of deplorables” while adding fresh fuel to the ongoing investigations of the nefarious relationships that wealthy Russians had allegedly enjoyed with Trump, as well as with members of his family, his personal staff, and his business associates.

While the complex cast of characters in Congress and in the federal law-enforcement community are now auditioning for roles in all the ongoing and upcoming investigations, Hillary Clinton should resist the temptation to further complicate this drama and quietly remain backstage, refusing to allow herself to be an unwitting accomplice to Trump’s absolute determination to destroy her once and for all.

Even though she will never be president but with the publication of her new book later this year, she will still have plenty of time to fight back and to win her well-deserved vindication.

http://www.moldea.com/CGW-blog.pdf

Additional comments by DEM

As long as you guys continue to attack Hillary Clinton, those of us who love and believe in her will always defend her, regardless of whether she ever runs for office again. Putting aside the far-and-crazy right’s shameless smear campaign against her since 1992—such as the bullshit charge that she mishandled classified information—she has always been a totally honest and honorable person, filled with intelligence and integrity. (The helicopter incident is the only exaggeration I have ever heard from her.) . . . The real problem is that Fox News, the whorehouse of American journalism, and others in the screwball right-wing media now desperately need Hillary as their foil to deflect all the bad news that is coming about that dishonest, bombastic, thrice-married philanderer and Russian stooge who currently occupies the White House. You are going to have your hands full defending him.

* * *

I admire and respect Hillary Clinton so much. But when she gets involved in any situation, her mere presence sucks all the oxygen out of the room. . . . Hillary has fought hard throughout her political life, and she has so much to be proud of. It's time for her to spend a little time on the bench, and for those of us who believe in her to get out there and fight against this administration. . . . Just to be clear, I do not want to see Hillary run again for President—although she would have been a great one. . . . And, yes, I am very concerned about the reaction to her after the publication of her book, which will reportedly come later this year. But there will be a lot of fighting between now and then, and she should stay out of it.

* * *

Cornered and trapped, Trump is in the midst of a complete meltdown and total self-destruction. . . . Hillary has got to get the hell out of the way and allow others to prosecute this battle.

* * *

I just can't fault the Democratic Party for wanting an actual Democrat as its nominee. . . . And, in my opinion, Hillary was the right candidate at the right moment. It took a massive and unprecedented smear campaign—which involved a wholly dishonest opponent, his media prison bitch (Fox News), Wikileaks, a foreign enemy, and the director of the FBI—to defeat her.

* * *
Predictably, during the hot pursuit of Donald Trump, Fox News and the right-wing media return to the conspiracy theories about Hillary Clinton, hoping to deflect the national narrative while solidifying their far-right and crazy-right base.

* * *


11: Trump is about to get the granddaddy of all comeuppances

Donald Trump is close to getting the granddaddy of all comeuppances... The downside is that the rest of us will wind up suffering the mother of all consequences.

*Additional comments by DEM*

It appears that the members of NATO also want bully-boy Trump—whose performance at its meeting on Thursday was disgraceful—to receive his comeuppance, too... But they also seem to recognize that they will suffer for it, as well. (May 26, 2017)

* * *

With James Comey's persuasive testimony yesterday, the comeuppance for Trump and the consequences for us loom on the horizon. (June 9, 2017)

* * *

I posted this thread a year ago, but it hasn't happened yet... Today, the *Washington Post* seems to believe that it still will... https://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/plum-line/wp/2018/05/15/the-truth-is-about-to-catch-up-to-trump-he-has-giuliani-to-thank-for-it/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.4adf648aa029 (May 15, 2018)

9: On Trump firing Jim Comey as FBI director

Jim Comey was a disgrace to the FBI. But now, in the aftermath of his firing today by Donald Trump, we will be stuck with whichever right-wing stooge and cover-up artist Donald Trump decides to appoint to take his place... We cannot trust the chairs of the House and/or Senate Oversight and Intelligence Committees. We cannot trust the Director of the CIA. We certainly cannot trust the Attorney General... Like it or not, Comey was our best hope to reveal The Truth about the provable corruption and alleged treason of the Trump Administration... It’s time for some brave insider who is willing to commit political suicide—and to face prison—to leak what has been collected about the Trump-Russia investigation to the *New York Times* and/or the *Washington Post*.

*Additional comments by DEM*

As you already know, Louise, elections have consequences. The Republicans control all three branches of government... As I have been saying since Trump's election, our salvation will be investigative journalism.
Fox News, the whorehouse of American journalism and Donald Trump's favorite source of information, is in its full Trump prison-bitch mode.

6: DEM's filing of a proposal for a RICO case against Fox News in 12-2015

On December 21, 2015—after seventeen years of insisting that Fox News is a criminal enterprise—I pitched a detailed, written proposal, advocating the filing of a civil RICO in federal court and/or formal complaints against Fox News with the Federal Communications Commission, the Federal Trade Commission, and/or the Internal Revenue Service. Here is the prologue to that longer document. . . .

“There will be no greater, more powerful player on behalf of the Republican Party during the 2016 General Election than the Fox News Channel. Candidates will come and go, but Fox News will be omnipresent, promoting and manipulating events.

“Because Fox News is widely viewed as more of a right-wing political operation than a legitimate news organization—in spite of its ‘fair and balanced,’ ‘we report, you decide’ façade—it is certainly worthy of intensive investigation and close scrutiny, especially during this upcoming election year. And I believe that, if conducted carefully and credibly, such a focused campaign would be welcomed by the mainstream media, which has been driven to the right because of the success of Fox News, which constantly complains of ‘the liberal bias in the lamestream media.’

“In effect, I am suggesting that we pick a fight with the Fox News Channel, hoping to minimize its impact and influence by helping to keep FNC on defense for the duration of the 2016 election campaign.

“It is no surprise that Bill O'Reilly—the arrogant and boorish evening talk-show host—is Fox News’s biggest gun. He demands that all of the candidates pay respect to him by appearing on his highly rated show. And he constantly represents himself as an arbiter of contemporary morality.

“Consequently, I suggest that we come out of the gate with this proposed campaign by focusing our initial attack on O'Reilly.

“Here is how I suggest we proceed. . . .”

My proposal was rejected. But now, according to the New York Times, in the aftermath of the recent firings of Roger Ailes and Bill O'Reilly, there is an ongoing federal investigation of the business practices of Fox News and its parent company, 21st Century Fox.

I fully expect the corrupt Trump Administration to play politics with this and any other official investigations of 21st Century Fox and all of its subsidiaries, especially Fox News.

Additional comments by DEM

Thanks for the support, guys. Keep it coming. . . . Clearly, in the aftermath of my failure to get this project off the ground, I'm now trying to make another move. . . We are approaching an all-hands-on-deck moment in American history.

* * *

Here are the results of the investigation I conducted for CREW in 2009-2010 on what I believed were acts of corruption—as well as RICO violations—by right-wing talk-show host Sean Hannity, who cynically exploited his so-called “Freedom Concerts” for purely political purposes while
operating under the guise of helping to provide scholarship money for the children of fallen soldiers in Afghanistan and Iraq . . . . This was the model I wanted to use against Fox News in 2015.

* * *

This is as serious as a heart attack . . . a collusion between the 2016 Trump team and Fox News to exploit the tragic murder of a DNC employee for the purpose of creating a damaging "fake news" story against Hillary Clinton . . . .


4: 2017 update about Alan Canfora, 47 years after the Kent State tragedy

UPDATE, MAY 4, 2017: There are legitimate reasons to hope for the discovery and release of important new information about the circumstances revolving around the Kent State shootings 47 years ago today—in which four students were killed and nine were wounded. At the epicenter of this latest activity is our friend and colleague, Alan Canfora, who was shot in the right wrist that day. Alan is a founding member of the May 4 Task Force and the long-time director of the Kent May 4 Center . . . . If you have any information, please direct it to Alan, who owns this case and is best positioned to finally answer the lingering questions about this tragedy.

1: Online Review of Books: Interview with DEM


April 2017

29: Dark Victory goes to #1 on one of Amazon’s Best-Seller lists

Against some pretty stiff competition 31 years after its initial publication, Dark Victory: Ronald Reagan, MCA, and the Mob, rose to #1 today on one of Amazon’s Best Seller lists . . . My continued thanks to Bill Knoedelseder, Pete Noyes, Laurence Leamer, Jeff Goldberg, Dave Robb, the late Mae Churchill, and the late, great Jack Tobin.

Additional comments by DEM

As you know from your own experiences, it's a never-ending fight to stay in the game without getting left behind by the unfolding history . . . which is fast moving and relentless—especially for long-time independent writers, like us, who have limited access and resources.

* * *

I was just looking for something about John Lennon and Yoko Ono hanging out at the Churchill's home in Ojai—a story Mae used to tell me—and I came across this article in which both you and
268

Jim Churchill are the main characters, along with John and Yoko. I had no idea that you owned and operated Sundance magazine. Kudos, my friend. That's journalistic history.

28: In anticipation of the CNN-HLN report on the D.C. Madam

In anticipation of the CNN-HLN documentary tonight about the Deborah Jeane Palfrey tragedy—in which I have no idea how I will be depicted—here is an excerpt from Confessions of a Guerrilla Writer: Chapter 145, “The suicide of the D.C. Madam” . . .

On May 6, 2008—the day after the Tarpon Springs medical examiner officially declared that [Jeane] Palfrey had committed suicide—the chief investigating detective for the Tarpon Springs Police Department contacted me for additional material which he wanted for his formal report. I gave him a copy of my book proposal with Palfrey—in which she twice discussed the possibility of suicide, as well as copies of my final emails to her. Also, I arranged a conference call among the detective and me with Jim Grady, who was at the April 11 lunch where Palfrey and I last saw each other.

After speaking with the police, I called Blanche Palfrey to express my sympathy and to discuss her daughter’s death. At the outset, I told her how upset I was with Jeane for placing her mother in the position to find her body hanging at the end of a rope.

Blanche, who couldn’t have been happier to hear from me, said that Jeane “was so upset about going back to prison that she couldn’t stop crying.”

During our continuing conversation, she spoke of Jeane’s recent overdose in Orlando. When I said that I didn’t know what she was talking about, she explained that on April 25, Jeane had gone to her condominium in Orlando and taken an intentional overdose of pills. She was unconscious for nearly thirty hours.

Failing to end her life in that manner, Jeane then returned home and hanged herself.

I asked Blanche if she had told the police this story. She replied that she had not, adding that she didn’t want to cause any more trouble.

I told her that she had to tell the police. I gave her the lead detective’s name and telephone number. She assured me that she would make the call.

I called Blanche again on May 9 and asked her if she had provided the information about Jeane’s earlier unsuccessful attempt to kill herself to the police. She replied that she had not.

I then asked for her permission to represent her with the police and disclose this information. Blanche agreed, and I immediately called the lead detective in the case and told him what Blanche had told me about Jeane’s attempted suicide in Orlando.

The detective knew nothing about this. I invited him to call Blanche who would give him all the details.

On Saturday, May 10, I appeared on CNN to respond to the ludicrous but nagging accusations against me.

NOTE: Here is a portion of the official police report, which includes the police interview with me about Jeane’s suicide—and it was a suicide: http://www.moldea.com/DJP-death-report.pdf.

Also, here is a Facebook thread which contains a collection of summaries about various aspects of the D.C. Madam case:
Additional comments by DEM

The show was very well done, and I was treated just fine—although I was surprised that they didn't use my statement, corroborated by the police and Jeane's Mother, that she had intentionally taken an overdose before she hanged herself a week later. That certainly showed a determined intent to end her own life and should end all speculation that she had been murdered.

20: Thomson von Stein of the SEC and Robert Vesco

Paying respects to a legendary warrior . . . . I just returned from a hospital visit with our old friend and poker buddy, 81-year-old Thomson von Stein, the fabled attorney for the Enforcement Division of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, who, among many other capers, had received the original assignment to investigate the corrupt American financier, Robert Vesco, over forty years ago. On loan from the SEC, Tom was also a member of the team of prosecutors with the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of New York who pursued Vesco.

Just ahead of his criminal indictment, Vesco, who was also implicated in several Watergate-related crimes, became a fugitive from justice, winding up in Cuba after hiding in Costa Rica, among other Central American and Caribbean countries. Although U.S. officials never captured Vesco, he was indicted and convicted by the Cuban government for a variety of financial crimes. He was sentenced to thirteen years in prison and reportedly died of cancer in 2007.

Attached is a photograph I took in the hospital of Tom—who was on vacation in Egypt with his lovely girlfriend, Joye, six weeks ago. During a visit to a museum in Alexandria, Tom missed a step and fell down a flight of stairs, breaking his left hip and left shoulder.

He is handling his therapy and recovery with the same aggression that he used in pursuit of elusive fugitive financiers.

Additional comments by DEM

Also, Tom has compiled a remarkable, even extraordinary book, A History of Knowledge, aka An Incomplete History of Knowledge, which he has put online for free to anyone interested. To download the PDF, click here: http://history-of-knowledge.com/

*  *  *

During an earlier visit two weeks ago, Tom's doctor asked if Tom and I were brothers. When I replied that we were—"by choice, not an accident of birth"—the doctor asked if I was the 81-year-old's older or younger brother. . . . I gave the doctor the hard eyes and told him, "Yeah. He's my kid brother."

18: The re-release of Dark Victory: Ronald Reagan, MCA, and the Mob

Today, my 31-year-old book about a corrupt U.S. President with ties to the Mafia, as well as to far-right extremists, will be re-released. The Kindle version of “Dark Victory: Ronald Reagan, MCA, and the Mob,” which includes a new Afterword, will be published by Open Road Media as part of its Forbidden Bookshelf, the award-winning series of suppressed and censored books. . . . Notably, in spite of the battle to get this book published and in the bookstores upon its release during Reagan's second term in 1986, “Dark Victory,” which was originally published by Viking Press, appeared on the Los Angeles Times’s bestseller list for three months.
The Los Angeles Times wrote, "Dark Victory is indeed a victory for author Moldea. He has, through sheer tenacity, amassed an avalanche of ominous and unnerving facts. It's a book about power, ego and the American way. Moldea has shown us what we don't want to see."

Library Journal said, "Using previously classified documents, crime reporter Moldea spins several tales in this extraordinary book, principally the rise of the Music Corporation of America (MCA) from a fledgling band-booking company in 1924 to Hollywood's most powerful TV, film, and recording conglomerate, and the intertwined journey of MCA client Reagan from mediocre actor to U.S. President."

The San Francisco Chronicle stated that, "The whole saga reaches a critical mass of sleaze. . . . [Moldea] has woven enough threads to call into serious question the conduct of the highest office in America."

American Film said, "Actually, Moldea tells three separate but tangential stories: organized crime's infiltration of legitimate business and labor, the meteoric rise of the entertainment conglomerate MCA, and the jet-propelled ascension of a somewhat passe movie actor to the president of the United States. These stories have been abundantly researched and are set forth in exquisite detail."

The Dallas Morning News wrote, "Moldea's exhaustive expose of MCA is one of the most explosive books of the decade."

And, in Gus Russo's 2006 book, Supermob: How Sidney Korshak and His Criminal Associates Became America's Hidden Power Brokers, the author wrote: "Dark Victory . . . was the most courageous, and well-researched, indictment of a sitting president and his power base in history."

Additional comments by DEM

Here’s an excerpt I did for the Washington Post of Ronald Reagan’s 1962 appearance before a federal grand jury. The full transcript appears as the centerpiece of Dark Victory. . . .

* * *

Against some pretty stiff competition 31 years after its initial publication, Dark Victory: Ronald Reagan, MCA, and the Mob, rose to #1 today on one of Amazon's Best Seller lists. . . . My continued thanks to Bill Knoedelseder, Pete Noyes, Laurence Leamer, Dave Robb, the late Mae Churchill, and the late, great Jack Tobin.

* * *

Ahhhhh, memories of the old days and the old gang at Local 299. . . . I spent four years going after Rolland McMaster, whom I continue to believe was involved in Jimmy Hoffa's murder and the disposal of his body. . . . Think Gateway Transportation.

10: The ICIJ, including Leo Sisti, wins the Pulitzer Prize for the Panama Papers investigation


I love the journalism awards season, especially when good and trusted friends are recognized for their outstanding work. . . . Today, the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) was a co-recipient of the Pulitzer Prize for Explanatory Reporting for “using a collaboration of more than 300 reporters on six continents to expose the hidden infrastructure and global scale of offshore tax havens,” aka “The Panama Papers Investigation,” which also won the prestigious George Polk Award in February. . . . One of those journalists is our long-time friend and colleague, Leo Sisti of Milan, one of the world’s experts on the international influence of the Mafia—which is why I wanted to meet him during a research trip to Italy in 1996. . . . Leo is also a member of our Authors Dinner Group here in Washington, D.C.,
which applauded his remarkable work at our dinner last June. . . The ICIJ is a 1997 creation of another friend and colleague, Charles Lewis, the founder of the Center for Public Integrity. . . Great work, guys, and congratulations.

Additional comments by DEM

I just received an email from a friend who asked how I came to meet Leo when Mimi and I went to Milan in 1996. . . . Actually, I was referred by our friend and colleague, the great investigative journalist Larry Gurwin, who had written the outstanding book about the murdered Italian banker, Roberto Calvi, who was at the epicenter of the Banco Ambrosiano scandal. I was considering writing a sequel to Larry's book, The Calvi Affair. . . . Just to be clear, our trusted friend, Fabrizio Calvi—whom we met through Leo with whom he had co-authored a book—is not related to Roberto Calvi.

7: Cal Perry at MSNBC

The best on-camera reporter on MSNBC is Cal Perry, who has interviewed President Assad several times and understands the situation in Syria as well as any journalist in the business. Cal, the former bureau chief in Baghdad for CNN, is the son of our long-time friend, best-selling author Mark Perry. . . . Below is a picture I took of father and son, both of whom were members of our late but great Thursday-night poker group (1978 to 2012). . . .

7: After the response to Assad, how long will it take for Trump to develop a taste for death?

Launching a legitimate yet restrained response to a horrendous war crime, the popular decision by Low-Bar Trump only cost the lives of a handful of Syrians. How fast will it now take for him to develop a taste for death? And how many brave American soldiers and “beautiful babies” will die in the coming months after he starts to enjoy it? . . .

Additional comments by DEM

With the appointment of the "Dark Prince," the CIA, under Tea Party stooge Mike Pompeo, appears to be ready to satisfy Trump’s allegedly newfound taste for blood and death, harkening back to the bad old days of the agency.

5: The Conversation and the state of privacy in 2017

Here's the main theme from a 43-year-old movie, which represents the state of privacy in 2017—including but not limited to that which we voluntarily surrender online and during our day-to-day routines.

4: Sally Denton wins the IRE award for best investigative book

JUST ANNOUNCED. . . Our friend and colleague, Sally Denton, has just won the best investigative book of the year, awarded annually by Investigative Reporters & Editors. The runner-up was David Cay Johnston, who wrote an excellent book about Donald Trump.

Sally’s outstanding book is The Profiteers: Bechtel and the Men Who Built the World. . . . Congratulations Sally!
1: Tom Mann and the Library of Congress index of onsite databases

The legendary Dr. Tom Mann—the former top guy at the Library of Congress who has helped so many of us with our work—has asked me to forward the attached “Selected Subscription Databases Available Onsite at the Library of Congress” to friends and colleagues for your reading and researching pleasure. (I converted this searchable Word document to HTML and then anchored it to my personal website.)

March 2017

31: DEM on the leaks investigations, past (Clinton and the OIC) and present (Trump)

BEWARE OF LEAKS INVESTIGATIONS. . . . In Washington, D.C., investigations of government leaks are nothing new. But there are phony leaks investigations, and then there are legitimate leaks investigations.

In 1998, I filed a sworn affidavit with U.S. District Judge Norma Holloway Johnson during her leaks investigation revolving around the relentless pursuit of President Bill Clinton by independent counsel Kenneth Starr and his prosecutorial goon squad who were busy exploiting the President’s sex life to concoct a case of perjury and obstructing of justice against him in a cynical effort to remove him from office.

In that case, many of the journalists who were receiving the leaks were also serving as cheerleaders, shills and stalking horses for Starr’s operation. And, as part of their cooperation, these reporters knowingly provided Starr and the Office of the Independent Counsel (OIC) with information received from their own private sources who refused to speak with federal prosecutors. When challenged about this practice by Judge Johnson, Starr and the OIC simply identified these journalists as “confidential informants” and refused to name them.

I repeat, the journalists receiving the leaks were identified by the OIC as “confidential informants.”

In the Clinton case, Starr and the OIC prosecutors, who wanted Clinton’s head on a stick, used well-placed leaks to these selected journalists as part of an overall fishing operation into the OIC’s investigation of the President’s sex life and anything else they could collect, including but not limited to Hillary Clinton’s alleged one-time affair with Deputy White House Counsel Vincent Foster, who committed suicide six months after the inauguration of President Clinton.

Now, in this current situation, Donald Trump and the Republicans are using their own leaks investigation to distract public attention away from Trump’s alleged shady business dealings with, among others, organized-crime figures in the U.S. and Russia, as well as the fact that members of the Trump campaign and the GOP might have enthusiastically aided and abetted a foreign enemy in its efforts to influence the 2016 general election.

Now more than ever, the American public should demand that the government provide a safe haven for whistleblowers with information about Trump’s alleged bad behavior—and not allow them to be hunted down and destroyed as part of a political witch hunt, operating under the guise of a leaks investigation, which is really about nothing more than intimidating and silencing potential witnesses.

Additional comments by DEM
For anyone interested, here is my declaration, submitted to Judge Norma Holloway Johnson on August 24, 1998—reformatted by my excellent webmaster for my personal webpage—which followed my book in April of that year about the suicide of Vincent Foster but preceded my work on the Flynt Project, which led to the resignation of the U.S. House Speaker-designate Bob Livingston on December 19, the same day as the U.S. House impeached President Clinton, who was acquitted of perjury and obstruction after the Senate trial on February 12, 1999: http://www.moldea.com/aff4.html.

* * *

Just to be clear, during the OIC leaks battle, I went on national television and declared that I had taken sides against Kenneth Starr and the OIC—even though I had praised his work on the Foster case in my book about Foster's suicide. . . . Also, I had openly acknowledged that Starr and I had a history of conflict, starting when he filed an amicus brief against me with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, which had ruled in my favor in my 1990-1994 libel suit against the New York Times, the newspaper that had created me in 1978, destroyed me in 1989, and then resurrected me from the dead in 1995.

In fact, here is the debate between Kenneth Starr and my great attorney, Roger Simons, on Court-TV after the appellate court’s unprecedented reversal in Moldea v. New York Times... https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MUmVFyKsEvl.

* * *

Also, here is a list of 24 instances in which journalists received allegedly illegal leaks during the OIC’s investigation: http://www.moldea.com/1999oct.html.

* * *

In an op-ed, today's New York Times addresses Trump and the leaks, which he loved as a candidate but hates as President.

* * *

I feel a lot more comfortable about this situation knowing that you and the Project On Government Oversight will be doing what you do best . . . protecting whistleblowers from retaliation and retribution. You and POGO will surely be put to the test in the coming weeks and months. And you should be receiving massive support for your wonderful operation.

With regard to the legality of journalists accepting leaks, I think it depends. Certainly, there is considerable case law about this. Some reporters get away with it. Some are threatened with legal action and even prison.

My issue here is when a journalist takes sides without admitting it—and then hides behind the First Amendment while pretending to report objectively. This turns journalists into lapdogs who become dependent upon their sources' access and goodwill, like a sportswriter who covers the local NFL team.

* * *

A 25-year-old woman who leaked an official NSA report about Russia and its attempt to influence the 2016 election to a news organization is the first person to be charged with espionage by the Trump DOJ—which will, no doubt, try to destroy this her. (June 5, 2017)

Friend and colleague, investigative journalist John Aloysius Farrell, formerly a member of the legendary Spotlight team at the Boston Globe, blew away a packed and standing-room-only crowd tonight at Politics and Prose, discussing his latest book, Richard Nixon: The Life. . . . Earlier this year, Jack made national headlines with revelations revolving around Nixon’s use of prominent Asian-American Anna Chennault, a Republican activist, to help stall the Vietnam peace talks. Jack wrote in the New York Times: “A newfound cache of notes left by H. R. Haldeman, his closest aide, shows that Nixon directed his campaign’s efforts to scuttle the peace talks, which he feared could give his opponent, Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey, an edge in the 1968 election. On Oct. 22, 1968, he ordered Haldeman to ‘monkey wrench’ the initiative.” . . . Congratulations and well done, Jack. (Photo by DEM)

28: The death of John L. Harrison, Tuskegee Airman

Tuskegee Airman John L. Harrison has died at 96. We met John at Arlington National Cemetery on September 18, 2008, at the memorial service for our friend, Jack Willis, another member of this prestigious air squadron which served with great distinction during World War II. In fact, Jack and John were among those Tuskegee Airmen who received the Congressional Gold Medal, the most prestigious award offered by the U.S. Congress. . . . God bless John Harrison. who, like Jack Willis, embodied the qualities of courage, dignity, honor, and pure class. (Photo by DEM)

25: Paul Dickson, “The Godfather of Washington Authors”

This afternoon, a big crowd celebrated the work of Paul Dickson, “The Godfather of Washington Authors,” as he launched the publication of his 66th book at Politics & Prose in Washington, D.C. . . . . His latest is “Leo Durocher: Baseball’s Prodigal Son.” And it is just fabulous. . . . (Photo by DEM)

24: “Leamer’s Table”

Last night, an anthology of Washington authors met for "Leamer’s Table" at Café Deluxe in Washington D.C.—aka Switzerland—a local literary tradition where authors on the left and the right can get together for drinks, dinner, and discussion without killing each other. . . . Front row, left to right, and around the horn: Bill Thomas, Joel L. Swerdlow, Eric Dezenhall, Mark Olshaker, Mark Perry, Phil Manuel (honorary author), Gus Russo, Laurence Leamer, Nancy Lubin, and Dan E. Moldea. (Photo credit: Hesham)

Additional comments by DEM

The beauty is that your little group and our little group, along with x-amount of other little writers' groups form our beloved and mighty twice-a-year Authors Dinner Group. . . . Ernest Hemingway, Gertrude Stein, and their salon group in Paris, not mention that crowd who cluttered the Algonquin Roundtable in New York, would learn a lot more and have a lot more fun at our 28-year old Authors Dinner Group in Washington, D.C.

22: Roy McKay on DEM refusing to cross a NABET picket line at NBC

Investigative author Dan E. Moldea has already influenced the political landscape in this country. Read this article and any book by him you can put your hands on. Dan stands on his principles. I'll never forget that he refused to cross our NABET union picket line, sacrificing the opportunity to promote his latest book on NBC's Today Show.
Additional comments by DEM

Thanks for remembering, Roy. That was on July 2, 1987, one of the proudest moments of my career—supporting you and your union, which set up that picket line at NBC on Nebraska Avenue in Washington. . . . BTW: The Today Show has never asked me back. . . . To hell with ‘em.

21: On the sheared sheep in Trump’s fat flock (Part Two)


ON THE SHEARED SHEEP IN TRUMP’S FAT FLOCK (PART TWO). . . . Donald Trump’s supporters will remain faithful just as long as, among other things, 1) new draconian restrictions on immigrants and other foreigners are imposed, aka Trump’s version of “ethnic cleansing,” 2) they can buy, keep, and carry their damn guns, 3) they can use the N-word without being identified as racists by the politically correct crowd, 4) the government stops giving away anything for free—including but not limited to health insurance—to America’s poor and the powerless, whom they want to be further humiliated with forced blood tests and make-work projects, 5) he continues to portray any and all journalists who investigate his shady past and his illegitimate presidency as perpetrators of “fake news,” as well as “enemies of the people,” and 6) the U.S. military will get tough with any foreign government that as much as looks at us cross-eyed, even if our tactics violate international law and the Geneva Conventions.

And then, of course, there are those Bible-thumpers and flag-wavers who blindly support the philandering, thrice-married Trump and his cynical agenda simply because he is against a woman’s right to choose because “life is sacred”—but continue to support the death penalty because it’s supposedly “a deterrent to crime.”

What is absolutely breathtaking is the pure and unadulterated hypocrisy of Donald Trump, his basket of deplorables, and the innocent people who follow him simply because they are frightened of the real and imagined demons he has created to divert their attention from the irreversible damage he is doing to America.

In the end, those who support and defend Trump will be forever responsible for the consequences of every bizarre, reckless, and dangerous decision he makes. . . .

Additional comments by DEM

I recently wrote to a friend: “In my opinion, there is no point getting into an argument with a Trump supporter, especially if he/she is a friend. They must realize their own buyer’s remorse without any help from a Trump critic. If you try, most will likely resent it—and that could end friendships.”

Frankly, I have a few friends in my life who support Trump and now are in desperate need to be deprogrammed, like a Moonie. But, under the circumstances, I am powerless to organize the preceding intervention.

* * *

The Washington Post reports that Trump’s approval rating among his fellow Republicans is still at a whopping 84 percent. No doubt, those who are on committees investigating him in Congress and are up for reelection in 2018 are taking note.

* * *

TrumpWorld: Where the poor and the powerless willingly ask how much more they may sacrifice for the comfort of the rich and the powerful. (May 26, 2017)
In the aftermath of his head-slapping comments about “shithouse countries,” Trump's racist base loves their racist president. . . .


A psychological analysis of Trump's supporters--by Psychology Today. . . .


19: DEM on relating to the Walt Whitman-Volvo commercial


I love this 30-second commercial. I stop everything I’m doing when it comes on screen. I feel a genuine connection to the Walt Whitman words, as well as the city and country scenes, especially driving through the darkness and into the unknown. . . . I used to fly at night. It was my life as a young and always independent grunt crime reporter, except that I wasn’t driving a Volvo. . . . I cruised along in my 1970 Thunderbird, pretending that I wasn’t just entering cities. I was invading them.

Additional comments by DEM

Relating again to the Volvo commercial, here’s an excerpt of a story about me—as well as a mention of my old Thunderbird—in the Home News of New Brunswick, New Jersey, shortly after I landed one of the biggest exclusive interviews of my career . . . with all four of the alleged killers of Jimmy Hoffa on October 25, 1976. This fairly accurate portrayal of me back then was written by a young reporter, Mike Hoyt, who later became the executive editor of the Columbia Journalism Review.

Hoyt wrote:

“In his beat up blue Thunderbird, Moldea travels to Detroit, Washington, Chicago and points in between looking for information. Last week, it was New Jersey. . . . He’s a free lance investigative writer, a rare commodity in a profession that takes a lot of time and money. Moldea, 26 and single, has survived on borrowed cash, an occasional grant, and the articles and television research work he writes or collaborates on from time to time. . . . When he travels, he works constantly. Reporters often look harried at the typewriter, but Moldea looks manic. He writes late, smoking constantly, and the circles under his eyes get nearly black. . . .

"'Hoffa was probably as crooked as the rest of them,’ he said. ‘I'm not interested in avenging Jimmy Hoffa.

"'But you just don't go out and kill a guy like Jimmy Hoffa. Somebody very powerful had to make that decision, and I want to know who.'"

17: Trump believes that he may defame at will


Even without any evidence, Donald Trump believes that he should be allowed to defame at will and then go unchallenged when he does so . . . with no consequences for his reckless and malicious words and deeds.
Additional comments by DEM

Susan Rice, another victim of Trump’s defame-at-will strategy, is vindicated:

* * *

Yet again, Trump recklessly and maliciously defames President Obama. . . .
https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/white-house/trump-s-false-claim-about-obama-fallen-soldiers-n811206

* * *

Here's an interesting list, compiled by the New York Times.

7: On the sheared sheep in Trump’s fat flock

ON THE SHEARED SHEEP IN TRUMP’S FAT FLOCK. . . . It seems that Donald Trump’s legion of supporters don’t mind being conned by his deceitful populist agenda and simply don’t care that he is provably dishonest and arguably mentally unbalanced, as well as an alleged pro-Russian puppet with a Cabinet and White House staff filled with pro-Russian stooges.

From all early indications—along with already embracing some Russian ambitions and engaging in a promised newfound American adventurism abroad—the Trump radicals are preparing to loot the federal government, like a Mafia family busting out a local savings & loan. They will try to give nearly everything away—via government contracts, tax breaks, repealed regulations, privatization, and dismantled federal oversight agencies—to a new and emerging class of American oligarchs, who will rival those in Russia.

Bilking the American economy appears to be their version of “draining the swamp” and “making America great again.” Remarkably, Trump has established his own wall of defense, paid for in full by appealing to the worst instincts of the American voter.

Additional comments by DEM

MSNBC just reported that, according to the Gallup Poll, Donald Trump is enjoying an 88-percent approval rating among his fellow Republicans. . . . Now, what does this say about Republicans—or at least about that 88 percent?

4: If the Trump-Clinton situation was reversed

This point has been made before, but I would like to make it again—with emphasis. . . . If the situation was reversed, and Donald Trump had won the popular vote by a wide margin but lost the electoral-college vote and, thus, the Presidency to Hillary Clinton—who had enjoyed the covert assistance of Russian operatives who hacked the RNC’s emails while Russian officials were in constant communication with Clinton’s top advisors during the campaign—the GOP and Fox News would be sounding an unbridled, unrestrained, five-alarm, all-hands-on-deck, 24-7, clarion call to all of America and throughout the world, questioning the legality and legitimacy of her victory, as well as all of her subsequent actions as President. . . .
By this time in her Presidency, Clinton would already be facing widespread charges of, among other crimes, sedition and even treason, investigated by a joint congressional select committee, an independent commission, and/or a special prosecutor.

Additional comments by DEM

Donald Trump is trapped and becoming desperate. . . . We can resist and fight back by supporting our national and local newspapers and magazines—especially those that practice legitimate investigative journalism—along with those brave whistleblowers who have and will step forward to provide essential information, as well as those groups that support whistleblowers, like the Project On Government Oversight. It is also important to support those politicians in both parties who have proven track records of working for, among other things, full public disclosure and integrity in government.

* * *

They tried to nail her with Vincent Foster's suicide, Travelgate, Filegate, the Rose Law Firm billing records, Whitewater, and Benghazi, among many other bullshit capers. In each and every case, the Republicans were foiled. . . . It took the email-issue smear to bring her down—and it was never anything more than a smear, just like the bullshit investigation of the Clinton Foundation during the campaign.

* * *

The Russian situation aside. . . . For five years, Donald Trump made repeated false claims in his relentless but failed efforts to prove that President Obama was not born in the United States in his cynical effort to delegitimize Obama’s Presidency. Inasmuch as Trump refused to accept the results of the 2008 and 2012 Presidential elections, I believe that those of us who now oppose Trump for a variety of legitimate reasons are not out of line by treating him with the same respect that he showed President Obama. . . .

* * *

Let's see where these investigations go. Once again, if the situation was reversed—and Hillary Clinton had been the beneficiary of Russia's good graces—those of you in the Trump camp would be losing your minds, demanding widespread investigations, and claiming that the "system is rigged." . . . Imagine that, during the campaign, Trump claimed that the "system was rigged," and he won. . . . BTW: I have asked you this before: Do you believe that President Obama was not born in the United States?

* * *

Can you imagine the reaction from Fox News and the Republicans if, in the midst of an investigation of a nefarious Russian connection to the Obama White House, President Obama was photographed by the Russian news agency, frolicking and yukking it up in the Oval Office with the same Russian operatives who were alleged to have compromised Obama and his people?

2: What does Jared Kushner know about the Russians, and what do they know about him?

A simple grunt crime reporter who occasionally likes to pretend that he's a political writer has just asked these two questions on Twitter. . . . “What does Jared Kushner know about the Russians? And what do the Russians know about Jared Kushner?” (3:39 P.M., March 2, 2017)

Additional comments by DEM
Michael: In this caper, there are no coincidences... I believe that Jared, who knows a lot, has been and continues to be at risk of exposure. And, therefore, he remains involved at the very top... But what do I know?

* * *

Charlie: As a successful businessman, you know this better than I do... The never-a-dull-moment Trump presidency is the result when a businessman, accountable to no one in his personal business, is suddenly thrust into a system consisting of three co-equal branches of government, along with the accompanying checks and balances... And, oh yeah, there's that irritating thing they call The Constitution, which included that annoying Bill of Rights.

* * *

Whatever was going on over there—money laundering, playtime with the oligarchs, etc—appears to have been a family affair. Would The Donald cut all of his Trumpettes in on the action?... And, just as there are allegations that the Russians had compromised Trump in order to safeguard their investments in him, did they also compromise members of his family who also benefited from the relationship—which would further keep The Donald in line?

* * *

This caper revolving around the Trump election campaign and his post-election activities is getting so complicated that the investigators must be fluent in Russian and armed with law degrees and PhDs in accounting, as well as extensive experience with investigations of voter fraud, money-laundering, the Mafia in the U.S. and the Mafiya in Russia, political corruption, and specific acts of treason... We are way beyond the looking glass in this situation. And, as bad as we already believe it is, I continue to fear that it will be 100 times worse. (May 25, 2017)

* * *

Jeez... What did Trump's sons know? And when did they know it?

* * *

Jared Kushner and his digital operation during the Trump campaign....

* * *

Is Jared Kushner lying, just like his brother-in-law, The Dishonest Son, and Jared's father-in-law, The Liar President?... Here's his statement today, annotated by NPR. (July 24, 2017)

* * *

Jared's legal team has hired a crisis-management firm, Mercury Public Affairs... I knew of that operation when they were lobbying for casino gambling on Indian reservations in upstate New York... https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/kushners-legal-team-looks-to-hire-crisis-public-relations-firm/2017/12/15/6f1f4c-e1c3-11e7-9eb6-e3c7ecfb4638_story.html?utm_term=.fae31f54f5bf&wpisrc=nl_evening&wpmm=1
ON PRESIDENT TRUMP, DAY 40-PLUS. . . With his corrupt past in New York, New Jersey, and Moscow now catching up with him, Donald Trump is quickly becoming a desperate man, battling for his personal survival and trash-talking anyone who opposes him, especially those from the institutions that are investigating his activities, including a variety of domestic and foreign intelligence agencies and, of course, the news media, which he has now described as "the enemy of the people."

As is well known, Trump has made a career of declaring war on those who criticize him—and then he plays his now-familiar role as victim when they fight back, using even their most benign responses to justify his scorched-earth, “you-pull-a-knife-then-I-draw-a-gun” routine.

Cynically ratcheting up the public’s fears over an assortment of issues and circumstances, Trump, who lost the popular vote by a wide margin, is fearful of disgrace and public humiliation. After the spate of bankruptcies early in his career, he has already "been there and done that." And in the aftermath of his stunning electoral-vote victory which might have resulted from a fraudulent 2016 general election—tampered with by Russian operatives who have allegedly blackmailed him for years—he is not unlike a trapped animal, caught in a political and legal steel-jaw device. . . . Constitutional crises loom on the horizon.

Wary of a bipartisan independent commission to investigate his bad behavior, Trump is now completely dependent on the Republican intelligence-committee chairs in the House, Devin Nunes (R-CA), and in the Senate, Richard Burr (R-NC), as well as his own recent appointees, Attorney General Jeff Sessions and CIA Director Mike Pompeo—all of whom are provable right-wing ideologues—to derail any and all investigations.

And, then, there is FBI Director James Comey, who, wittingly or unwittingly, helped Trump win the general election, or, more to the point, helped to defeat Hillary Clinton by participating in the reckless and malicious smear campaign against her.

Through the Trump-Russia probe, will Comey be seeking personal redemption, or will he simply engage in yet another disgraceful performance on the public stage?

Additional comments by DEM

The stress levels here in DC are through the roof. One of the late-night comedians said that the Presidency is supposed to age the President, . . . not the voters.

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The stress levels here in DC are through the roof. One of the late-night comedians said that the Presidency is supposed to age the President, . . . not the voters.

How low does the bar have to get for this guy to be seen as acting “presidential?” And how many chances does he get to be "presidential?" . . . His address before Congress tonight will be his latest opportunity after a season of swings and misses. . . . I pray that he departs from his prepared script as often as possible. That’s the only time he’s worth listening to—when he’s speaking.
contemporaneously. . . . It's like watching the old Milton Berle Show. . . . You just can't believe what you're seeing.

22: DEM on the Trump-Hitler comparison

For several months, many responsible people in and out of politics have compared Donald Trump to Adolf Hitler. . . . What is particularly disturbing and even alarming is that Trump doesn't appear to be doing anything to discourage this now-familiar comparison. . . .

Additional comments by DEM

From Ron Rosenbaum, author of Explaining Hitler, who sounds the alarm about Hitler, Trump, and their handling of the press.

* * *

In fact, Trump appears to be encouraging the comparison, especially with such disgraceful performances as today's with his Cabinet. (June 12, 2017)

* * *

Were I him, I would take the time to distance myself from any comparison to Hitler. . . . Also, in the name-calling department, Trump is peerless, second to none. During the 2016 campaign, he cynically turned it into an art form. . . . Finally, many of us are painfully aware of how much damage he is doing to America. But those are dubious accomplishments, at best. (June 13, 2017)

* * *

And now The Liar President is actively trying to corrupt the Boy Scouts of America. This appears to be his dream come true. . . .https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=29Mg6Gfh9Co (July 24, 2017)

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* * *

Regardless of whether it’s Chinese President Xi Jinping, Russia’s Vladimir Putin, or even the murderous Rodrigo "Rody" Roa Duterte of the Philippines, Donald Trump loves and praises dictators—and clearly wants to join their club. https://www.cnn.com/2018/03/03/politics/trump-maralago-remarks/index.html, (March 3, 2018)

* * *


16: DEM’s pretend treatment for a movie script about a Trump-like playboy/businessman

Here’s another one of my pretend treatments for a make-believe movie script—based on real-life events with several possible departures from reality. . . .
PART ONE: A notoriously arrogant American playboy/businessman who, with the help of his wealthy father, builds an empire via his construction company in Manhattan and his casino operations in Atlantic City reluctantly but knowingly does business with the Mafia on the East Coast, participating in at least one allegedly illegal scheme for which he is not prosecuted. But, after the investigation is dropped, he serves as a confidential informant for the FBI against segments of the underworld with which he has not been aligned.

In the aftermath of several bad business deals, he loses nearly everything. Humbled after recovering from a near collapse and three bankruptcies, he re-enters the business world and tries to recoup his lost status but finds his ability to obtain traditional financing for his dreams and schemes falling short. Consequently, he looks for money overseas, finding willing investors among Russian oligarchs and members of the Russian Mafiya, who, protecting their investment, develop information that compromises him and, allegedly, at least one member of his family.

In return for funding his comeback and securing the continued silence of his blackmailers, the playboy/businessman provides them with façades of legitimacy, agreeing, among other tasks, to move and launder money for his Russian backers worldwide. The secret cabal does business for many years, undetected, and is wildly profitable for all involved.

Then, in a cynical attempt to raise his personal business profile and enhance his family brand, he runs what appears to be a Quixotic bid as a conservative candidate for President of the United States, even though he has no practical experience in government, politics, or diplomacy and is well known as a thrice-married philanderer.

The playboy/businessman puts together a team of political operatives with their own Russian connections, as well as a Murderers’ Row of alt-right media stars and no-mercy opposition-research specialists to conduct a populist, scorched-earth political assault against the mainstream-news media and "The Establishment" in Washington and on Wall Street.

In addition, he receives—at the behest of his Russian blackmailers who see nothing but opportunity in this situation—the enthusiastic support of the Russian intelligence apparatus, which hacks the emails of his perceived enemies and produces “fake news” against his rivals in concert with his own media connections, including a cable-television network which does little more than shill for right-wing causes while concocting faux scandals against the left.

To the surprise of nearly everyone, he wins his conservative party’s nomination, defeating a large group of far more qualified candidates, all of whom he taunted and trashed during the contentious primaries.

In the General Election—with the inexplicable support of most of his conservative rivals and the unscrupulous abuse of his party’s control of both houses of Congress—the playboy/businessman unleashes a breathtaking smear campaign against his liberal opponent, an intelligent, experienced, and honest woman, the wife of a previous President, a former U.S. Senator, and an ex-Secretary of State.

As the Russian hackers gain access to the emails of the liberal party’s leadership, the Director of the FBI delivers a bizarre public statement, which greatly helps the playboy/businessman and provides nothing less than legitimacy to a series of false and reckless charges leveled against his liberal opponent, which have already been supercharged by the “fake news” media operations of both the alt-right and the Russians.

**Additional comments by DEM**

BTW: I own the domain name, Mafiya.com. Please tell me if you have an imaginative way to use it.

Speaking of the Russian Mafiya—a major topic of conversation these days—I’d like to pay my respects to my old friend, investigative journalist Robbie Friedman of New York, who died in
2002. Robbie, with whom I shared a journalism award for a story we did about Paul Laxalt for the *Village Voice* in 1985, was the author of “Red Mafiya: How the Russian Mob Has Invaded America,” which was published by Little Brown two years before his death. God bless Robbie.

14: “If I were writing this script,” the upcoming faux crisis between the US and Russia


If I were writing this script. . . . In the aftermath of the public exposure of his nefarious personal and business ties to Russia, the desperate American president secretly contacts the evil Russian president, and, together, they contrive, concoct, and choreograph a Cuban-Missile Crisis-like, life-and-death situation that will hold a fearful world breathless for several weeks. . . . Fret not, in the end, the two leaders, faux adversaries, will miraculously save the day when they agree on a pre-arranged peaceful solution, a shoe-string catch. . . . The world rejoices. The scandal is diffused—at least for the moment. . . . “Fail-Safe” meets “Wag the Dog.”

*Additional comments by DEM*

Somebody has to step up and take the nuclear codes away from drama-queen Trump, who is quickly getting backed into a political and legal corner. . . . This is kind of dangerous.

* * *

FOR SALE . . . to anyone who believes that this faux US-Russia conflict over Syria is real . . . a bridge in Brooklyn and some swampland in Florida. (April 12, 2017)

* * *

At that point, Donald Trump graduates from a mere alleged corrupt politician to an alleged and despised war criminal ready for the prosecution by the ICC at The Hague. (June 19, 2017)

* * *

The Russians are up to something in the crisis with North Korea. . . .

13: DEM on the resignation of Michael Flynn, appealing him to come clean


What does the President know and when did he know it? Or, better yet, what does Michael Flynn know and how will he use it?

Please do the right thing now, General Flynn—the honorable thing. . . . Take the oath and tell us the real inside story about the President and his basket of deplorables. It would be your greatest act of patriotism.

*Additional comments by DEM*

With the overwhelming amount of evidence of the long-standing and ongoing sweetheart relationship of Donald Trump and his top advisors with Vladimir Putin and the Russian government, it would now be nothing less than a monumental dereliction of duty for the U.S. Congress to continue to refuse to select an independent panel—like the 9-11 Commission—to investigate this nefarious relationship, as well as the degree to which the Russians influenced, impacted, and even corrupted the 2016 General Election.

* * *
I can't imagine the law-enforcement community giving this guy a pass for his now admitted sins—not to mention what has been recorded and memorialized. He is in some very serious legal trouble, and he might be flippable.

* * *

Our salvation will come from the courts, the trusted press (New York Times, Washington Post, Newsweek, New Yorker, and a handful of others), the states’ attorneys general, and the brave whistleblowers who will step forward and tell their stories.

* * *

Just now on CNN: Rep. Seth Moulton (D-MA), a member of the House Armed Services Committee, has flat-out insisted that there needs to be an investigation as to whether Donald Trump and/or his aides have engaged in acts of treason against the United States of America.

* * *

Key questions not asked: What was Michael Flynn's possible motivation for continuing to lie to Vice President Pence, Sean Spicer, and anyone else—especially if, according to Spicer, the White House Counsel's Office cleared him of any wrongdoing for discussing the sanctions with the Russian ambassador, saying that he was simply "doing his job"? . . . Also, when and why did this suddenly become a matter of trust for Donald Trump?

* * *

Making a deal with a congressional committee will not immunize him from prosecution. . . . The question is whether the alleged traitor has decided to fall on his sword and protect Russian stooge Trump.

* * *

The T-word is uttered. . . . “Frequently individuals who go along a treasonous path do not even realize they are on that path until it gets to be a bit too late.” (Former director of the CIA John Brennan at the House Intelligence hearing on the Russia investigation today.)

* * *

Just how culpable is CIA Director Mike Pompeo in his dealings with Michael Flynn, who was in a position to be blackmailed by the Russians?

* * *

Here is Senator Diane Feinstein's newly released timeline about Michael Flynn. . . .


9: Jeff Stein’s public-records suit against the US Government


Our friend and colleague, veteran investigative journalist and Newsweek national-security correspondent Jeff Stein, has filed a fascinating and potentially very revealing public-records suit against several federal agencies, including the CIA and the DOJ, demanding any and all information collected as part of the vetting process for Donald Trump’s national-security advisors, such as the deplorable white
nationalist, Steve Bannon, and alleged Russian stooge Michael Flynn. . . Yeah, I want to know how the hell these guys received their clearances.

**Additional comments by DEM**

If you can prove any of that, Mark, you will make history. And the news people covering that story know it, too—and, don’t be fooled, there are a lot of reporters who are all over this. The problem is that the public will require a considerable amount of documentation for it to be believed. And the history over the past two years shows that when the media shoots high and misses, it only makes Donald Trump stronger . . . while giving him more ammunition to use erroneous and/or speculative stories to launch his now-familiar attacks on the press. . . . Be patient. I believe that help is on the way.

* * *

What does the President know and when did he know it? Or, better yet, what does Michael Flynn know and how will he use it?

* * *

Here is a list of FOIA suits filed by journalists: [http://foiaproject.org/plaintiff-media-list/](http://foiaproject.org/plaintiff-media-list/)

4: “You can’t stop what’s coming.” from No Country for Old Men.

“You can't stop what's coming. It ain't all waiting on you. . . . That's vanity.” (1:50 to 2:00) . . .

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**January 2017**

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27: Prokofiev Piano Concerto No 3
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FgnE25-kvkyk

Since the disappointing results of the general election—and in lieu of having the television news blaring in the background, as usual, while I work at my desk—I have been regularly listening to classical music, which I really know nothing about but doesn’t make me as crazy as “the shows.” . . . Here’s the best rendition of one of my all-time favorites, which is actually kind of wild and crazy in its own right, played by a brilliant pianist and conducted by André Previn. . . .

20: Ralph Salerno: “Organized crime will put a man in the White House . . .”

“Organized crime will put a man in the White House someday—and he won’t know it until they hand him the bill.” (Ralph Salerno, Chief of Detectives, New York Police Department, 1967). . . .

**Additional comments by DEM**

With respect, Jeff, that is complete bullshit. Attorney General Robert Kennedy was the greatest crimefighter in American history. When he was earlier chief counsel of the Senate Rackets
Committee, he was eating Mafia guys for breakfast. And when he became his brother's attorney general, he started eating them for lunch and dinner, too.

19: On the Eve of Inauguration Day 2017... A brief calm before the long storm (Chopin)

On the Eve of Inauguration Day 2017... A brief calm before the long storm.

Additional comments by DEM

From soup to nuts, it took the Republicans fourteen months to expose, investigate, and prosecute President Clinton... from the Paula Jones deposition perjury trap in December 1997 to the President's acquittal after the U.S. Senate trial in February 1999... A lot of people will die during the next fourteen months—at home and abroad.

17: DEM with Miss America 2004

I might not like our drama-queen president-elect, but I surely do love America... In fact, here’s a photograph of me holding hands with Miss America 2004, the beautiful and talented Ericka Dunlap, at one of the fabulous Washington soirees hosted by the very cool Janet Donovan... (Photo credit: Janet Donovan, July 2004)

11: “When Flynt and I nailed a politician, he stayed nailed,” in response to the 35-page Trump document

When Larry Flynt and I nailed numerous politicians for hypocrisy during the impeachment drama in 1998-1999 and then later in 2007, they stayed nailed. There were no disputes. There were no denials. There were no mistakes... We never released anything unless our source information was solid and could be verified.

Additional comments by DEM

Bill: Without the support of the left and in the midst of the newfound power of Steve Bannon, David Bossie, and Roger Stone, I would be eaten alive... Remember the impeachment process? I became the target of a federal criminal probe and was nearly indicted after my investigation led to the resignation of Rep. Bob Livingston as U.S. House Speaker-designate... Meantime, the Jello Left distanced itself from me, making an issue of Flynt's line of work.

*     *     *

Trump's opposition-research team not only attacks, but they defend... During the election season, Hillary's opposition-research team launched lame attacks while allowing their client to be destroyed as the target of the most unscrupulous smear campaign in American political history... With their relentless defense, Trump's archangels are playing the same game with the media. And when the media desperately publishes unsubstantiated materials, which they cannot prove at the time of publication, they play right into Trump's hands.

*     *     *

I view the members of Hillary Clinton’s opposition-research team as “ronins,” warriors, now disgraced, who could not protect their master... In my opinion, Sid Blumenthal—who was a major target of the bogus U.S. House Benghazi Committee—is the only person in that group who emerged with honor.
I first heard about “the dossier”—specifically the part about the alleged Trump set-up in the Moscow hotel and a vague outline of the supposed blackmail scheme—in early fall from a trusted friend. But I didn’t actually see a copy until BuzzFeed released it the other night. . . .
https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/3259984-Trump-Intelligence-Allegations.html

10: “We are really going to miss President Obama”

We are really going to miss President Obama. As a public servant and as a man, he has been the embodiment of class, dignity, integrity, intelligence, and grace under pressure. . . .

Additional comments by DEM

Despite the relentless efforts to obstruct and sabotage President Obama’s agenda by the GOP and their bosses at Fox News—past, present, and future—history will be very, very kind to him.

5: The death of former CIA agent Jack Platt

Legendary former CIA agent Jack Platt, widely praised for his remarkable talent for espionage and his uncanny ability to drive journalists crazy, died last night in northern Virginia. Jack was well known for his many real-life, spy-versus-spy dramas, especially with his KGB counterpart, Gennady Vasilenko, with whom he co-founded a joint-business venture after glasnost. They also became the best of friends. . . . An upcoming book, in which I have a brief but exciting cameo role, will feature the Platt-Vasilenko relationship. . . . God bless Jack—who would have been 81 next month—and his wonderful family. (Photo by DEM.)

Additional comments by DEM

The upcoming book about Jack and Gennady will be fairly comprehensive. Its co-authors are real pros. Robert De Niro has expressed an interest in making a film, based on their work. Jack consulted with De Niro, who directed and starred in the 2006 CIA thriller, The Good Shepherd. BTW: Hopscotch was one of Jack’s favorite movies—although Kendig, a fictional character, was a renegade on his way out of the agency. In real life, Jack Platt was no renegade.

* * *

The CIA and FBI buildings must have been empty this afternoon, because everyone seemed to be at the standing-room-only farewell celebration for Jack Platt . . . Even Robert De Niro, whom Jack helped with a couple of his films about the CIA, was in attendance. . . . Badly outnumbered, we journalists tried in vain to get a few of the CIA contingent to discuss President Trump’s disastrous recent speech to the agency in front of the wall of honor, as well as whatever details the intelligence community might be willing to share about the reported multi-agency investigation of Trump and the Russians.

* * *

. . . Also present at the celebration was Jack’s former enemy who later became his friend and business partner, ex-KGB agent Gennady Vasilenko. I ran into Gennady—whom I have known for years via Jack—in the parking lot and walked into the reception with him. Gennady, who was the most popular and talked about mourner at the service, later left with Robert De Niro. . . .
Of course, Gennady—who helped the CIA and FBI expose the treasonous FBI special agent, Robert Hanssen—came to the U.S. permanently after being part of the controversial 2010 spy swap which also involved the beautiful but treacherous Russian spy, Anna Chapman.

* * *

Here is Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Jim Risen’s obituary—actually, it’s more of a tribute—to Jack Platt in the New York Times. I’m kind of shocked that the Times published a photograph of Gennady Vasilenko with Jack. . . .


* * *

Former KGB agent Gennady Vasilenko toasts the life and times of his late friend and business partner, former CIA agent Jack Platt, at a final celebration for Jack at The Old Brogue in Great Falls, Virginia, on Saturday afternoon, June 17. (Photo credit: Copyright © Dan E. Moldea 2017)

1: Dvořák’s “New World” Symphony for 2017

As we enter the 2017 gauntlet—which, I fear, is going to make 2016’s look like nothing more than an amusement-park ride—here’s Dvořák’s “New World” Symphony by the New York Philharmonic, which somehow seems appropriate for this moment: . . . Let’s be careful out there during the coming year.

2016

December 2016

28: Admiral William Crowe and his 2004 condemnation of President Bush

Admiral William J. Crowe—appointed by President Reagan as the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in 1985 and by President Clinton as the ambassador to the Court of St. James’s in 1994—was among twenty-seven retired diplomats and military leaders who issued a joint public statement in June 2004, saying that President George W. Bush and his administration did not have a competent grasp of world problems and were unable to handle "in either style or substance" the responsibilities of global leadership. . . . I wonder what Bill Crowe, with whom I was acquainted but who died in 2007, would say today about President-elect Donald Trump and his bizarre foreign-policy and national-security team, as well as their frighteningly cavalier attitude about the use of nuclear weapons. . . .

Additional comments by DEM

I’ll be sure to show President-elect Trump the same honor and respect that his supporters showed President Obama throughout his tenure. . . . Trump is a very dangerous and mentally unstable man who is totally unprepared for the responsibilities he is about to assume.

15: DEM on the death penalty after Dylann Roof’s conviction
Just when you come to a point where you finally determine that the death penalty is futile, unfair, and should be banned forever, some merciless killer is convicted of a senseless act that is so heinous and so inhuman that you actually hear yourself saying out loud, “Hang that son of a bitch.” . . .

Additional comments by DEM

My reaction, above, was visceral, cataclysmic, and even primal immediately after hearing the verdict. At that moment, I wanted the judge and the jury “to get medieval on his ass” during the upcoming sentencing phase . . . Thank goodness that the law, at least in theory, is supposed to reject such knee-jerk reactions and appeal to our better angels. . . . [M]any of the families of the victims have taught the world about forgiveness. That is the only good thing that has come out of this horrific crime and mind-numbing tragedy. But that one good thing will be remembered.

13: DEM on Robert Maheu—with Maheu’s book inscription to DEM

In the aftermath of the death of Fidel Castro, I have been going through a cache of documents as part of my ongoing downsizing process. . . . In the midst of my review, I found the autobiography of Robert Maheu, the former FBI special agent who became the chief executive of billionaire recluse Howard Hughes’s casino operations in Las Vegas. . . . Also, in 1960, Maheu, through a complicated series of events, served as the liaison between the CIA and the Mafia in the now-infamous but wholly unsuccessful plots to assassinate Castro, which were revealed and detailed during the U.S. Senate Church Committee’s investigations in 1975. . . . By chance, I had the good fortune to meet Maheu in early June 1978 and to interview him at length for my first book, “The Hoffa Wars,” which was released three months later. . . . Maheu and I remained in touch for many years—even though I was critical of him in the Hoffa book. His 1992 memoir was titled, “Next to Hughes: Behind the Power and Tragic Downfall of Howard Hughes by His Closest Advisor.” . . . Attached is the inscription that Maheu, who died in August 2008, wrote in the copy he gave to me.

Additional comments by DEM

As you probably already know, Philip. . . . After his successful coup in January 1959, Fidel stood up to the Mafia, which had owned the previous regime, and shut down the underworld’s drug and gambling operations in Cuba in or about April 1959. . . . When the Mafia, trying to recoup, couldn't kill him, the U.S. Government, via the CIA, covertly joined the mob in its efforts. . . . Even together, they couldn't do the job. . . . I wish that Allen Dulles, who was CIA director at time, had mentioned to the Warren Commission, “Hey, guys. I should probably tell you that we were working with the Mafia to kill Castro.” I find it difficult to believe that that simple fact would not have created a whole new avenue of investigation.

*          *          *

From Confessions of a Guerrilla Writer. . . .

On Thursday, June 8 [1978], my editor, Mary Heathcote, and I wrapped up the editing work on [The Hoffa Wars]. We had saved the sections about the CIA-Mafia plots and John Kennedy’s murder for last. To celebrate, I invited her to the Georgetown Inn for dinner. While waiting in the dining room for Mary to join me, I saw a man I recognized seated alone on the other side of the room.

I quickly called the maitre d’, asking him if that man was Robert Maheu, the former top aide to billionaire Howard Hughes, who became the liaison between the CIA and the Mafia during the plots against Castro.

When the maitre d’ confirmed it, I offered him twenty bucks if he would bring Maheu to my table.
The maitre d’ did as I asked, and, to my surprise, Maheu came over and sat down with me.

I introduced myself and told him, “I have just spent part of the day writing about you.”

Explaining that I was interested in his role in the plots against Castro, Maheu proclaimed proudly, “I was willing to kill ten Castros to save a single American life.”

When Mary arrived, she audibly gasped when I introduced her to Maheu...

8: DEM returns to the Red Fox/Andiamo


This afternoon, I had a late lunch at the old Machus Red Fox, now called Andiamo in Bloomfield Hills, just north of Detroit. . . . Memories flooded back. . . . A well-known American citizen was last seen standing outside this very public place in broad daylight, and then he vanished without a trace. Sooner or later, this caper must be solved. . . . I am Ahab, and the Jimmy Hoffa murder case is my white whale.

Additional comments by DEM

Thank you for thinking of me. I haven't been to Detroit since 2009 when that creep promised to deliver Hoffa's body to me—and then set me up for a fall when a dragnet of state and local police officers descended on me while I waited, as instructed, in an empty parking lot near Stan Barr's farm in Fenton. (Paul published a story about this debacle on the front page of the Detroit News back then.)

* * *

In my story about the case for the 40th anniversary in 2015, I reported that McMaster and Barr were with Tony Provenzano in Detroit on the night before the murder. At the moment of Hoffa's disappearance on July 30, 1975, McMaster and Barr were meeting with Gateway representatives in Gary, Indiana. . . . That was their alibi. Notably, one of McMaster's top lieutenants was Jim Shaw, a driver for Gateway. I also uncovered that Shaw and his partner, Larry McHenry, were allegedly behind some of the Local 299 violence prior to Hoffa's murder.

* * *

Yes, I uncovered the illegal activities by the McMaster organizing unit. That was my first big story in June 1976 when I was freelancing at the Detroit Free Press. Then, while I was with Jack Anderson the following month, we broke the story about the role of McMaster's goon squad in the Local 299 violence, featuring Jim Shaw and Larry McHenry, as well as Jack Robison, an explosives expert.

* * *

McMaster, whom I interviewed at length about the Local 299 violence and his alleged role in the disposal of Hoffa's body, was the guy who wanted to have me killed in 1976—after I publicly began cooperating with a federal grand jury investigation in Pittsburgh of his activities and those of his goon squad. (See my memoir, Confessions of a Guerrilla Writer.) . . . Also, the farm that the FBI searched in 2006—during which the bureau tore down and then rebuilt a barn—was owned by McMaster at the time of Hoffa's murder. . . . Despite how much grief the FBI took for that dig, it was a very legitimate operation.
In my 1978 book, *The Hoffa Wars*, I alleged that Jack Robison bombed the Interstate terminal in February 1975 for $25,000. . . . Speaking of Interstate, did you know that creep, Jack Ferris, who had targeted the company? . . . The bombing of Time DC was in a Detroit suburb. In fact, it was Jim Shaw's truck, which was heavily insured, that was bombed. After the bombing, Stan Barr, at McMaster's request, hired Shaw to drive for Gateway's steel division. . . . Incidentally, the owner of the Time DC terminal in Detroit was Don Wells—who was with McMaster and Barr when they met Tony Provenzano on the night before Hoffa's murder. . . . Also, it was Wells, serving as an FBI informant, whose information led the FBI to the 2006 dig at McMaster's farm in Wixom. At the time of Hoffa's murder, Wells and his wife lived with McMaster and his wife in a large farmhouse on the property.

* * *

Just to be clear, Robison was the explosives expert for the McMaster crew. I had source information that he did the jobs on Interstate and Time DC, as well Dave Johnson's cabin cruiser. I also alleged that McHenry and Shaw arranged the bombing of Dick Fitzsimmons union car in the parking lot at Nemo's Bar near Tiger Stadium, which was likely a diversionary action twenty days before Hoffa vanished. Also, at the time of the local 299 violence and Hoffa's disappearance, Robison, along with McHenry and Shaw, had rooms at the Leland House in downtown Detroit—which was owned, in part, by McMaster. . . . Once again, I refer you to *The Hoffa Wars*, as well as *Confessions of a Guerrilla Writer*.

* * *

Local 299 business agent George Roxburgh was indicted and convicted of extortion for taking payoffs from executives of the Interstate. . . . Later, while sitting in his car, Roxburgh was wounded in the head, arms, and chest when two shotgun blasts were fired through the windshield. "My eye actually came out of my head." Roxburgh told me during our 1977 interview.

* * *

It was 299 secretary-treasurer Otto Wendell's barn that was bombed—probably by McMaster's good squad. And it was business agent Gene Page's front porch that was bombed—again probably by McMaster's crew. . . . Wendell was found in his car, shot in the lower abdomen in December 1977. He died soon after. . . .

* * *

At the time he was shot, Roxy was in the Hoffa camp. In fact, all of the violence in Local 299 after 1973 was against Hoffa partisans. However, during the month before Hoffa's disappearance, two Fitzsimmons supporters appeared to be the victims of violent acts, Ralph Proctor and Dick Fitzsimmons. Once again, I view both as diversionary—although Proctor was having some problems with McMaster, who, according to Wells, wanted to whack Proctor.

* * *

Sheeran was a pathological liar with a series of conflicting versions of the same events—all easily proven. I don't believe that he killed Hoffa any more than I believe his other claims that he killed, among others, Joey Gallo and Sal Briguglio, who did kill Hoffa. Sheeran also claimed to have played a role in the assassination of President Kennedy.

* * *
In response to your earlier question, Rolland McMaster was the scariest person I have ever met. Truth be told, I was terrified of him. . . . And, still, I went after him for four years, 1975-1978. . . . Also, just so you know, I interviewed Frank Sheeran in March 1978.

* * *

Don Wells told me that he believes that Tony Pro was present at the scene of Hoffa's murder, that the murder took place on McMaster's farm, and that Hoffa was buried there at the farm in a pre-dug hole. . . . Wells and I went to the farm together in 2009. That's when we discovered that the FBI had dug in the wrong place. They had inverted the map that Wells, who passed a polygraph test, had sketched for them while he was in prison in 2006. . . . If that's true, I believe that the body was moved—in response to a civilian who saw too much on the day of the murder. (I have also interviewed that person.) In the end, I believe that the 55-gallon drum that contained Hoffa's body was driven to New Jersey via the Gateway truck. I believe that the Provenzano people had a need to control the body. . . .

* * *

In other words, I believe both Don Wells and Ralph Picardo.

1: LeBron James is named as SI’s 2016 Sportsperson of the Year

Living up to his already remarkable billing and making us proud, Akron’s own LeBron James has been crowned as the 2016 Sportsperson of the Year by Sports Illustrated.

November 2016

15: Announcement of DEM’s 11-22 speech at the Stark County Library

I will be speaking at the Stark County District Library in Canton, Ohio—just west of the Pro Football Hall of Fame—on Tuesday, November 22 at 6:30 P.M. Admission is free and seats are still available. Also, there will be a complimentary wine and hors d’oeuvre reception prior to the program, hosted by the great attorney, George Farris, and his fabulous wife, Debbie.

I'll offer those in attendance my view of how the Mafia has influenced American history, as well as—if asked—a fool-proof method on how to make millions of dollars by gambling on football games. However, I will also admonish the audience that, if caught, those who use this strategy will likely get whacked. . . .

This should be fun. And, of course, I always love returning home to Akron.

13: DEM: The golden age of investigative journalism

We are entering what could become the golden age of investigative journalism. . . .

Additional comments by DEM
I have been a scuffling independent investigative journalist for nearly 43 years. And I have always come up with some goddamn way to finance my work, which, to date, has yielded eight published nonfiction books—all of which have been very controversial. . . . So if I can do it—and do it safely without ever being sued for any of my books—the big boys and big girls in the mainstream media can surely find the time, the space, and the money to strike back and return fire.

* * *

Many investigative journalists are taking some time off in the aftermath of the election campaign to watch and see what develops. At the moment, it’s too easy to self-destruct from the anger and bitterness that so many are feeling. And no one wants to get killed during the first-wave of attacks on the beach. I think that most investigative reporters want to wait until the landmines and machinegun nests are cleared by the day-to-day political-beat reporters, allowing them to give their full attention and best efforts to the battles inland during the coming months.

* * *

I’m simply one of those pain-in-the-neck people who is always looking for the bright side of things. . . . But there are also a lot of us in this business who are always looking for a good fight. (I know, because I have been in a lot of ‘em.) And this has all the earmarks of being a great and noble fight for the ages. . . . I’m just an old and busted up crime reporter—a mere shell of my former self—who will likely get eaten alive by one of Steve Bannon’s Deplorables shortly after the opening round is fired. But I wouldn't miss this fight for the world.

7: Cartoon: “Please Lord, enough already”

I'm hip. . . .

6: DEM on the death of Larry Momchilov, lead detective of the Milo murder case

I have just received the sad news that Larry Momchilov, the lead detective of the Dean Milo murder case in Bath, Ohio, died today. . . . In the attached photograph from left to right are Larry, Detective Bill Lewis (also of the Summit Country Sheriff’s Office who died earlier this year), Detective Rich Munsey of the Bath Township Police (who was also involved in the Jeffrey Dahmer murder investigation), me, and Fred Zuch of the Summit County District Attorney’s Office who prosecuted those involved in Dean's murder—eleven co-conspirators in all. . . . The Milo contract killing, engineered by Dean's brother, was the subject of my 1983 book, “The Hunting of Cain: A True Story of Money, Greed, and Fratricide.” . . . God bless Larry Momchilov.

October 2016

13: DEM note to Trump: “You gotta be crazy to sue the New York Times.”

NOTE TO DONALD TRUMP: You gotta be crazy to sue the New York Times for libel. . . . Trust me.

Additional comments by DEM
Although the cowardly Trump does have a penchant for going after and pushing around the poor and the powerless. In this particular matter, my expertise is limited to suing the *New York Times* for libel, which is the only reason for my admonition after Trump threatened litigation. . . . BTW: In my particular case, it took an unprecedented moment in American jurisprudence to defeat my excellent attorney and me. We not only had a great case but we also had guts, and we proved it. Once again, I don’t think Trump has what it takes to stand up to someone bigger and tougher than he is, especially the *New York Times*, a newspaper I have always admired and respected—even in the midst of the unpleasantness between us.

12: An Open Letter to Roger Stone

(Removed from FB)

Dear Roger:

To my chagrin and even embarrassment, I am still languishing on the bench with little hope of getting back into the game, even during these final days before the election. This time around, my benefactor—you know who he is—didn’t have the stomach to go for the throat. I couldn’t be more disappointed.

Although I might be arguably crazy, I would not be stupid enough to go up against you, Steve Bannon, David Bossie, and your billionaire benefactor without someone I trust watching my back. In spite of my own remarkable record of political takedowns which rival yours, I am certainly aware that you guys could turn me into a digital grease spot in a New York minute.

As a favor, inasmuch as you are in the news today with regard to your alleged advance knowledge of the hacking of John Podesta’s email account, could you tell me 1) what you knew and when you knew it with regard to the Hillary Clinton and DNC leaks from Julian Assange and Wikileaks? 2) Do you know whether the Russians—the Putin government/intelligence operations, the oligarchs, or even the Russian Mafiya—are responsible for any of the reported hackings? 3) What is the real story behind your benefactor and the Russians? 4) And finally, what do you hope to be the end result of your team’s dangerous and still escalating scorched-earth strategy?

Meantime, our political disagreements aside, you continue to have my grudging respect for your uncanny ability to make a difference.

I hope you and your family are well.

Regards,

Dan

Additional comments by DEM


11: DEM photo of Bill Clinton and Al Gore


Everything old is new again. . . . Al Gore reunites with the Clintons today. (I took this photograph on April 23, 1994.)

10: DEM on Trump and *The Hunting of the President* by Conason and Lyons

If you really want to understand this desperate, last-ditch, dirty-tricks campaign tactic against Hillary Clinton by the cowardly and shameless bully-boy, Donald Trump, and his despicable "basket of deplorables" on and near his campaign staff—and how everything old is new again, especially about Bill Clinton—you must see the updated 2004 documentary, “The Hunting of the President,” based on the best-selling book by Joe Conason and Gene Lyons. The film, like their book, explains everything. . . . (BTW: I make a couple of brief—but riveting—appearances in the film.) . . . Please watch the trailer.

7: On Elizabeth Becker and Cambodia

The ongoing Cambodian adventure of the great Elizabeth Becker, formerly of both the Washington Post and the New York Times, continues with her latest story in the Columbia Journalism Review, which begs for a sequel to her earlier book, When the War Was Over: Cambodia and the Khmer Rouge Revolution. . . . The gods of Hollywood should get their acts together and produce a major motion picture about this very courageous woman. . . .

7: Praise for President Obama for keeping us out of the Syrian civil war, explained

God bless President Obama for keeping us from getting entrenched and overwhelmed in yet another complicated civil war with no end and no solution. . . . (Thanks to our friend, Stef Kotsonis, for the brief but illuminating explanation about Syria and ISIS, which is attached.)

Additional comments by DEM

Donald Trump's plan to destroy ISIS—regardless of what it is—will do nothing more than get a lot of American soldiers killed, along with thousands of civilians whose family members would then be radicalized by America's latest act of arrogance and bombast.

September 2016

https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=1787646111453259&amp;set=a.1406746079543266.1073741831.100006236621784&amp;type=3&amp;theater

Twenty years ago today, the great investigative journalist, Jack Tobin, “The Godfather of Mafia Reporters,” died in Los Angeles. . . . He is still remembered, honored, and missed. During my eulogy for him at his memorial service, I said: “In a world of good guys and bad guys, Jack was among the best of the good guys. He dedicated his life to doing what he called, ‘The Lord's Work’—and that was committing himself to going after the bad guys. To those of us who have committed our lives and careers to going after mob guys and labor racketeers, as well as corrupt businessmen and crooked politicians, Jack was our ‘Godfather.’

“Among other things, he taught us about the real Hollywood. And he gave us the real story about big-time sports in America, as well as his favorite subject . . . LA-based mob attorney Sidney Korshak, the principal link between the legitimate business world and organized crime.

“I am here today, representing many of those in Washington, D.C., whom Jack had influenced so dramatically, including Scott Armstrong, Dick Billings, David Burnham, Sally Denton, Jeff Goldberg, and Phil Manuel, as well as Julius Draznin of Chicago and Bill Knoedelseder in Philadelphia and those reporters and investigators from Los Angeles in the audience today: Lowell Bergman, Chris
Blatchford, Dennis McDougal, Ed Guthman, the great Pete Noyes, Marty Philpot, Dave Robb, Ruth Ashton-Taylor, and Warren Welsh, along with Dick Brennan and Kristina Rebelo who are also here on the West Coast.

“All of us have not only lost a good friend. We have lost a member of our family. If those of us who are investigative journalists needed a police contact for one of our stories, Jack got him for us. If we needed a secret file, Jack would get it for us—although there was a good chance he already had it in his office. If we needed advice about strategy, Jack would drop everything to give it to us. If we were in the midst of a dispute, Jack would jump in and make the peace. If we had a personal problem, Jack was always there for us.

“Jack not only had the Right Stuff; he was the Right Stuff.”

(Below: A 1990 photograph of Jack Tobin and his lovely wife, Virginia, who died in 2009. Their son, Tim, and his wife, Donna, are still and will always be great friends of ours, too. . . . Notably, Guthman, Noyes, and Welsh also delivered their own eulogies.)

Additional comments by DEM

Jack was also the co-author of *They Call Me Coach*, the autobiography of legendary UCLA basketball coach John Wooden, whom I once met when we simultaneously visited Jack at UCLA’s medical center during Jack’s first bout with cancer. . . . Meeting Coach Wooden was one of the big moments my life.

10: Hillary Clinton and the “basket of deplorables”

Hillary Clinton continues her hardline stand against Donald Trump’s right-wing extremists, aka a “basket of deplorables.” In fact, she’s telling it like it is. . . . This is the narrative that many of us have been waiting for. And, despite all the grief she’s taking at the moment, this is the narrative that will win her the Presidency. . . . (Note: After I put this up: Hillary Clinton issued a statement, saying that she regrets saying that “half” of Trump’s supporters fell in the “basket of deplorables.” However, she continues to stand by and defend the existence of Trump’s “basket of deplorables.”)

Additional comments by DEM

Some of the “deplorables” are pretty simple to identify. . . . Show me a guy with a confederate flag and a gun rack on the back window of his pick-up truck, and I will show you a deplorable supporter of Donald Trump. . . Or show me a person who is against a woman’s right to choose because life is sacred but supports capital punishment because it’s a deterrent to crime, and I will show you a deplorable supporter of Donald Trump.

*   *   *

Show me a Christian right, Moral Majority “patriot” who will never forgive Bill Clinton for lying to the public about sex with Monica Lewinsky, but lavishes nothing but praise on and forgiveness for the provably dishonest, openly philandering, thrice-married Donald Trump, and I will show you one of his deplorable supporters. . . .

*   *   *

Show me a person who gets most if not all of his/her news from Fox News, the shameless whorehouse of American journalism, which has repeatedly, falsely, and unfairly smeared and even defamed both President Obama and Hillary Clinton 24-7 for years, and I will show you a deplorable supporter of Donald Trump.
More people should credit Hillary Clinton for keeping her family together after the Lewinsky drama. She remained loyal to her husband. Then she was faithful to President Obama, who defeated her in the 2008 race for the Democratic nomination for President. . . . This is a woman of great character and, yes, integrity. I completely trust her.

7: The death of Bob Timburg

Sad news. . . . Our friend and colleague, Vietnam combat veteran and respected journalist Bob Timberg, a long-time member of our Authors Dinner Group, has died. Here’s the New York Times review of his wonderful 2014 memoir, “Blue-Eyed Boy.” . . . God bless Bob. who was a great guy and an outstanding reporter.

5: Labor Day-2016 and the upcoming election with a Thomas Cole painting

AMERICA ON LABOR DAY 2016. . . . is bracing for the breathtaking and mind-numbing carnage that is about to occur, leading to the finale of the general-election campaign on November 8. We are about to witness the motherlode of scorched-earth politics, led by a ferocious Murderers’ Row of shameless opposition-research specialists who will show no mercy and will never relent. . . . Cynically trying to increase their ratings and subscriptions by turning the campaign into a perpetual horse race, the media organizations will not only enable this conflict, but they will be complicit. And in the aftermath, we will all have been entertained, but we will also be diminished. . . . (With apologies to Thomas Cole and his artwork from the series, “The Voyage of Life.”)

Additional comments by DEM

The only person who stands between us and the abyss of right-wing extremism is Hillary Clinton. . . . It's time for all of us to fight to prevent the complete and total right-wing takeover of all three branches of the United States Government. Bottomline, that is what this is all about.

* * *

Cornered and wounded in the aftermath of the release of the Access Hollywood tape, Donald Trump, drawing from the anti-Clinton playbooks of Roger Stone/David Bossie, will morph into a suicide bomber and detonate during the debate with Hillary Clinton on Sunday night.

* * *

Thanks to the Russians, Wikileaks, and the FBI, the cynical media organizations now have their horse race as both Presidential candidates spend millions more than expected on campaign ads. . . .

* * *

From the Philadelphia Inquirer on Labor Day 2017 . . .
Yes, Virginia. I once had a full head of hair. And I’m considering a trip to Lourdes, hoping to get it back. . . . (1972, senior year, University of Akron. . . . Photo credit: Bob Wilkey)

26: DEM in 1972, senior year, University of Akron

**Why I trust and believe in Bill and Hillary Clinton**

Why I trust and believe in Bill and Hillary Clinton, both of whom I have investigated (From my 2013 memoir, *Confessions of a Guerrilla Writer*, page 429):

“As Bill Clinton took the oath of office in January 1993, the conservative Clinton-haters and heat-seeking media muckrakers were forced to regroup and refocus their attack. It was clear from the outset that Clinton would be held to standards of behavior that had never been applied to any other President while his enemies seemed prepared to blame him for anything and everything.

“Yet, Clinton had already established a record of frustrating his political foes because of their own inability to ask the right questions. Consequently—whether the issue was the President’s personal sex life, the draft, or smoking marijuana—the Clinton haters always tried to place him in a perpetual no-win situation, accusing him of not telling the full truth in response to their imprecise questions, earmarked for Clinton to self-destruct when he tried to answer them.

“But, simply speaking, Clinton refused to commit political suicide and mostly remained technically truthful when confronted with personal questions, which always infuriated his political detractors.”

**Additional comments by DEM**

Just because you don’t tell the full truth doesn’t necessarily mean that you’re telling a lie. Ask anyone who has taken a deposition or testified in court. When being questioned by an attorney who is trying to destroy you—which is the ongoing dilemma that the Clintons have faced—Rule #1 is that you truthfully answer the questions that are asked. If you are specifically asked a question about something in the present, you are not required to expand your answer to what has happened in the past—unless you are specifically asked. . . . The Clintons have always remained truthful, especially when testifying under oath.

*   *   *

I stand by what I wrote—nuances and all, which includes any and all necessary legal maneuvers. If Bill or Hillary Clinton had actually committed perjury, you knuckle draggers on the right would have made sure that they were prosecuted. . . . Also, please remember that President Clinton was acquitted on all counts, including perjury, in the aftermath of the 1999 Senate trial in the wake of his impeachment. . . . If Hillary Clinton is held in contempt of Congress by the provably biased and partisan U.S. House Benghazi Committee, she will wear that distinction like a badge of honor. In fact, the *New York Times*, which ferreted out that witch-hunt months ago, will pin it on her.

**July 2016**
31: Honoring C.P. Chima

World War II hero C.P. Chima (1918-2016), left, with my Dad (1918-1983) during a chance encounter in London in 1944. . . . just a couple of American/Romanian boys and childhood friends from Firestone Park and Garfield High School in Akron, Ohio. . . . No doubt, they are back together today, playing morning baseball in perfect weather, followed by an afternoon round of golf, and then a big steak dinner before tonight’s poker game with all of their friends who will be toasting C.P.’s arrival.

28: Charges against Chandra Levy’s convicted killer are dropped

I investigated this bizarre Chandra Levy-murder caper for CBS News in 2001. . . My opinion? From the outset, I never believed that this guy did it. . . .

23: Promoting David Cay Johnston’s book about Donald Trump

This should be a very big book. . . . On August 2, Pulitzer Prize winning investigative journalist David Cay Johnston—the world’s expert on Donald Trump (along with the great Wayne Barrett)—will be releasing “The Making of Donald Trump.” . . .

17: Dinner with Bruce Onobrakpeya

Last night, we had dinner with one of Africa’s greatest contemporary artists, the legendary 83-year-old Bruce Onobrakpeya. Here’s a photograph I took of him, as well as one his most memorable works.

13: On the 20th anniversary of the death of Carl Shoffler

Twenty years ago today, 51-year-old MPD Detective Carl Shoffler—the arresting officer of the Watergate burglars—died. I was with him and his family at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore at the moment he took his last breath. I also delivered one of the five eulogies at his funeral. . . . When Carl, an intelligence specialist who has been the target of numerous bogus conspiracy theories, retired from the MPD in 1989, he received three gold shields. He gave one to his father and another to his son. He gave the third, pictured here, to me. He was like a big brother. . . . God bless Carl, a friend to all journalists and one of the best Mafia hunters the law-enforcement community has ever produced.

Additional comments by DEM

Actually, Mimi and I were in Milan when we received the news that Carl was critically ill. We cut our trip short and returned to the U.S. . . . When I arrived home from the airport, I immediately drove to the hospital in Baltimore and went to the ICU where I saw Carl's wife, Helen. She took me by the hand and led me into his stall where his entire family was present, along with another detective, Tony Morris. Even though Carl was unconscious, she whispered to him that I was there. He died about twenty minutes later. . . . I felt so honored to have witnessed the death of this great man.

* * *
Carl was a great networker. His remarkable assortment of legitimate and not-so-legitimate contacts and associates resembled the bar scene in Star Wars. In fact, he put a lot of us together for the ultimate purpose of defeating "the bad guys." . . . After Carl’s death in 1996, we created the “Shoffler Brunch” which is still held twice a year—an anthology of cops, spooks, and scribblers, all of whom knew Carl and were beneficiaries of his remarkable wit and wisdom.

June 2016

29: NYT and Herb Mitgang on the attempted suppression of The Hoffa Wars

38 years ago today, the New York Times and its top literary critic, Herbert Mitgang, gave birth to me as an author in the aftermath of a blatant but failed attempt to suppress my first book. . . . Here’s my birth certificate. . . .

Additional comments by DEM

“[T]he attempted delay of the Moldea book was one of the first examples of [the] possible loss of independence—with implicit censorship—where there is conflict on a controversial nonfiction book.” (Herbert Mitgang)

* * *

Just to be clear, the battle between the author of the S&S book and me quickly became a dogfight, especially in the wake of S&S’s attempted intimidation campaign against me. . . . Notably, the Book of the Month Club had its choice between both books, and it picked mine. Playboy magazine had a choice between the two books for a major excerpt, and it picked mine. And the New York Times had the choice between both books for U.S.-syndication rights, and it picked mine. . . . In short, I have always refused to play second banana to anyone on the Hoffa case without a fight.

* * *

Dick Snyder played a real hands-on role in the dogfight. I had a source at S&S back then who told me that Snyder took Mitgang’s article in the NYT very personally—especially since it was so favorable to me. . . . Trying to bury me right out of the gate, Snyder and S&S falsely declared that their book had solved the Hoffa case and pinpointed the location of the disposal of Hoffa’s body—a theory that was immediately and completely rejected by the FBI upon the release of their book.

* * *

At a U.S. Senate hearing organized by the Authors Guild—“Concentration in the Book-Publishing and Bookselling Industry”—I was invited to testify before the Senate’s antitrust subcommittee about the attempted suppression of The Hoffa Wars. The chairman of the subcommittee was Senator Howard Metzenbaum (D-Ohio). Attached is the full transcript of that hearing. My testimony begins on page 14.

23: DEM on John Lewis and the anti-gun protest in the U.S. House
God bless Congressman John Lewis. . . Before I became a full-time independent writer and investigator, my last formal job was at ACTION, the federal volunteer agency, during the final year of the Carter Administration. I was the executive assistant to the great Mary King, the Deputy Director of ACTION who was a SNCC activist prior to the purge. "The living saint," John Lewis, was ACTION’s Associate Director for Domestic Operations, and he asked me to write a few speeches for him the year before he ran for Atlanta City Council. It is one of the great honors of my life to have served him. . . . One thing that John taught me was that there is a time to step on the gas, and there is a time to apply the brakes. . . . With Representative Lewis front and center in the Congressional battle to bring about common-sense gun laws, I am betting that he has decided that it’s time to step on the gas. And between now and November, I am hoping that the Democrats will follow his lead on all such noble issues.

Additional comments by DEM

Speaking of my year at ACTION, I gotta pay my respects to the woman who introduced me to John Lewis, my former boss, Mary King, who is at a refugee camp in Thailand in this picture. As part of our job, we helped relocate Vietnamese refugees in the United States. . . . Another noble cause, it was a privilege to do so.

* * *

By trashing John Lewis, Trump continues to disgrace the presidency. . . .


18: Release of Evidence Dismissed eBook


May 2016

7: DEM: “If Trump, the GOP, and Fox News want another showdown on the issue of morality . . .”


If Donald Trump, the GOP, and Fox News want another showdown on the issue of morality, then we'll be happy to give it to 'em again—just as when we kicked their asses during the impeachment drama. . . .

In his best-selling business book, “Damage Control,” author Eric Dezenhall, a well-known conservative and arguably the best crisis manager in America, stated: “The Republicans' worst nightmare came when Flynt retained investigative reporter Dan E. Moldea, who had been standing up to Mafia kingpins, assassins, and corrupt union bosses for decades. Moldea . . . proceeded to systematically expose the sex lives of Republican congressional leaders on the grounds that they were not qualified to judge [President] Clinton's morality. Regardless of where one stands on the political spectrum and the techniques employed on both sides of the Clinton wars, one thing soon became clear: The strategy worked.”

Additional comments by DEM
We're just a bunch of sinners who go after those who pretend to be sinless while they take the moral high ground against others.

* * *

In my opinion, Roger Stone has had more influence on Donald Trump than anyone in politics. And Roger is arguably the fiercest and most dangerous opposition-research specialist in the country. . . . Anyone who takes Roger lightly does so at their own peril. Truth be told, I have a grudging respect for him.

* * *

Roger Stone revels in attacks against him from The Left. So he should be particularly pleased with this latest assault today from Media Matters, a progressive research-oriented organization founded by David Brock—the repentant, ex-right-wing hitman who came into the light several years ago and, along with the great Sid Blumenthal, became one of the top Archangels protecting Hillary Clinton from all of the reckless and malicious right-wing attacks against her.

* * *

I just can't believe that the American public is so self-destructive and delusional that it would elect that fool. There just aren't enough angry white guys out there to pull it off.

* * *

Let the flakes on the Jello Left—as well as their intractable nihilist-soulmates at Occupy Wall Street and MoveOn.org—sit out the election. To hell with them. Centrist-progressive Hillary Clinton has to get back to the center before bully-boy Trump seizes it with his shameless lies and misrepresentations. That's where the votes are and where the election will be won or lost.

5: DEM and Jonetta Barras on Ethelbert Miller’s radio show

This morning, I was reunited with my young and treasured friend, the widely admired and respected author, journalist, and social activist, Jonetta Rose Barras. We appeared together on the WPFW-FM radio show, “On the Margin,” which is hosted by our long-time friend and brother, the legendary Ethelbert Miller. . . . Congratulations, Jonetta, for your selection into the Hall of Fame of the D.C. Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists, along with Bill Plante of CBS News and Elizabeth Drew of the New Yorker. . . . (Photo credit: Ethelbert)

April 2016

26: Neither Hillary nor the GOP have cause to attack vulnerable Bernie Sanders—yet

Crusty but loveable, the unvetted and Teflon-coated Bernie Sanders is enjoying the best of all worlds. . . . The Republicans, who have an opposition-research arsenal capable of badly tarnishing his halo, want nothing more than to run against Bernie—whom even Carly Fiorina could beat in a general election. Thus, Fox News gives Bernie a pass—while it swiftboats Hillary 24-7. . . . CNN and MSNBC desperately need a close contest within the Democratic Party in order for these flailing networks to stay financially afloat, so they love-bomb Bernie, too—while attacking Hillary throughout most of the day. . . . Simultaneously,
Hillary's opposition-research machine has stood down from the outset, refusing to attack Bernie for fear of jeopardizing party unity after the Democratic convention. . . . Meantime, Independent Bernie—who has absolutely nothing to lose—has been throwing roundhouse punches at Hillary, most of which are foul and below the belt, and complaining about "super-delegates," created by the Democratic Party as a firewall against bomb-throwing insurgents who promise everything but deliver nothing. . . . All the while, the intractable Jello Left stands by nodding their heads in agreement with Bernie’s loose and irresponsible talk about a "revolution" they have no idea how to conduct against white men with guns and concealed-carry permits. . . . Truth be told, Hillary Clinton has been and remains the only person who stands between us and the abyss of right-wing extremism. . . . Note to my friends in Bernie’s camp: "It’s been fun. You’ve been great. But your candidate is losing a lot of respect because of his unfair and unwarranted attacks against Hillary Clinton.”

Additional comments by DEM

Am I biased in favor of Hillary Clinton? Absolutely. I’ve always been very open about that. But please give me some credit, because I have some standing here, as well as a legitimate basis for my strong opinions. . . . In 1998—in the midst of the road-to-impeachment drama—I published a widely praised book about the suicide of Vincent Foster, in which I detailed, in part, how traditional progressives turned against Hillary Clinton, based on nothing more than the media’s misrepresentations of supposed facts that turned out to be nothing but gross misrepresentations and flat-out lies about the circumstances of Foster’s death. . . . The same thing is happening during her Presidential campaign in 2016—but now they call it “swiftboating,” which is what the GOP did to John Kerry in 2004. The sad thing is that it’s a shameless tactic that has now been adopted by some Jello Left supporters of Bernie Sanders—and even by the candidate himself.

*   *   *

"Nobody is being unfair to Hillary"? . . . We’ll have to agree to disagree on that one. . . . I guess you guys in Bernieland can do another Nader thing and, in effect, turn the keys to the government back over to the whack jobs in the GOP. . . . Your colleague, the actress Susan Sarandon, another Hillary hater, believes that will bring "the revolution" earlier—yet another example of a rich Bernie supporter calling for a battle that the poor and the powerless will have to fight while Susan sits in the comfort of her country estate, reading scripts.

*   *   *

A vote for the good and decent but wholly unvetted and vulnerable Bernie Sanders is a vote for the GOP to take over all three branches of government. . . . The Democratic Party will not allow that to happen. An insurgent independent will not be the Democrats’ nominee.

15: DEM reveals that reporters from the NYT and Fox News are on the DC Madam’s lists

Some of my colleagues in journalism are criticizing me, because I’ve advised attorney Blair Sibley to destroy the DC Madam’s phone list, aka Pandora’s Box. . . . My response? Among other untold dilemmas, there is a Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter from the New York Times on the actual named list, who was not a hypocrite and doesn’t deserve exposure. On the other hand, there is another reporter from Fox News, whose home phone number appears on a separate list and who deserves further scrutiny because of his shameless hypocrisy. . . . Unless the hypocrites on the lists can somehow be segregated from the non-hypocrites—especially those who are non-public figures—I continue to appeal to Blair Sibley to destroy the phone records and not violate the federal restraining order. Once again, releasing them would not be in the public interest.

Additional comments by DEM
On Sunday, December 20, 1998—the day after my investigation led to the resignation of U.S. House Speaker-Designate Bob Livingston, just minutes before the impeachment of President Clinton—Maureen Dowd of the New York Times wrote: “Ordinarily one would feel sorry for Mr. Livingston. But the Republicans have brought this sexual doomsday machine on themselves by focusing so single-mindedly on Mr. Clinton’s sex life.”... The same is already true of Campaign 2016 where GOP hypocrisy is front and center.

* * *

My discovery of US Senator David Vitter’s phone number on the DC Madam’s list in July 2007 was part of an intensive three-day search—during which time I came up with my own list of hundreds of clients and escorts, mostly in and around the DC metro area. Almost without exception, these were private, non-public people... In my particular case, I publicly exposed Senator Vitter, a provable hypocrite, but then took the other names and fed them into my shredder. I had no intention to interfere with their lives... in the past, now, or in the future. My team’s only goal was to expose hypocrisy, not to destroy the lives of those who didn’t deserve to be destroyed. ... The wholesale release of the existing DC Madam’s phone lists will do little more than destroy lives.

* * *

Before I destroyed the phone list that Jeane gave me, I did use it in one instance: Through a mutual friend, I cautioned a top member of President-elect Obama’s transition team in 2008 that a cabinet appointment they were publicly considering could be a source of embarrassment—because the potential nominee was named in the DC Madam’s phone records. In the end, the appointment was not made... After I disclosed this episode on page 590 of my memoir, Confessions of a Guerrilla Writer” I also received criticism from some of my friends in journalism for that, too. They insisted that my role as a journalist was to allow the appointment to be made—and to blow everything up with an expose which would have given the new President a black eye from the outset... As I’m fond of saying, “I’m just a grunt crime reporter,” who focuses on true-crime books and stories. But when it comes to politics—a beat I do not cover professionally—I take sides, and I am very open about it.

11: DEM advice to Blair Sibley, arguing against the release of the files

Here's my expert advice to Blair Sibley, former attorney for the DC Madam, with regard to his anticipated release of her phone records: 1) Don’t violate the restraining order and place yourself at risk for a contempt charge and imprisonment; 2) Don’t destroy the lives of those non-public figures who are on the Verizon-815 list and have not demonstrated moral hypocrisy; and 3) If you do indeed have whack-job Ted Cruz on one of your lists—as many have already speculated—then don’t allow bully-boy Donald Trump to be the beneficiary of your decision. The pragmatic Trump is far more dangerous than the ideologue Cruz, who has absolutely no chance to win a national election... My advice?: Destroy the Verizon-815 list, which is what I did with the copy that the DC Madam gave me. Releasing it would not be in the public interest...

Additional comments by DEM

Gentlemen, I remember a thing or two about that Verizon document with the list of 815 identified subscribers who were Jeane's alleged clients... This is very, very dangerous—and, once again, releasing it would not be in the public interest.

* * *

It's not like you can pick and choose what to reveal. As I recall, there are something like 60-75 subscribers on each page of the Verizon-815 list. Those few people—if there are any—who might deserve exposure for their hypocrisy are listed in the midst of the vast majority of people who are...
not public figures and, in my opinion, should only be held accountable to their spouses—not to their friends, colleagues, and neighbors, as well as to the general public.

* * *

Just to be clear, that was why I destroyed the Verizon-815 list that Jeane Palfrey gave me in 2007, as well as the list I collected during the impeachment battle in 1998-1999. I simply refuse to interfere with the lives of private citizens. And I only target those political hypocrites who have conflicting standards of private behavior for public officials—one standard for themselves and another for everyone else.

* * *

Some of the numbers were to and/or from the general numbers of a variety of government agencies, businesses, and other institutions. In most cases, there is no way to determine from whom or to whom, specifically—at least on the Verizon-815 list. . . . What Blair is holding back are the specific names of individuals, aka Verizon subscribers, who called from their home or cell-phone numbers, which were identified by Verizon, under subpoena. . . . That is what I am suggesting that he shouldn't disclose—and why he should destroy the entire list.

* * *

Before I destroyed the list that Jeane gave me, I did use it in one instance: Through a mutual friend, I warned a top member of the President-elect's transition team in 2008 that a cabinet appointment they were publicly considering could be a source of embarrassment—because the potential nominee was named in the DC Madam's phone records. The appointment was not made. . . . I disclosed this matter on page 590 of my memoir, Confessions of a Guerrilla Writer. . . . With regard to Blair, I don't believe that he is actively supporting any of the Presidential candidates.

* * *

Obviously, I know a little more about the DC Madam list than I am revealing here. But, to me, this is a no-brainer—not even a close call. The release of this list would do nothing more than destroy non-public people who, after all of these years, do not deserve to be destroyed.

6: DEM supports whack job Cruz over bully-boy Trump

Who is the beneficiary if Ted Cruz is brought down and defeated? It will be Donald Trump, an arrogant and vindictive man. I don’t want to see Trump, a bully-boy who is capable of dragging everyone around him into the sewer, get the nomination. . . . So, just as the GOP is praying that they will be running against Bernie Sanders in the general election, I am hoping that the Democrats run against Ted Cruz, a complete and total ideological whack job who is an object of political disdain, even among his Republican colleagues in the U.S. Senate. . . . For a Democrat and a Hillary Clinton supporter, Ted Cruz is the dream-come-true Republican Presidential candidate. . . Go Ted!

Additional comments by DEM

The Democrats would flour and fry Paul Ryan. He was a bad vice-presidential candidate in 2012. He will be a worse candidate for President. . . . I do not fear the Republicans. I only fear the Democrats' remarkable proclivity to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory.
A top reason for the success of Bernie Sanders is that one of the Senator’s top people is Gouta’s son, Nick Carter, his National Deputy Political Outreach Director. Nick is a much beloved and respected character in this ongoing Campaign 2016 drama—even among those of us who support Hillary Clinton. . . . Gouta and her husband, Joseph, are two of our best friends. . . . Inasmuch as all four of us are long-time residents of Washington, D.C., we understand how the game works—and should work: We might feel strongly about our politics, but we will never allow our politics to jeopardize our friendships.

2: My lunch with Blair Sibley

I have just returned from lunch with Montgomery Blair Sibley, the former attorney for the DC Madam, at Café Deluxe in Washington. Overwhelmed by everything that is happening—thanks to Rachel Maddow on MSNBC in particular—he wisely continues to keep his cards close to his chest. . . . He wanted this picture taken and put on FB and Twitter, but I simply couldn't stop him from holding my action-packed memoir in which I discussed him and the tragic Jeane Palfrey, the DC Madam, in chapters 140-145. . . . Good luck with whatever the hell you're doing, Blair. And God bless Jeane.

Additional comments by DEM

I'd like to repeat something I've been saying: Over the years, numerous people have asked what I did with those I identified during my reverse-phone-number searches while going through the DC Madam’s phone lists—other than U.S. Senator David Vitter, whom I revealed. Specifically, in Confessions of a Guerrilla Writer, I declared: “Of the hundreds of other names I came up with—men who were not public figures—I took all of my research about them and fed it into my shredder. I had no interest in interfering with any of their lives.” . . . Just to be clear, my work in this sordid area, especially during the impeachment drama in 1998-1999, has always revolved around exposing hypocrisy, people with conflicting standards of private behavior for public officials—one standard for them and another for everyone else. Evidence collected which goes contrary to that, as far as I’m concerned, has been or will be destroyed. . . . That was true back then, and that is still true now.

* * *

Legal or moral considerations aside, the problem with the wholesale release of the names that have been or can be derived from the DC Madam’s lists is that a lot of people—both escorts and clients who will likely appear on those lists—could be badly hurt and even destroyed. . . . No doubt, the hypocrites should be exposed, but the others should be shielded from such exposure.

1: Montgomery Blair Sibley’s charges

I have no idea how the renewed D.C. Madam drama is going to unfold during the next few days—featuring the real or imagined claims of her attorney, Montgomery Blair Sibley, which were heavily touted by Rachel Maddow the other night. But if you want to know 1) the inside story about the D.C. Madam case, 2) the book I was writing with her prior to her tragic death, 3) the saga of the infamous phone records, and 4) how I exposed Senator David Vitter (R-LA), then feel free to read all about it in chapters 140-145 of my action-packed memoir, Confessions of a Guerrilla Writer: Adventures in the Jungles of Crime, Politics, and Journalism. . . .

Additional comments by DEM

Over the years, numerous people have asked what I did with those I identified during my reverse-phone-number searches while going through the DC Madam’s phone lists—other than U.S. Senator David Vitter, whom I revealed. In Confessions of a Guerrilla Writer, I declared: “Of the
hundreds of other names I came up with—men who were not public figures—I took all of my research about them and fed it into my shredder. I had no interest in interfering with any of their lives.” . . . Just to be clear, my work in this sordid area, especially during the impeachment drama in 1998-1999, has always revolved around exposing hypocrisy, people with conflicting standards of private behavior for public officials—one standard for them and another for everyone else. Evidence collected which goes contrary to that, as far as I’m concerned, has been or will be destroyed. . . . That was true back then, and that is still true now.

* * *

Legal or moral considerations aside, the problem with the wholesale release of the names that have been or can be derived from the DC Madam’s lists is that a lot of people—both escorts and clients who will likely appear on those lists—could be badly hurt and even destroyed. . . . No doubt, the hypocrites should be exposed, but the others should be shielded from such exposure.

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**March 2016**

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**15: DEM criticism of MoveOn and Black Lives Matter for their protests against Trump**


What the hell is wrong with the leadership at MoveOn.org, Black Lives Matter, and all of the others who appear to be trying to disrupt Donald Trump’s campaign rallies while the Republican Party is in the midst of a bitter, full-throated meltdown? Sabotaging their own best interests, the protesters are doing nothing more than giving the opposition—which is at war with itself—a desperately needed distraction, as well as a degree of common cause and a reason to unify. Trust me, most Republicans hate Black Lives Matter a lot more than they dread the prospect of Trump becoming their Presidential nominee. . . . MoveOn, the new intractable Tea Party of the intolerant Jello Left, is doing great damage to progressives with its undisciplined and even dangerous tactics which are playing right into the hands of knuckle-dragging right-wing extremists, many of whom are itching for violent confrontations.

Dudes, as the GOP civil war rages on, just get out the way and let Donald Trump and the others talk. The more they talk, the more votes they will lose in the November election.

**Additional comments by DEM**

I’m hip to the sad reality that the Jello Left has a proclivity to self-destruct. But it is heartbreaking to watch, because they are putting so much at risk—just as they did when they sold out President Obama during the 2014 mid-term elections, allowing the extreme right to run roughshod over him.

* * *

Just as I am opposed to stupid wars, I am also opposed to stupid protests which serve absolutely no purpose other than to unify those who are the targets of those same protests. . . . I am really upset about this.

* * *

People are insisting that we have to physically stand up to Donald Trump? Why? The public is perfectly capable of disposing with people like this during a general-election campaign and finally
at the ballot box in November. Like his Fox News bitch, Bill O’Reilly, Donald Trump is just Lonesome Rhodes in a $3,000 suit.

* * *

The behavior of that protester who jumped on stage in his silly effort to grab the microphone while other protesters cheered for him before Trump arrived at that particular rally was very destructive. It was a bad scene and a horrible visual. . . . It was amateur hour, making the entire protest appear as a bunch of anarchists who were demanding their right to free speech while trying to limit Trump’s own ability to speak. And, in the aftermath, Trump has been riding that theme “like Zorro.” He is actually getting sympathy from people in his own party who have already said they want nothing to do with him. . . . All I’m saying is that there are better, more effective ways to handle these protests.

* * *

As you know, I am no shrinking violet. I am always ready to get involved in a political brawl. In fact, I was a key behind-the-scenes player in arguably the biggest and baddest political battle of our lifetime: the impeachment and trial of President Bill Clinton. Among other things, my work forced the resignation of the Speaker of the House on the same day as the impeachment vote. . . . All I’m saying is that I prefer peaceful protests—the Jesus-Gandhi-Martin Luther King versions—as opposed to sending a handful of loud protesters into a crowded hall of thousands of angry Trump supporters. That is a game plan for disaster. . . . To me—a work-within-the-system kind of guy—this is an easy call: No one has to be beaten up or killed in order to eliminate Donald Trump from the political scene. Peaceful protests and the electoral process, which have served us well, will handle this asshole.

* * *

Neither Richard Cohen nor The Nation deals with the 800-pound gorilla in the room—the fact that the Republicans are in the midst of a bitter and divisive civil war. That is an important variable in the overall equation. As I wrote above, the protests are and will continue to have a rallying and unifying effect on the GOP. . . . When your opponent is in the midst of self-destructing, get out of the way and let ‘em do what they have to do.

* * *

At this very moment, Marco Rubio is announcing the suspension of his campaign. Even with Trump still in the race, I am very optimistic about the future. . . . Sadly, I have a ton of opposition research on Rubio which I am going to feed into the shredder later tonight.

* * *

A note to the assholes who are leading MoveOn.org and Black Lives Matter, et al. . . . Your irresponsible actions have led to the violence against conservatives who are already in the midst of self-destructing on their own without your help. . . . Get your damn people under control. You are making every progressive look bad. . . .

* * *

As Hillary Clinton proved yesterday in her widely praised deconstruction of Donald Trump’s supposed foreign policy, the more he talks, the more votes he loses. So let this guy talk. Stop the disruptions . . .

3: Political hate speech by Donald Trump and Fox News and the threat of violence
An opinion from a grunt crime reporter. . . . I fear that it’s 1968 again. More often than not, the kind of hate speech we are now hearing from people like Donald Trump will have horrible consequences by breeding and encouraging violence: Somebody could get killed. . . . To me, this monstrous situation has been exacerbated by the gods at Fox News, who for years have been both relentless and shameless by ratcheting up the hatred against President Obama, among other targets, with their mindless speculations, half-baked opinions, and poorly sourced facts, which have done nothing more than embolden and incite right-wing extremism. . . . We are, once again, in the midst of very dangerous times, and the extremists have guns—which, in many jurisdictions, they are now permitted to carry. . . . Tread carefully, my friends and colleagues.

Additional comments by DEM

Frankly, I don’t want to see the GOP destroyed in the aftermath of its ongoing civil war. I support the two-party system. But I would like to see the extreme right of the GOP declawed. . . . And I want to see Fox News exposed as the criminal enterprise that it is and has always been.

* * *

Although I am a rabid Hillary Clinton supporter, I have always admired and respected Bernie Sanders. However, it drives me crazy when Senator Sanders throws around the word, “revolution.” Of course, he is talking about a political revolution of ideas, for general fairness, and in support of necessary government reforms, among other things. . . . Notably, there are other people out there—with guns—who don’t share the Senator’s enthusiasm for a peaceful revolution in America.

* * *

"Boring and predictable?" Don't be too high-handed with Hillary Clinton. As a prominent attorney from Yale, she was one of the best-known advocates in the country for many years on issues involving women and children. After she served as the First Lady of Arkansas, she became the First Lady of the United States during her husband's two terms as President. In her own right, she was a two-term U.S. Senator who was widely praised by both political parties for her hard work and impressive accomplishments. And after her unsuccessful bid for President in 2008, the person who defeated her then named her as Secretary of State. . . . We would be hard pressed to find anyone more qualified for U.S. President than Hillary Clinton.

* * *

And now the shameless Donald Trump appears to be advocating that someone who supports the Second Amendment should go out and shoot Hillary Clinton. . . . . His supporters must be very proud. . . .

* * *

I wonder how many more second chances and opportunities "to reset" he will receive before he's treated like any other candidate who is simply unqualified for this very complicated job.

* * *

Using Twitter, our dangerously unhinged president is now clearly trying to incite violence against the news media, which is in the midst of exposing the alleged crimes committed by him and his stooges in and out of the White House. . . . The desperate call by his basket of deplorables for an investigation of press "leaks" from the intelligence community is obviously nothing but a smokescreen. . . .
If politics were a religion, I would have been judged a heretic a long time ago. I'm still a centrist, and I still love Hillary Clinton—although I now want her to be gone from electoral politics. I'm tired of worrying about her. . . . After the malicious and reckless 25-year smear campaign she has suffered through, I just want her to be happy now. (February 19, 2017)

Aaron Blake of the Washington Post writes that it is “laughable” that The Liar President has not been promoting violence against his personal enemies. . . . And he’s right. https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2017/06/29/sarah-huckabee-sanders-says-trump-has-never-encouraged-any-form-of-violence-she-is-very-wrong/?utm_term=.c3942d91bf0d&wpisrc=nl_evening&wpmm=1 (June 29 2017)

Trump now appears to be advocating violence against the press. . . . A lot of us are taking this very seriously. http://thehill.com/homenews/administration/340417-trump-takes-down-cnn-in-mock-wrestling-video


February 2016

29: Kaye Davis’s Mother’s memoir about World War II

THIS IS GOOD. . . . 91-year-old Maria Marien Mullanly has released her action-packed memoir, “My Journey Through World War II, which details her family’s harrowing escape from a suburb of Antwerp, Belgium, during the spring of 1940. Just fourteen at the time and in the midst of horrendous bombing raids by German pilots, Maria Marien accompanied her parents and three siblings as they crossed the River Scheldt into France. By the next day, they made it to Dunkirk where Allied soldiers fought a withering battle against the invading German army. Surviving Dunkirk and after the king of Belgium surrendered to Hitler, Maria and her family made their way to London, the location of Belgium’s new government-in-exile.

“On September 7, 1940, German planes filled the skies,” Maria writes on page 41. “Bombs suddenly began exploding all around us. It was the beginning of the London Blitz. . . . We heard the sirens going off, and
we went to the air raid shelter in the back yard. Everybody had their own raid shelters. The government
came and put them in for you. They were small, corrugated metal huts, dug into the ground and covered
with sandbags. . . . We slept on the floor—although it was impossible to sleep through the noise and the
fear. That’s when I started doing a lot of handiwork. I took my embroidery with me and worked on it by
candlelight to calm my nerves.”

In the midst of all of the violence and death around her, young Maria, who became separated from her
family, managed to carve out a life, including her 1944 marriage to an American intelligence officer based
in Paris, William Mullally, two months after D-Day, which they hoped signaled the imminent end of the
war. However, the Germans desperately rallied, bringing about even more killings and tragedy.

The members of Marien family found each other shortly after V-E Day in May 1945. And Maria and Bill
Mullally were reunited shortly thereafter. Bill brought his new wife back to the U.S. where he studied at the
University of Minnesota and became a prominent dentist, based in Grand Forks, North Dakota. They had
three children of their own, one of whom, Kaye Mary Davis, is the wife of Robert N. Davis, my first and
most treasured mentor in Akron, Ohio.

12: DEM’s afternoon with Dick Gregory

This afternoon, I ran into civil-rights activist Dick Gregory, who gave a wonderful speech in 1971 at my
school, the University of Akron, which literally changed my life in the aftermath of the 1970 shootings at
nearby Kent State. I felt so honored to meet him. . . . After we talked for a few minutes about our mutual
friends and interests, he asked me to have coffee with him.

Alternatively, I invited him to The Clubhouse, our local hangout for journalists and investigators,
where Jeff Stein of Newsweek and I spent an interesting couple of hours with this funny and very
intelligent, but extremely intense man who is still a crusader. At 80-plus, he is still looking good and
standing tall. . . . Below is a photograph I took of Dick at The Clubhouse. . .

Additional comments by DEM

I was the first to allege in The Hoffa Wars that Jimmy Hoffa, Carlos Marcello, and Santo
Trafficante arranged and executed the murder of JFK, and I still stand by that. . . . A year after the
release of my 1978 book, the U.S. House Select Committee on Assassination declared that Hoffa,
Marcello, and Trafficante had the "motive, means, and opportunity" to kill the President. Bob
Blakey, the chief counsel of the committee insisted, "The mob did it. It's a historical fact." . . .
Dick Gregory's theory is far from what I believe.

* * *

Thank you, Alan Canfora, for your information about Dick Gregory and Kent State. . . . Friends
and colleagues: Here is a photograph of Alan on Kent State’s campus on May 4, 1970—alone and
waving his “black flag of despair and anger,” just days after he attended the funeral of one of his
closest childhood friends who had been recently killed in Vietnam. A few minutes after this
historic picture was taken, Alan was shot with an M-1 in the right wrist as he took cover behind an
oak tree when the Ohio National Guard opened fire into the crowd of students. . . . I have always
admired and respected Alan for his dedicated and outstanding work on behalf of the students at
Kent State, both living and dead.

* * *

I was walking out of the back door of the Zips dry cleaners at Connecticut and Albemarle here in
DC. As I crossed the alley to my car, I saw a short man with a long gray beard approach the door
with a pair of blue jeans in his hand. As I put my clothes in the car, I turned and said, "Excuse me, sir. I bet you get told all the time how much you look like Dick Gregory." He replied with some
impatience, "That's because I AM Dick Gregory." . . . I must have been beaming as I stepped across the alley, extending my hand and saying, "I gotta tell you, sir, you changed my life with a speech you gave at the University of Akron after the Kent State shootings." Shaking my hand, he responded, "I hear that a lot from white people." . . . We then started talking about, among other things, some mutual friends at the Institute for Policy Studies and at the old ACTION/Peace Corps, which was the site of my last official job in 1980 during the final year of the Carter Administration. There is a coffee shop three or four doors up the street, and he suggested that we get out of the cold and have a cup. I suggested that he take his jeans into the store, and that I would wait in the alley for him to return. As he entered the store, I called Jeff Stein, whom I had just left ten minutes earlier after taking him to lunch at Cafe Deluxe to celebrate his birthday, which is today. I told him what had just happened and asked him if he wanted me to bring Dick to The Clubhouse, which is just five minutes away. Jeff started laughing and yelled, "Absolutely!" . . . Dick came out of the store with a load of finished dry cleaning. I asked him if he wanted to accompany me to the home of a reporter from Newsweek, a close friend of mine who wanted to meet him, too. Dick said that he was up for it. . . . He walked to his beautiful white Mercedes-Benz and put his dry cleaning in the trunk. I then asked him if he wanted to follow me in his car. He replied, "No. I'll come with you." We climbed into my black Jeep and drove to Jeff's home, aka "The Clubhouse." . . . In short, it was an experience and a voyage talking to this fascinating man who had once meant so much to so many of us.

* * *

On April 28, 1968, Dick Gregory gave a speech, attacking the Mafia and its impact on American society, specifically saying in part, “ Syndicate hoods are living all over. They are the filthiest snakes that exist on this earth.”

In response, the FBI, as part of its notorious COINTELPRO operation, issued an Airtel from its Chicago field office in May 1968, declaring: “Consider the use of this statement in developing a counterintelligence operation to alert La Cosa Nostra (LCN) to Gregory's attack on LCN. It is noted that other speeches by Gregory also contain attacks on LCN.”

In other words, the FBI considered working in cooperation with the Mafia to silence Dick Gregory.

* * *

I had never heard anyone say anything like that before. . . . "Student as n***** . . ." I later learned that it was Jerry Farber who was the first to coin that phrase in the LA Free Press in 1967. But Dick Gregory was the first to get in our faces about it. . . . To many, like you and me, it was a stunning and revelatory moment.

* * *


* * *

Here's the story tonight in the Washington Post. . . .
9: New York Times—the Sulzbergers and the DeBartolos

The New York Times' shameless lobbying campaign on behalf Eddie DeBartolo Jr., the disgraced former president of the San Francisco 49ers, has been successful. The convicted felon is going into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio. . . . Can anyone explain to me the secret relationship between the Arthur Sulzberger family of the New York Times and the DeBartolo family, especially with its late patriarch, Edward J. DeBartolo Sr. of Youngstown, Ohio, an identified organized-crime figure who bought the NFL team in 1977? .

January 2016

23: On the creation of “The Moldea Collection” at George Mason University

Many thanks to Adam Tabaka, who is principally responsible for the creation of “The Moldea Collection,” the files containing the documentation for my published books, which will be permanently archived at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia. The collection will be available for public use later this year. . . . On background, a couple of years ago via Facebook, I reconnected with Bob Houlihan, an old and treasured friend since our days at Garfield High School in Akron, Ohio. (He is also now a published author.) Through Bob and his terrific wife, Diane—I met Marty Tabaka and his wonderful wife, Nancy. Through Marty and Nancy, I met their son, Adam, a top manager at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security who had received his Master’s degree from George Mason University. . . . Last October 6, I posted a message on Facebook, asking my friends and colleagues for ideas about a safe repository for my files. Among those who responded was Adam, who is still involved with the university and became very proactive on my behalf. He contacted the right people at the school, who then reached out to me. . . . They picked up the first load of files on Thursday.

Thank you again to Adam, as well as to Bob & Diane and Marty & Nancy, along with George Mason University and Facebook. . . .

Additional comments by DEM

From one investigative journalist to another, you know as well as I do that the release of personal files is a sword, as well as a shield. . . . Or more to the point: "No good deed goes unpunished."

* * *

I have been blessed with great lawyers in my life: Roger Simmons, George Farris, the late great John Sikorski, Nick Roetzel, Billy Whitaker,

* * *

I have to hat-tip one other attorney: In 1988, the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press arranged for attorney Warren W. Faulk of Westmont, New Jersey, to represent me after I was subpoenaed—along with Bill Knoedelseder of the Los Angeles Times—in U.S. v. Vastola, a federal RICO trial in Camden, New Jersey. Attorneys for Gaetano Vastola, a notorious New
Jersey Mafia figure, had demanded that we reveal our law-enforcement sources regarding an incident revolving around the MCA-Sal Pisello caper. Of course, both of us refused to cooperate. In the end, our attorneys convinced the trial judge to quash the subpoenas. . . . God bless great attorneys.

* * *

The problem with passing these files on to any repository is that, before the trip, you have to make sure that your confidential sources, who appear in the files, are safe. . . . At one time, I planned to write a book about the Black Mafia and its relationship with the traditional Italian/Sicilian Mafia. I collected an enormous amount of information, including a large cache of documents from my law-enforcement sources. . . . When I was unable to sell the book for a reasonable price, I tucked away the files for this project. Last year, while I was starting to downsize, I decided to give these documents to a local university. But when I went through the files, I discovered that they were filled with the names of confidential informants, people who had turned state’s evidence and would be at serious risk if their names became public. . . . In the end, I separated the safe files from the dangerous files. I then returned the safe files to my law-enforcement sources, and I shredded the dangerous files, which contained the names of these informants. . . .

* * *

The files for each book are organized chapter-by-chapter in pocket folders. If a researcher wants a specific document or an interview to which I refer, for example, in Chapter 19 of Part Four of my book about the suicide of former Deputy White House Counsel Vincent Foster, he/she should be able to find that information in the corresponding pocket folder for that particular chapter. . . . With regard to your other question, I’m still unclear as to which files will be digitized and placed online. Obviously, I hope they scan all of them.

* * *

Though still incomplete, the collection at GMU is starting to come together. . . . Thanks again to my friends and colleagues for their good wishes and support: [http://sca.gmu.edu/finding_aids/moldea.html](http://sca.gmu.edu/finding_aids/moldea.html)

20: DEM on how the GOP would attack Bernie Sanders if he receives the nomination


An opinion from a grunt crime reporter. . . . The Republicans will not bother to make the distinction between whether Bernie Sanders is a Socialist or a Democratic Socialist—or even a Social Democrat. Donald Trump and other knuckle-draggers in the GOP have already tagged him as a Communist. And that’s only the beginning. . . . When the blood-sucking GOP opposition-research crowd gets done with Sanders, they will have portrayed him as an active member of the Politburo, and he will be slaughtered in November. . . . Unwittingly, Bernie Sanders, a good and decent man with the best of intentions, is the perfect Democratic candidate to help the Republicans regain the White House and get control of all three branches of government. . . . Hillary Clinton, already the target of the most malicious ongoing smear campaign in American politics, is the only person standing between us and the abyss of right-wing extremism.

**Additional comments by DEM**

"An evangelical Christian?" Yeah, nearly every Republican in America is cheering for Bernie Sanders. That's who they want to run against—not Hillary Clinton, their worst nightmare. More to the point, if a capitalist runs against a socialist in a national American election, the socialist will be eaten alive. In short, I simply don't believe any poll, indicating that Bernie can beat any Republican, including Donald the Clown.
I think you are much too hard on the Clintons. They have never made any secret of the fact that they believe in governing from the center—while supporting those progressive causes that relate to women and children, in particular. That has been the secret to their electoral success, as well as their ability to accomplish goals in the midst of divided government. Please cite a single progressive to your liking who could raise the necessary billion dollars to run for President and win a national election. Also, at the moment, with the GOP Presidential candidates busy reaching for right-wing extremes in order to attract their base support and Bernie Sanders pushing Hillary Clinton further to the left, there is a huge center which must be seized.

I’m a poker player, too. And, yes, I am “pot committed” on Hillary Clinton—and comfortably so. I also have some standing in this matter. I wrote a book about the suicide of Vincent Foster—and it was a suicide—in which Hillary, his best friend, was one of the three principal characters. Through that work, I have studied and investigated the complete and total smear campaign that has been waged against her since the 1990s. I am among the world’s experts on this subject. Despite your cynicism, the right-wing conspiracy against her was and continues to be very real. And the people and groups behind the attacks against her—whom I have named in my work—have repeatedly shown a clear willingness to simply make things up about her. She has been on the public radar screen for over 40 years. Name a single charge—among the hundreds that have been hurled against her—that has ever placed her in any real legal jeopardy. Don’t bother, Doug. There aren’t any. Are you "pot committed" to your position, tough guy?

I love Hillary, and I want her to win. But I will not say anything bad about Bernie—other than that a vote for this good and decent man is a vote for the GOP to regain the White House and retake all three branches of government. I am advising all my friends to do the same.

Bill Clinton’s criticism of Bernie Sanders was fairly benign—and now predictably overblown. Regardless, because of the disaster that is Citizens United, it is probably going to cost more than a billion dollars to run for President this year. The traditional bake sales and car washes aren’t going to raise that kind of money for any candidate. Like it or not, the real money is on Wall Street. And if the Democrats don’t grab at least some of it, then the Republicans will grab all of it. And that means we lose everything. More to the point, I do not believe that Hillary has ever or would ever sell out to Wall Street, regardless of how many contributions she receives. The smear campaign against her is also predictably getting super-charged by the Jello Left which has bought into the Fox News narrative and the GOP’s party line.

18: On Hillary Clinton’s loyalty to her husband and President Obama

I love acts of loyalty. I love that Hillary Clinton remained loyal to her husband after his bad behavior and kept their family together. And I love that Hillary Clinton remains so enthusiastically loyal to President Obama.

Additional comments by DEM

The Republicans would not share our enthusiasm to make the critical distinctions you cite between "a socialist" and "a democratic socialist." They would maliciously and unfairly cast Bernie Sanders as a communist, pure and simple. And he would lose every state in the union. And then
the crazy right would control all three branches of government. That would be a disaster of unmitigated proportions.

* * *

Don’t feel that supporting Hillary Clinton is merely settling. I suggest that you celebrate her candidacy. I certainly do. . . . I can’t think of anyone on the political landscape who is more qualified to be President.

* * *

Because of the disaster that is Citizens United, it is probably going to cost more than a billion dollars to run for President this year. The traditional bake sales and car washes aren’t going to raise that kind of money for any candidate. Like it or not, the real money is on Wall Street. And if the Democrats don’t grab at least some of it, then the Republicans will grab all of it. And that means we lose everything. . . . More to the point, I do not believe that Hillary has ever or would ever sell out to Wall Street, regardless of how many contributions she receives.

* * *

Do you really believe that the Republicans will make the distinction between a Socialist and a Democratic Socialist—or even a Social Democrat for that matter? Donald Trump has already called him a communist. . . . When the blood-sucking GOP opposition-research team gets done with Bernie, they will have portrayed him as an active member of the Politburo.

* * *

Bernie is great. I love Bernie. . . . And, despite his best intentions, he is the perfect Democratic candidate to help the Republicans regain the White House and to control all three branches of government. . . . Hillary is the only person standing between us and the abyss.

* * *

Is the right now manipulating the left against Hillary Clinton? . . . From the New York Times last May: “For months now, America Rising has sent out a steady stream of posts on social media attacking Mrs. Clinton, some of them specifically designed to be spotted, and shared, by liberals. The posts highlight critiques of her connections to Wall Street and the Clinton Foundation and feature images of Democrats like Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and Mayor Bill de Blasio of New York, interspersed with cartoon characters and pictures of Kevin Spacey, who plays the villain in ‘House of Cards.’ And as they are read and shared, an anti-Clinton narrative is reinforced.”

* * *

I hope you're having fun at that big gun show in Nevada. . . . Indeed, defend those Second Amendment rights—which absolutely no one with any real authority is actually trying to take away from you in spite of all the concocted drama.

* * *

I’ll leave it to the FBI to conclude its work and report its findings. However, I trust Hillary Clinton to do the right thing. I have learned from experience—and remember that I wrote a book about this—not to trust any investigation of her, starting with the official and unofficial probes of Vincent Foster’s suicide, Whitewater, the Rose Law Firm, Travelgate, and Filegate, among many others—all of which, in my opinion, have been political, partisan, and unfair. . . . If Hillary Clinton opted for a private server for her emails, again in my opinion, it was because she had also
learned from experience not to trust the inevitable bullshit investigations of her. If she gets her wrist slapped when this is all said and done, it will be because of her reaction to the ongoing smear campaign against her which has only been exacerbated by these so-called investigations, as well as their enablers in the media—from Fox News to the *New York Times*.

* * *

Keep in mind that Hillary Clinton’s personal server was shared with her husband—the former President of the United States. I am willing to bet that far greater protections were involved than have come to light to date. . . . All we are hearing are attacks by the usual suspects, based on nothing more than pure speculation and gleeful wishful thinking about Hillary’s possible demise by the Fox News crowd. . . . Once again, I have seen this happen over and over again to Hillary Clinton, and I have investigated many of these bullshit investigations. Each time, she walks away, standing tall and looking good.

16: Fabrizio Calvi’s piece about DEM and the Hoffa case

Dan E. Moldea, journaliste d’investigation, a passé quarante ans à enquêter sur la disparition de Jimmy Hoffa, parfois au péril de sa vie...

12: Bill Knoedelseder’s series deal with Showtime based on his book, *I’m Dying Up Here*

Wonderful news! Showtime will produce a new series, *I’m Dying Up Here*, executive produced by Jim Carrey. The series will be based on the fabulous book by the same name, written by our excellent friend and colleague, Bill Knoedelseder of Los Angeles. (Go, Billy, Go!) . . . “Set in L.A.’s stand-up comedy scene of the 1970s, during which the careers of many of the comedy superstars began, the series delves into the inspired and damaged psyches that are required to stand alone in front of an audience and make them laugh.” . . .

8: Chuck de Caro and Lynne Russell on *Good Morning America*, discussing the shooting incident

Our friend and colleague, Chuck de Caro, and his lovely but tough-as-nails wife, former CNN anchorwoman Lynne Russell, appeared on *Good Morning America* yesterday in an emotional interview about the night last June 30th when Chuck and an assailant shot it out in a small motel room. The intruder fired nine shots at Chuck, hitting him three times. Chuck fired seven shots, killing the assailant. . . .

3: DEM: Getting to watch *Three Days of the Condor*—and promoting Jim Grady’s sequel

For what has to be the 800th time, I am getting ready to watch *Three Days of the Condor*, one of my all-time favorite movies, which is being broadcast on GRIT at midnight, eastern time. . . . Of course, it is based on the wonderful book by our good friend and loyal colleague, James Grady, who recently published his sequel, *Last Days of the Condor*, which is even better. . . .

2: DEM : Excerpt from 1997 commencement address—advice for 2016

Here is my simple message for those who are about to be blindsided by life in 2016—from the last three minutes of a high-school commencement address I gave in 1997. . . .

1: Overture for 2016: Enescu’s *Romanian Rhapsody*
Here is an overture to 2016—which promises to be a very dramatic and decisive year... George Enescu’s relentless Romanian Rhapsody No. 1, conducted by George Enescu in 1951:

2015

December 2015

30: Marco Rubio and his brother-in-law, the convicted drug trafficker

Marco, Marco, Marco—and his brother-in-law, the convicted drug trafficker: ... The GOP bloodbath has hit fever pitch. Is this an example of “use it or lose it” time for Jeb Bush?

28: Ex-intelligence officers and their smear campaign against Bill and Hillary Clinton

SMEAR ALERT. ... In 2007, I discussed and wrote about a group of creepy, knuckle-dragging ex-intelligence officers who were doing opposition research on Bill and Hillary Clinton during then-Senator Clinton’s first bid for the Democratic Presidential nomination. The group focused on the former President’s alleged bad behavior, especially since he left the White House. In other words, they were trying to sabotage Senator Clinton’s campaign through her husband. Because she did not receive the nomination in 2008, the group stood down. ... But with the former Secretary of State seemingly the clear favorite to gain the nomination in 2016, the group is now gearing up again, preparing to launch a massive smear campaign against the Clintons with the same ferocity as the shameless Swift Boat Veterans attacked 2004 Democratic Presidential candidate John Kerry. ... Of course, the term “swiftboating” has become synonymous with harsh political attacks that are dishonest, personal, and unfair. ... Now, especially in view of thrice-married Donald Trump’s recent threats to go after Bill Clinton, I am doubling down on this story for the 2016 campaign. ... Here is how Salon reported on what I had said and written in 2007: Additional comments by DEM

Is the right now manipulating the left against Hillary Clinton? ... From the New York Times last May: “For months now, America Rising has sent out a steady stream of posts on social media attacking Mrs. Clinton, some of them specifically designed to be spotted, and shared, by liberals. The posts highlight critiques of her connections to Wall Street and the Clinton Foundation and feature images of Democrats like Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and Mayor Bill de Blasio of New York, interspersed with cartoon characters and pictures of Kevin Spacey, who plays the villain in House of Cards. And as they are read and shared, an anti-Clinton narrative is reinforced.”

* * *

I first talked about this in 2007, and now there are others out there who know what I know—and maybe even more. ... As the bogus investigations about the suicide of Vincent Foster, Travelgate, Filegate, Whitewater, and, of course, Benghazi demonstrate, there is ample right-wing money out there to finance any investigation of the Clintons. And, as history shows, if these investigators can’t come up with something, then they’ll just make something up.
I don't know whether anyone will be able to come up with anything that can sink Donald Trump. From what he has already survived, it appears that he could live through nuclear winter, as well as acid rain.

Here's how the shameless Donald Trump is going to try to turn Bill Clinton into Bill Cosby.

In this December 2015 post, above, I should have included a group of past and present right-wing FBI agents who— not unlike but apart from the Russians— were actively attempting to smear Hillary Clinton in their cynical efforts to support Donald Trump's bid for the presidency. And I believe that this conspiracy of anti-Clinton FBI personnel will be revealed shortly. . . . The key person close to Trump to watch? . . . Rudy Giuliani. (April 19, 2018)

BTW: Today, Giuliani joined Trump's legal team. (April 19, 2018)

The sabotage of Hillary Clinton by rogue FBI agents will likely be revealed— sooner rather than later. . . . https://mobile.reuters.com/article/amp/idUSKBN1HQ2K2?__twitter_impression=true (April 20, 2018)

21: DEM’s 1989 prediction on Nightline that the NFL owners want to control gambling


Do the NFL owners want to control gambling on NFL games?

Here is a two-minute excerpt of a controversial prediction I made on ABC’s Nightline on September 11, 1989— that the NFL team owners did not want other sports-gambling enterprises making money off the NFL’s brand and trade. Instead, they wanted and needed that money for themselves. Consequently— as I prophesied in my 1989 book, Interference: How Organized Crime Influences Professional Football— the NFL team owners would wind up with kiosks in the stadiums, allowing fans to place bets on NFL games. . . . With all of the gambling money currently being made over fantasy football and other forms of sports gambling, there is a good chance that this process could begin in earnest in 2016— not only for the NFL, but for the NBA and the NHL, as well. . . . Throughout the Nightline program, and especially during this segment, I mixed it up with two very fine people, both of whom I admired and respected: Warren Welsh, the director of security for the NFL, and Roxy Roxborough, who, at that time, was the top sports oddsmaker in Las Vegas. . . .

Additional comments by DEM

Get ready, sports fans: NBA Commissioner Adam Silver discusses why he supports legalizing— and regulating— sports gambling. . . . The next step? I predict he will soon say: "Hey: Why don't the sports leagues— the NBA, NFL, and NHL, and even MLB— or their surrogates do it themselves?"

* * *
"[T]he larger debate over legalization will continue as all eyes now focus on the NFL."

Law360, May 31, 2017

The New Jersey case will be heard by the Supremes...This could be huge.

The ABA Journal, June 28, 2017

Gambling Compliance: Author Says National Football League Wants Its Own Sportsbooks

Dan Moldea, an investigative reporter in Washington, D.C. who authored a controversial book almost 30 years ago on the impact of gambling on the National Football League (NFL), says the NFL is moving inexorably toward owning and operating its own sportsbooks.

Mammoth television contracts helped the NFL become the nation’s most popular sports league, but Moldea says additional revenue sources are essential for the league to continue to prosper.

Sports betting will be one of those sources, he said.

The NFL did not respond to a request for comment.

"The amount of money required to buy an NFL team when I wrote Interference is nothing compared to what an owner has to pay today,” Moldea told GamblingCompliance in a recent interview.

GamblingCompliance, October 18, 2017

Here is the NFL, et al, petition currently pending before the U.S. Supreme Court...

The ABA Journal, May 31, 2017

Today, the U.S. Supreme Court will hear oral arguments about this case, which could decide who controls the sports gambling that involves college and professional sports. In this case, the sports

* * *

Yesterday, in an official statement during an appearance in front of the New York State Senate, the NBA laid out the case for legalizing sports gambling. . . . https://www.nysenate.gov/sites/default/files/1.24.18_testimony_of_national_basketball_association.pdf. (January 25, 2018)

19: Keith Olbermann interviews DEM about Interference

For a good time, take a few minutes to watch this two-part interview I did with the great Keith Olbermann on ESPN about the history of corruption and even game-fixing in the NFL, marking the release of the updated version of my 1989 book: Interference: How Organized Crime Influences Professional Football.

Additional comments by DEM

Get ready, sports fans: NBA Commissioner Adam Silver discusses why he supports legalizing—and regulating—sports gambling. . . . The next step? I predict he will soon say: "Hey: Why don't the sports leagues—the NBA, NFL, and NHL, and even MLB—or their surrogates do it themselves?"

* * *

Bottomline, the NFL team owners, who have always treated the league like a money-laundering operation, do not want other enterprises—fantasy-football gambling or whatever—making money off of its product. They want that money for themselves—and are willing to compromise the integrity of their sport in order to get it. . . .

* * *

Whenever the NFL team owners say, "It's not about the money," you can bet that it's all about the money.

17: John Sopko and ProPublica

Our friend and colleague, John Sopko, the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, has already achieved legendary status for his courageous, dedicated, and relentless work to expose war profiteers in the Near East, as well as in the United States. . . . Pro Publica—an independent, non-profit newsroom that produces investigative journalism in the public interest—has published a remarkable accounting of the waste and fraud that John has uncovered. . . . We are talking billions of dollars here, folks—not to mention the thousands of soldiers who were killed and wounded in the line of duty. . . . Note to America: Keep this in mind before you support another stupid war.

November 2015
21: David Vitter loses the election for governor of Louisiana

You're welcome. . . .

U.S. Senator David Vitter—a Harvard grad, a Rhodes Scholar, and a darling among those on the right wing of the Republican Party—has lost the run-off election in Louisiana, giving the Democrats their first statewide-elected official since 2008. The resurrection of Vitter's role in the D.C. Madam scandal, which I uncovered and revealed, is credited with supercharging his defeat. . . . In addition, Vitter announced that he will not be seeking reelection to his seat in the U.S. Senate. . . . Big night. . . .

Additional comments by DEM

God bless my friend, Jeane Palfrey, the DC Madam, who had an undergraduate degree in criminal justice but dropped out of law school. The federal conspiracy case against her—a conspiracy of one—was bullshit. After her conviction, she went to Orlando and took an overdose of sleeping pills. She woke up 30 hours later, still alive. . . . She then went to her mother's home near Clearwater and hanged herself, leaving two long handwritten suicide notes to her mom and sister. . . . She repeatedly told me that she would never go back to prison, which alarmed me and her attorneys. . . . The whole story of Jeane, David Vitter, and the DC Madam scandal is in my memoir, Confessions of a Guerrilla Writer.

* * *

After Jeane's suicide, I got to know her mother—who told me about Jeane's failed attempt to kill herself with an overdose in Orlando immediately after her conviction. . . . Frankly, I thought that it was heartless of Jeane to hang herself at her mom's home—knowing that her mother would be the one to find her dangling at the end of a rope. . . . She loved her mother, and I can't understand why she would have done that.

19: Overheard in a DC restaurant, comparing Syrian refugees with gun control

Overheard in a Washington, D.C. restaurant. . . .

Man: “Background checks are not good enough. If only one Syrian refugee out of a thousand is used to perpetrate a violent act, it’s not worth having them here in America.”

Woman: “Will you apply that same logic to the sale and possession of firearms?”

Man: [Silence]

Additional comments by DEM

I find it remarkable that Bible-thumping, flag-waving Christian Americans are bitterly against the entry of any of those tragic Syrian refugees, regardless of the tight vetting process. . . . Is that truly Christian behavior? What would Jesus do?

* * *

I nailed Senator Vitter in 2007, and he was reelected in 2010. . . . This year, my charges have been resurrected, and he is down by 22 points in the most recent statewide poll. But I don't put it past the Louisiana Democrats to blow this lead. In his final Hail Mary pass this week, Vitter has made a huge issue out of his opponent's support for President Obama, including but not limited to the resettlement of Syrian refugees in Louisiana.
I do understand your position—completely, painfully. And, of course, I respect it. But I continue to quibble with the finer points of the issue. . . . Indeed, there was a matter of law, but there was also the issue of right and wrong. And I was wronged. And I still have plenty of support in the community of journalists and even among some First Amendment attorneys on that point. . . . By the simple fact that the US Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit had Moldea I and then reversed it with Moldea II is a clear indication that there is plenty of room for disagreement on how everything came down. . . . Again, I respect that you know my case very well.

* * *

Saying that you’re a Christian, along with reciting all of the platitudes and the “God’s will” dogma is a cinch. Anyone can do that. . . . It is moments like this that test one’s real faith—and it’s a true Christian’s ticket to heaven. . . Note to Christian right-wingers and Obama haters: Stop with the freaking hypocrisy.

* * *

Short term, I think the Syrian refugee crisis is a losing issue for President Obama—and could cost the Democrats the gubernatorial run-off election this Saturday in Louisiana. Long term, it’s a sure winner. And I’ll make that bet right now. . . . There is right and wrong here, and I think that we, the American public, eventually get it right. We did with Bill Clinton, denying the crazies his removal from office in 1998-1999, and then in 2008 and 2012, we elected and then reelected President Obama. . . . It takes us awhile, but, in the end, we get it right.

* * *

The Republicans’ only hope to win the White House in 2016 and to take control of all three branches of government is to create an alternative universe. In lieu of swift-boating candidates—turning their strengths into political weaknesses through fraud and deception—they are now swift boating our American culture and turning us against each other. . . . Long term, though, I don’t think their cynical plan will be successful.

* * *

No reasonable person I know is advocating taking anyone's guns away when they are used for sports or home protection. . . . In fact, my close friend, Chuck de Caro, is currently recovering from an attack from a guy who shot him three times. Meantime, Chuck's wife, former CNN anchorwoman, Lynne Russell, had handed Chuck her purse with a firearm inside. Chuck was able to shoot and kill the guy who shot him. . . . I am grateful that Chuck had a gun and knew how to use it.

18: The Koch Intelligence Agency, surveilling the left (with Russia?)


From Politico: "The political network helmed by Charles and David Koch has quietly built a secretive operation that conducts surveillance and intelligence gathering on its liberal opponents, viewing it as a key strategic tool in its efforts to reshape American public life."

Additional comments by DEM

Now you're talking about those creepy ex-CIA guys who call themselves "The Revolutionaries." They did opposition research, aka just-another-smear-campaign, against the Clintons in 2007 during Hillary’s first bid for President. They didn’t pull the trigger, because she didn’t get the
nomination. . . . I fully expect them to release their garbage if and when she gets the nomination in 2016.

**16: DEM’s support for President Obama’s reaction to ISIS after the Paris attack**


An opinion from a grunt crime reporter. . . . In response to President Obama’s level-headed decision this morning to stay the course with our already aggressive actions against ISIS and not engage further in a variety of complicated civil wars in and around the Near and Middle East, the chicken hawks on Fox News and some on the Jello Left are claiming a lack of leadership because he won’t authorize an escalated military assault, including the placement of ground troops wherever ISIS is active. . . . But, if and when that would occur, among other consequences, some brave American soldiers would inevitably be captured by ISIS, whose leaders would predictably use them as tools of propaganda. They would place them in cages and then film them getting their heads cut off. . . . The American public’s emotional reaction to such brutality against our men and woman in uniform could eventually provoke a nuclear Armageddon, and that’s what ISIS has wanted all along. ISIS has anticipated our overreaction. . . . The President is remaining cool and analytical, trying to avoid the mistakes we made after 9-11, especially the 2003 invasion of Iraq, the biggest political and military blunder in American history which has caused most if not all of the problems in that region ever since—including the creation of ISIS.

Additional comments by DEM

In the midst of a Presidential campaign in which all of the candidates are trying to one up each other in order to get some cheap attention—and while journalists are desperate to find new angles to old stories—the idea of promoting restraint is not very sexy. . . . God bless President Obama for doing just that. He doesn’t want to play into the enemy’s deadly hand despite all of the pressure for him to do so.

* * *

Capturing, snatching, kidnapping—whatever—an American soldier and cutting off his/her head on camera and with the graphic film of this brutal and bloody scene going viral throughout the world would be ISIS’s dream come true. The American public would go out of their minds with rage and would demand immediate retribution, which would play right into the hands of ISIS. . . . BTW, big guy, you’re doing great work at ABC News. While I have your attention, what’s the deal with Dabiq? What’s that all about?

* * *

I’m certainly not an expert on national-security matters. But I really believe in and trust President Obama. I don’t believe for a second that he would do anything to place the lives of Americans at risk. He is not going to allow a Trojan Horse to enter this country. . . . No way.

* * *

So Dabiq is the final battleground for good and evil—with us playing the role as the evil ones? Are these guys in ISIS on the attack simply trying to provoke this final battle? . . . Finally, I know you are not a fortune teller, but you are an expert on national-security matters. Do you believe that those of us here in DC are going to get whacked? . . . I’ve always believed that the jihadists would not do a large-scale attack on civilians in DC, because every country in the world is here. And, thus, they would risk turning the world against them. . . . Now, it appears from your explanation that they want nothing more than to inflame the world in order to provoke that final battle in Dabiq. . . . How crazy is this?

* * *
Here in DC, we act and talk so tough, but I remember how paralyzed we were on 9-11 and in its immediate aftermath. I also remember how the DC snipers freaked out this town for three weeks in October 2002—not to mention the terror we felt after the Hanafi Muslims shut down a portion of this town during a three-day siege in March 1977. . . . Well, I guess we hope for the best and prepare for the worst. And I still believe that cool heads and intelligent restraint are required in order for the world to get through this horrific situation.

* * *

To me, President Obama has been heroic for the manner in which he has conducted his conflict with ISIS. But he is not only up against right-wing Republicans, some of whose comments since the attack on Paris have bordered on sedition. He is also up against a bloodthirsty media establishment, apart from the screwballs at Fox News, which is looking for military action which will help with television ratings and newspaper/magazine subscriptions. It is the same crowd that cheered for the U.S. invasion of Iraq in 2003.

* * *

No ally or enemy in the world believes” President Obama? Bill, by wide margins, according to the Gallup Poll, the reigning most admired man and woman in the world are President Obama (seven years in a row) and Hillary Clinton (thirteen years in a row). . . . BTW: Do you really think that Russia is winning hearts and minds, along with gaining the world’s respect, as it bombs the hell out of civilian populations in and around Syria? . . . In its desperate effort to prop up Syrian President Assad, Russia started out fighting Syrian rebels who opposed his harsh dictatorship. Now, after seeing Russian citizens murdered after their plane was bombed in midair by ISIS, they are now fighting them, too. Consequently, almost overnight, Russia is smack in the middle of the civil war that President Obama has carefully avoided—despite the protests of your buddies on the right who have no plan other than to kill indiscriminately while getting us trapped in a quagmire. . . . I’ll take the strength of Obama’s restraint to keep us out of another never-ending war in the Near East, which would have been nothing more than the latest result of George W. Bush’s lies about weapons of mass destruction which he used as his justification to invade Iraq in 2003. . . . With regard to the vote today in the U.S. House on Syrian refugees, I certainly don’t judge President Obama by those disloyal cowards on the Jello Left.

* * *

I’m just a grunt crime reporter, defending the President’s noble actions in the midst of attacks against him from an onslaught of knuckle draggers in Congress and on Fox News, along with their mindless speculations, half-baked opinions, and poorly-sourced facts. . . . God bless President Obama, a great President.

* * *

With regard to the matter of cooperation between the White House and the Republican-controlled Congress, the record has been pretty clear on this. Almost any Republican who even hints at compromise with President Obama and/or the Democrats can be assured of a primary challenge when he/she seeks reelection. . . . I am not aware of any Democrat who has been primaried because he/she has sought compromise with Republicans. . . . To me, that speaks volumes about the cause of the gridlock here in Washington, D.C.

* * *

Trapped in an endless conflict, President Putin—the darling of Donald Trump and Fox News for being so tough—decides to run away from the same civil war that President Obama has wisely avoided all along. . . .
14: Re The Paris tragedy: Fabrizio Calvi on Mark Rossini

An important article by our friend, investigative journalist Fabrizio Calvi in Paris, about our friend, former FBI special agent Mark Rossini, currently in Dijon in eastern France. . . God bless the dead and wounded in this latest cowardly terrorist attack. (Mark's English version of his views is in the comments section, below.)

Additional comments by DEM

Leave it to those shameless assholes at Fox News to try to turn this horrific tragedy in Paris into a political advantage for its right-wing stooges here in the U.S. . . . In lieu of uniting the world against its common enemy, the murderous ISIS, Fox is determined to turn its viewers against President Obama.

October 2015

30: The Washington Post on how DEM got Senator David Vitter

U.S. Senator David Vitter (R-LA), a family-values conservative and a key supporter of the federal sanctity of marriage amendment, is in the midst of a contentious run-off election as governor of Louisiana, slated for November 21. . . . In July 2007, I discovered Vitter’s phone number in the private records of the “D.C. Madam,” Deborah Jeane Palfrey, a law-school dropout who had asked me to write a book about her life and times. . . . However, after Jeane was convicted in a federal conspiracy case (a conspiracy of one), she committed suicide in Florida. Although Vitter publicly admitted his indiscretions, he was reelected in 2010. . . . Notably, in 1999, Vitter replaced Rep. Bob Livingston (R-LA) as the representative to Louisiana’s 1st Congressional District. My earlier investigation of Livingston had led to his resignation as U.S. Speaker-Designate on the day of President Clinton’s impeachment, December 19, 1998.

Here is the Washington Post version of how I got the goods on Senator Vitter.

Additional comments by DEM

Jeane Palfrey, the “D.C. Madam,” was, indeed, a daughter. In fact, after failing to kill herself with an overdose of pills at her apartment in Orlando after her conviction, she went to her mother’s home near Clearwater and hanged herself on May 1, 2008. Her mother found her, twisting at the end of a rope. . . . Meantime, David Vitter—who was among thousands of men who had used her escort service and were identified by the trial judge in Jeane’s criminal case as “unindicted coconspirators”—was reelected to his seat in the U.S. Senate in 2010. . . . That’s quite a contrast. To be sure, the bar has been lowered in these matters, as evidenced by Vitter’s inexplicable political survival—although he is currently trailing in the polls for Louisiana governor.

BTW: Jeane told me no fewer than three times that she would commit suicide in lieu of returning to prison. Taking what she said very seriously, I reported her statements to her attorneys, one whom told me, “I know. I know. I know. It’s a real problem.”

*   *   *
Hell must be freezing over. . . . Louisiana’s Republican lieutenant governor has endorsed Republican David Vitter’s Democratic opponent in the run-off election for governor on November 21.

* * *

Wendy Cortez, aka Wendy Yow Ellis? . . . I never met or even talked to her. However, I did make the arrangements for Edward Gelb of Los Angeles, with whom I had worked on an earlier caper, to administer the polygraph test that she took and passed about her alleged relationship with David Vitter. Gelb is the former president of the American Polygraph Association.

* * *

That screwball, Alex Jones—one of Donald Trump’s favorite journalists—has already accused me of playing a nefarious role in the death of the D.C. Madam, an accusation that has been picked up by over a hundred media operations, including the New York Times. And I am very interested to see how I will be portrayed on Friday night.

26: Jim Grady on DEM and the Authors Dinner Group

Let me give a shout-out to Washington, D.C. and noir America legend, writer, author, investigator, Dan E. Moldea, show here with Robert De Niro and American author Gus Russo, because among other things, Dan created an actual community of Washington, D.C. authors by organizing quarterly dinners…for 26 years! No rank, no snobbery, no partisanship, no punches pulled, these wonderful weird events have grown from a round table with about five sketchy noir journalism types to a beloved size that's now too big for the Old Europe restaurant that has graciously hosted us all these years. There's the Hemingway-Gertrude Stein salons in Paris, the Algonquin round table in NYC, and for all us down in the trenches bleeding words of fancied fact and fury fiction, there's the Dan Moldea Authors Dinner Group—no finer choice. Rock on, my brothers and sisters. All props to Dan.

20: Support for POGO’s Beth Daley Casino Night

Please support the Project On Government Oversight throughout the year and the Beth Daley Casino Night tonight, named after one of the great women of Washington, D.C., who died in 2010 after a long battle with breast cancer. . . . The evening, a wonderful annual event, will feature great people, great food, and always a great time. . . . Appropriately, Casino Night will operate out of the Harold Black Speakeasy, 212 7th Street SE, Washington, D.C. (across from the Eastern Market).

Year after year, POGO proves that it is peerless as Washington's premier watchdog of the federal bureaucracy, as well as a safe haven for heroic whistleblowers who, at great personal risk, step up and expose government abuses and misdeeds. . . .

17: The Washington Post on Donald Trump and the mob

Donald Trump and the Mafia. . . .

Additional comments by DEM

What Roger Stone says about the New Jersey Casino Control Commission is basically correct. Barron Hilton’s application for a casino license in Atlantic City was rejected in 1985 because of his connection to Sidney Korshak of the Chicago-Los Angeles Axis, the one-time reputed link between the legitimate business world and organized crime, as well as Ronald Reagan’s principal
connection to the Mafia. (Korshak was a major character in my 1986 book, *Dark Victory: Ronald Reagan, MCA, and the Mob.*) . . . Ironically, after the commission’s ruling, Hilton lost his Castle Casino to Donald Trump, who had already been given a clean bill of health and was licensed in 1982. Three years later, Trump renamed the Hilton property, Trump Castle, and later renamed it again to Trump Marina. . . . Notably, despite Hilton’s association with Korshak, the National Football League allowed Hilton to keep his interest in the San Diego Chargers. (I featured Hilton’s dealings with Korshak in my 1989 book, *Interference: How Organized Crime Influences Professional Football.*)

However, the commission reconsidered in 1991 and granted Hilton a license, apparently deciding that he was no longer mobbed up. Meantime, Trump had opened the Trump Plaza, which he originally bought from Holiday Inn, as well as the Taj Mahal in 1990, which he had purchased from Resorts International two years earlier. Subsequently, Trump had major financial troubles with the Taj. . . . But that’s another story which should be examined in much, much greater depth.

Roger, my treasured right-wing friend, thank you for your response. I appeal to you, yet again, to leave the dark side and join us in the light. Until then, I would love to hear about your personal connection to Tony Salerno, the former boss of the Vito Genovese crime family in New York. . . . And I’ll tell you the story about how he arranged to fix no fewer than eight NFL games, which I first revealed in *Interference.* Also, I was deposed about that caper during my work as an expert witness for the defense in *Jack Kent Cooke v. Washingtonian Magazine,* which addressed the issue of game fixing in the NFL.

* * *

Roger: Thanks for your note. I am not familiar with Wayne Barrett’s work about you, but I do know that his reporting about the New York Mafia, in general over the years, has been excellent. . . . Indeed, I do expect a legitimate, full-scale attack on Trump from Barrett and others, like David Cay Johnston. And, sooner or later, I assume that Trump will be forced to make some sort of a statement about his alleged association with certain underworld figures early in his career. Trump will, no doubt, point to his clean bill of health from the NJ Casino Control Commission in 1982. . . . And I will look forward to your response to this anticipated reporting, as well. In my view, you are Trump’s most passionate and fearless defender.

* * *

I’ll look forward to getting together, Roger. I’ll bring you a “Hillary in 2016” button, as well as my book about the vast right-wing conspiracy against her. I love that woman. . . . If Joe Biden, a very good man whom I admire and respect, runs against her, his heart will be broken, once again, by the process—which you know as well as anyone. . . . BTW: I also love America. I just object to its occasional bad behavior, as well as its stupid wars, like the one in Iraq.

* * *

I continue to disagree with Roger Stone. . . . Donald Trump has no chance to be elected President.

* * *

PolitiFact, the Pulitzer Prize-winning website, has confirmed what many of us have believed for years—that "Donald Trump has been linked to the mob". . . . Why didn’t Fox News ask about this at last night’s debate?

* * *

Actually, Roger Stone has several knee-slapping responses on this thread. . . . To be clear, even though we disagree on everything, I have a grudging respect for Roger. He is the best there is in
the opposition-research business. And now, in view of his recent books about the Bushes and the Clintons, it appears that he has become Donald Trump's top wartime consigliere. . . . Regardless of all the controversy that swirls around him, Roger continues to have a real presence in the 2016 election cycle. . . . Just to be clear, I thought his book about the Clintons was way over the top and completely unfair—and he knows that I believe that.

* * *

Paul: Now you're defending Ray Donovan, Ronald Reagan's Secretary of Labor? Remember that two of the key government witnesses against him—Fred Furino and Nat Masselli—were both murdered in gangland slayings prior to his criminal trial. . . . There were a lot of us, including a boatload of federal prosecutors, who took that caper very seriously, too.

* * *

Marty: If I were a betting man—and I have been feeding this God-forsaken thread since October 2015—I would still lay odds that the Trump and the Mafia-Mafiya connections in both the U.S. and Russia will be decisive.

* * *

Craig Ungar lays out a case against Donald Trump and his mob connections. . . .

* * *

What is really frightening to me is that those prosecutors doing the investigations are under siege by the Trump crime family and that criminal enterprise, Fox News, along with their allies. . . . If Mueller and his team lose, our democracy, as well as our day-to-day lives, will be at risk. . . . All hands on deck.

* * *

From the New Yorker. . . .

* * *

How Giuliani’s previous war with the Mafia could help bring down Donald Trump. . . .
https://www.nytimes.com/2019/03/04/opinion/rudy-giuliani-trump.html?fbclid=IwAR31w_PwqF81EpdtkX0aiQe09WYrkBNpmPCHqD2-PTDZjWOX11HbE66Qf4

13: “Brava, Hillary Clinton,” my post-debate analysis, along with her Benghazi testimony

Brava, Hillary Clinton. . . .

(Photo by DEM, 2007 — with Huma Abedin and Hillary Clinton)
Additional comments by DEM

After her appearance before the shameless Benghazi Committee, are you still pissed off at Hillary Clinton, as well as her "vague-twisting" of her alleged changing positions? . . . Trust me, the Republicans are already cooking up another phony scandal against her.

* * *

My prediction for the U.S. House Benghazi Committee hearing tomorrow? . . . Shameless House Republicans, hoping to save face from the recent withering charges against them, will throw everything but the kitchen sink at Hillary Clinton. In response, she will remain cool, calm, and collected—completely Presidential. Meantime, the Democrats on the committee will go medieval on their Republican colleagues for their abuses and excesses. . . . Tomorrow should be an exciting and interesting day.

* * *

On Hillary Clinton's testimony before the Benghazi Committee, which just ended: Eleven hours after she began her testimony, Secretary Clinton always remained Presidential. . . . An amazing performance.

* * *

In the midst of widespread praise for Hillary Clinton’s marathon testimony and intense condemnation of the shameless House Republicans on the committee, Fox News, the criminal enterprise, continues its alternative universe, doubling down on its attack against Secretary Clinton for Benghazi. . . . Yeah, right, there is no vast right-wing conspiracy against Hillary Clinton.

* * *

I have no inside information about that FBI investigation. . . . I just believe in Hillary Clinton—a decent and honorable woman of high integrity. Meantime, I am fully hip to those at Fox News and its subsidiary, the Republican Party, as well as their long history of lying about her.

10: John Sopko, SIGAR, on PBS Frontline

Our friend and brother, the courageous visionary, John Sopko, the U.S. Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, tells PBS Frontline about the impending disaster in that deeply troubled country.

Additional comments by DEM

John Sopko has done a remarkable job as SIGAR, as evidenced by the fact that the war profiteers in the US hate him as much as those in Afghanistan. . . . Notably, his biggest supporter for the job from the outset was the Project On Government Oversight, the best government watchdog group in the country. POGO is peerless.

* * *

Remember one key thing about John Sopko, who is among the noblemen from St. Ignatius in Cleveland and was in the same graduating class as the fabulous Jim Neff and the late, great John Sikorski: He is a former prosecutor with the U.S. Strike Force Against Organized Crime. He and fellow prosecutor Abe Poretz were responsible for the federal prosecutions in the Danny Greene...
murder case—which brought down that incarnation of the Cleveland Mafia, the same powerful organized-crime family that helped build Las Vegas. . . . Sopko is not only incorruptible, he is also freaking relentless.

8: My report on Rep. Hal Rogers after Kevin McCarthy pulled out as House Speaker candidate

Here’s the 2011 report of the investigation I did for CREW on U.S. Representative Hal Rogers (R-KY) who is really bad news. (For a good time, read the full report, which can be found by clicking the URL, below. I can't seem to get rid of the attachment which says that the page cannot be found.)

Additional comments by DEM

We are laughing now, but these crazy right-wing House Republicans have deluded themselves that they are operating on principle—with each carrying a crucifix in one hand and the American flag in the other, along with an open-carry handgun on his or her hip. Consequently, they justify their shameless actions which border on criminal acts as nothing more than necessary tactics in defense of God and country. . . . The growing problem is that too many of their base supporters are even crazier than they are. And those GOP representatives in Washington who even attempt to compromise with the Democrats will get primaries during the next election cycle.

* * *

The Jello Left is almost as bad as the crazy right. The Jellos have allowed Hillary Clinton to be unjustly attacked, 24-7, by an entire television network—Fox News, of course—as well as, among others, the House Benghazi committee and even the New York Times despite its recent mea culpa about its sloppy reporting about her. Consequently, her polling numbers have plummeted, which should come as no surprise to anyone under the circumstances. In response, the Jellos have abandoned her and are now supporting Bernie Sanders, a good and decent man—a vote for whom will help guarantee control of all three branches of government by the crazy right. . . . Because of my relentless defense of Secretary Clinton going back to the unpleasantness during impeachment drama, I have often been accused of drinking the Kool-Aid. But I am a loyal guy, and I have my own sense of right and wrong. And I believe that what has happened to Hillary Clinton is just flat-out wrong. . . . I believe in this woman.

* * *

In all seriousness, I believe that a group of right-wing extremists are one general election away from a complete and total overthrow of all three branches of the United States Government. . . .

6: Looking for a repository for my book files

Friends and Colleagues: I am looking for a safe repository in the DC-metro area to donate my book files—a location where I may have occasional access. If you have any ideas, please send me an email or a FB private message. . . . Just to be clear: We are talking about the chapter-by-chapter documentation for my books about 1) the rise and fall of Jimmy Hoffa; 2) the murder of Ohio business executive Dean Milo; 3) Ronald Reagan, MCA, and the Hollywood Mafia; 4) the NFL, the illegal sports-gambling community, and the Mafia; 5) the murder of Senator Robert Kennedy; 6) the inside story of the police investigation of O.J. Simpson; and 7) the suicide of Vincent Foster.

Florida State University has already digitized my NFL documents. Other files are currently stashed away at a law office in Maryland.
I am retaining the files for my eighth book, “Confessions of a Guerrilla Writer,” which will be added to the collection after I go to the flip side in thirty or forty years.

There is a lot of terrific material in these files. Please help me find them a good home. Attached are the general backgrounds of and reviews for each book, as well as the first chapters of these works.

Additional comments by DEM

Guys: I really appreciate the continuing advice via your calls, emails, and FB messages. . . . Just to be clear, I really have no interest in making money from this. I don't even have any intention of having the files appraised for tax purposes. . . . I just want my documents to be in a safe place—where, once again, I may have occasional access. Also, yes, I want some approval over who may see my files. . . :

* * *

The problem with passing these records on to any repository is that, before the trip, you, of course, have to make sure that your confidential sources, who appear in the files, are safe. . . . At one time, I planned to write a book about the Black Mafia and its relationship with the traditional Italian/Sicilian Mafia. And I collected an enormous amount of information, including a large cache of documents from my law-enforcement sources. . . . When I was unable to sell the book for a reasonable price, I tucked away the files for this project. Last year, while I was starting to downsize, I decided to give these documents for this unpublished book to a local university. But when I went through the files, I discovered that they were filled with the names of confidential informants, people who had turned state's evidence and would be at serious risk if their names became public. . . . In the end, I separated the safe files from the dangerous files. I then returned the safe files to my law-enforcement sources, and I shredded the dangerous files, which contained the names of these informants. . . . I simply couldn't have lived with myself had they fallen into the wrong hands.

1: My 1987 Regardie’s story about the National Rifle Association after mass shooting in Oregon

This is a cover story I did for the April 1987 issue of Regardie's magazine, detailing the internal battle within the National Rifle Association between the moderate right and the extreme right. . . . In the end, the extreme right won and continues its iron rule. . . . Meantime, God bless the dead in Oregon in the wake of today's latest mass shooting.

September 2015

30: My support for President Obama on Syria . . . “Chill”

I don't know what he knows about or plans for Syria, but I continue to believe in and support this great President.

16: De Niro announces decision to proceed with Sheeran movie on The Tonight Show
Robert De Niro went on The Tonight Show last night and made the declaration I hoped he wouldn’t make. So now it’s me against De Niro, Martin Scorsese, Al Pacino, Joe Pesci, Steve Zaillian, and maybe Harvey Keitel, along with all of their millions of fans. . . . That sounds like a fair fight to me. (Actually, I am going to get slaughtered.) . . . Below is a photograph of the principals in a last-ditch but failed effort last December to make peace. Consequently, war appears to be the only option. . . . May God have mercy on our souls. (Photo credit: Dale Myers)

Additional comments by DEM

I just want my friends and colleagues to know that a battle is brewing. Those who have known me well during the past 41 years also know that I seem to bounce from conflict to conflict in my never-ending quest to remain an independent writer and author—underscore the word “independent.” And this De Niro caper is just another fight for my independence, as well as just another fight to defend my work. . . . De Niro and company have already made a ton of mistakes which I plan to use. After this preliminary saber-rattling on my part, I will sit back, try to play it cool, and pick my moment to attack, using my best weapons—my ability to investigate and to write. . . . In the past, my friends and colleagues have been essential by providing me with forums through which my voice can be heard. And I am depending on them again when this battle starts to escalate.

*          *          *

(5-15-2016) Okay, now this is really getting interesting. . . . With foreign rights secured just last night in Cannes by STX Entertainment and financing arranged by Fabrica de Cine with distribution via Paramount Pictures, the De Niro-Scorsese film, based on the one-source book about Frank Sheeran and Jimmy Hoffa, now appears to be on the fast track. . . . No doubt by coincidence, here is the Deadline Hollywood exclusive report from film editor Anita Busch, whom I testified against in the first of the bifurcated trials of her civil litigation against Michael Ovitz and Anthony Pellicano three years ago in Los Angeles—and whom I might testify against later this year in the upcoming second trial. . . . Of course, Anita and I were once partners—a very, very long story—to do a book about the Pellicano-Hollywood wiretapping scandal, an even longer story. Again, no doubt by coincidence, our book was represented by the same agent who represents the one-source book about Frank Sheeran and Jimmy Hoffa.

*          *          *

The film will be based on the first-person story of a man who has been widely described as a pathological liar. . . . And, indeed, he certainly lied to me repeatedly when I interviewed him. Then, he threatened to sue me for alleging that he was involved in the Hoffa-murder conspiracy in my 1978 book about Hoffa. . . .

12: NYT on the November 21 opening of Larry Leamer’s Rose

Featured in today’s New York Times. . . . After publishing fourteen books, our friend and colleague, author Laurence Leamer, has been thinking out of the box, penning his first stage play, “Rose,” a remarkable one-woman performance in which legendary actress Kathleen Chalfant will play Rose Kennedy. It is slated to open Off-Broadway at the Clurman Theater on November 21.

I was in the audience on May 19, 2014, at the New York Theatre Workshop in the East Village when Ms. Chalfant delivered a boffo performance during the initial read through. She was spectacular. . . .

10: The Hoffa Wars goes to #4 on Amazon’s Organized Crime Biographies
In 1978, my first born, *The Hoffa Wars*, was released. Today, 37 years later, it went to #4 on Amazon’s Biographies of Organized Crime list. . . . In front of me are two excellent books about Whitey Bulger, the subject of the upcoming film, *Black Mass*, and at #3 is an exciting book about drug kingpin Pablo Escobar, which has been rumored to be the basis for an upcoming film. . . . Alas, no film deal has ever been made for *The Hoffa Wars*. I have been rather prickly about how I would want that movie done.

3: *Concussion* director Peter Landesman says that *NYT* works for the NFL

In the “Tell Me About It” category. . . . “Concussion” director Peter Landesman, a former *New York Times* staffer whose soon-to-be-released film was trashed in a preemptive Page One story in the *Times* yesterday, says,” the *New York Times* is working for the NFL.”

Additional comments by DEM

Twenty-five years ago, during *Moldea v. New York Times*, we discovered the critical link between Arthur Sulzberger, then the publisher and chairman of the *New York Times*, and the mobbed up NFL team owner, Edward J. DeBartolo, Sr. . . . The ties between the *New York Times* and the NFL go long and deep.

* * *

Lesson learned? Get into the “wrong” legal battle with the NFL, and you will likely wind up fighting the *New York Times*. That was the last thing I wanted, but that's what I got. In my case, the Times wound up running “interference” for the NFL against my well-documented allegations about the relationship between the NFL and the Mafia.

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**August 2015**

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27: DEM on the Jello Left

From *Confessions of a Guerrilla Writer*, Chapter 136: “Buried Alive by the Jello Left”: “One thing I will say for most conservatives is that after political combat they return to the battlefield, pick up their wounded, and nurse them back to health—so that they'll be ready for the next big fight.

“No matter how many times right-wing blowhards—like Rush Limbaugh (alleged drug abuse), Bill Bennett (alleged gambling addiction), and Bill O’Reilly (alleged unrequited sexual advances towards an employee)—screw up, they always return to the front lines with the enthusiastic support of their rabid fans and the implicit support of the conservative wing of the Republican Party. They forgive these media stars for their lack of accountability, even though they demand it from everyone else.

“The Left, on the other hand, has a long history of leaving its wounded bleeding on the field of battle—or simply burying them alive. There is little loyalty among liberals for other liberals, especially for independent operators who work outside the mainstream.”

On The Right, case in point. . . . Roger Stone.
**Additional comments by DEM**

While speaking of Roger’s talents in the world of opposition research, I can’t help but think that he has some kind of secret smoke and mirrors, appearance/reality thing going on with the bombastic Donald Trump, a thin-skinned billionaire bully who needs someone, like Roger, to keep everyday life in perspective. . . . Of course, I also believe that he has a similar relationship with Roger Ailes at Fox News. . . . I think we are being played on multiple fronts.

* * *

Thanks, Roger. Right back at you. I just wish that so many members of my team didn’t spend so much of their time with their heads up their asses—such as those on the Jello Left who are aiding and abetting your friends in the GOP by supporting candidates who don’t have a prayer of defeating anyone in the Republicans’ clown car. . . . BTW: You will easily sell more copies of your anti-Hillary book than I will sell copies of my pro-Hillary book. That is the curse of being an independent operator on The Left. . . . Meantime, you have turned being an independent operator on The Right into an art form. And for that and many other things, I congratulate you—even though I still look forward to facing off with you someday.

**25: The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals decision on Anthony Pelliccano**


This just in . . . The U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco has both upheld and overturned some of Anthony Pelliccano’s 2008 convictions. He will be resentenced:

**Additional comments by DEM**

To make a very long and complicated story short . . . Daniel Patterson, a reputed con man under federal indictment, attempted to make a deal with the FBI, offering to wear a wire against reputed drug dealer, Alexander Proctor, hoping to get him to incriminate himself on tape. During their recorded conversation in August 2002, Proctor confessed to arranging the vandalism of a car owned by Anita Busch, a contract writer with the Los Angeles Times, two months earlier. (The day after the vandalism Patterson had called Busch on the phone, tipping her off that someone was actually plotting to bomb her car. Later that day, the LAPD and the FBI attended a meeting arranged by the newspaper.)

Also, during that August 2002 memorialized conversation, Proctor alleged to Patterson that he had been hired and paid to attack Busch by Anthony Pelliccano, the well-known “Sleuth to the Stars.”

Using the tape as probable cause—along with the revealed threat against Busch, whom Pelliccano had allegedly been hired to target—FBI agents conducted two raids on Pelliccano’s office. During the first raid, they found enough explosives in his safe to bring down a jetliner. In the second raid, they discovered computer disks and other evidence of widespread illegal wiretapping which Pelliccano had allegedly conducted on behalf of his clients.

It was the vandalism of Busch’s car that put this entire federal investigation in motion.

In October 2003, Pelliccano pleaded guilty to the explosives charge and did about thirty months in prison. In February 2006, on or about the day of his scheduled release, he was indicted with several alleged co-conspirators on a RICO conspiracy case, revolving around his wiretapping activities. Although facing a long prison stretch if convicted, Pelliccano never testified against his clients or alleged co-conspirators. (BTW: I covered a portion of the criminal trial in Los Angeles.)

On May 15 and August 29, 2008—at the end of two separate trials—Pelliccano was convicted and sentenced to an additional fifteen years in prison. L.A. Times reporter Busch was one of the key
prosecution witnesses against him during the first trial. Pellicano appealed these convictions, which led to yesterday’s decision by the 9th Circuit.

That’s the nickel tour of this caper. Believe me, there is much, much more. In fact, it’s a bottomless pit.

* * *

According to Pellicano’s attorney—Steve Gruel, a respected former U.S. Strike Force prosecutor—the search warrants were the fruits of a poisonous tree. He and Pellicano’s previous attorneys have been screaming about this from the outset—and not without cause.

The alleged poisonous tree were the taped conversations that Dan Patterson had arranged with an unwitting but completely guilty Alex Proctor. . . . After making the tapes and memorializing the home-run information—the alleged involvement of Anthony Pellicano in the vandalism to Busch’s car—Patterson, without the knowledge of the FBI, actually tried to sell the recordings to a suspect whom many initially thought had hired Pellicano to investigate Busch. However, that suspect, who was completely innocent of any role in this matter, had his attorney contact the FBI and report Patterson’s offer.

Pellicano and his attorneys believe that this set of circumstances should have prevented the use of the Patterson-Proctor tapes as the probable cause that led to the two searches of Pellicano’s office.

Notably, in the midst of my written exchanges with Pellicano, he denied any role in the vandalism of Busch’s car. Recently, in an unsworn deposition, Pellicano still maintained that position, insisting that Proctor had acted alone and without Pellicano’s blessing or cooperation.

In fact, Busch did drop the investigative story she blamed for the threat against her. She left the newspaper and quit journalism for nearly ten years. She has been in the midst of civil litigation against Pellicano and others since 2004. But she has resumed her earlier career as an entertainment reporter.

16: On the death of Julian Bond

God bless the great Julian Bond who died last night:

12: First FB promotion of the second edition of A Washington Tragedy

In order to understand today’s rough-and-tumble, go-for-the-throat political atmosphere—especially with regard to Hillary Clinton—you need to understand the investigations of the death of Vincent Foster. . . . This is that story—updated and newly released today in print and as an eBook.

“Apart from the Fiske and Starr Reports, the most accurate, comprehensive account of the Foster suicide and its aftermath is A Washington Tragedy by Dan E. Moldea” (from Joe Conason and Gene Lyons in their bestselling book, The Hunting of the President)

Additional comments by DEM

On January 27, 1998, Hillary Clinton said during an interview on “The Today Show”: “The great story here for anybody willing to find it and write about it and explain it, is this vast right-wing conspiracy that has been conspiring against my husband since the day he announced for President.”
A few days later, by coincidence, I released that story via my book, “A Washington Tragedy,” which was promptly suppressed by my right-wing publisher. . . . Now, 17 years later, I have re-released that updated book.

* * *

I am watching with great interest as Hillary Clinton navigates her way through this "email scandal." I learned during my investigation of the Foster case that Bill and Hillary Clinton’s enemies view the truth like a balloon. It's of no use unless you blow it up.

* * *

Funny story: In the midst of the Monica Lewinsky scandal, in which President Clinton had allegedly lied about sex, Lucianne Goldberg appeared on Larry King Live and was asked, "What do you say, Lucianne, to those who say, 'It's about sex, who cares?'"

Conveniently forgetting that her client, disgraced LAPD racist cop Mark Fuhrman, was still on probation for his 1996 perjury conviction, Goldberg replied, "Well, I'm getting a little tired of that one, too. . . . This is [about] swearing falsely, which is, to me, the worst crime in the world." . . .

Yes, she is Jonah’s mother. In the midst of the impeachment drama, Lucianne, directly or indirectly, launched her son’s career as a right-wing pundit.

* * *

Like it or not, Jeff, President Clinton answered the home-run question about Monica Lewinsky in the present tense, which was a true statement: “There is nothing going on between us.” . . . In the midst of that deposition, it was not the President's responsibility to help the opposing attorneys across the table—who were trying to destroy him—rephrase their imprecise questions. And at the Senate trial, the Senate acquitted the President of perjury, as well as obstruction of justice. . . . So, yes, "Allegedly."

Pat, you have a fine record of fighting against government secrecy and in favor freedom of information. You know that I admire you for those things. But, as a libertarian and an original Tea Party member, you also have a long standing and, in my opinion, an irrational hatred of Bill and Hillary Clinton. Also, you have recently expressed your belief that a bombastic clown like Donald Trump represents the future of America. . . Let’s see what this latest bullshit FBI investigation comes up with. You wrote that you wanted to see Hillary’s “perp walk,” and I’m telling you that you are going to be disappointed. You’re going to be proven wrong—yet again.

* * *

Just like the DOJ-FBI probes of Vincent Foster's death, Whitewater, Travelgate, and Filegate, etc—all of which came up with nothing—more evidence, knocking down the latest Fox News fantasy that Hillary Clinton has committed criminal acts with regard to the handling of her emails:

* * *

Dean Baquet, the executive editor of the New York Times, admits his newspaper's "sloppiness" during its recent coverage of Hillary Clinton. Is the New York Times waging a private jihad against the Bill and Hillary Clinton in a desperate effort to obliterate its 23 years of sloppy journalism against them?

* * *
Meantime, the right wing and the Jello Left revel after beating an unnecessary apology out of Hillary Clinton a few days ago for wrongs she never committed and for holding her to standards absolutely nobody in American politics has ever been held to. . . . Sad to say, just as I assume such bad behavior from the right wing, I have now come to expect it from the Jello Left, the same crowd that sold out President Obama before and after the 2014 midterms. . . . It is déjà vu all over again against the Clintons, just as after the suicide of Vincent Foster.

* * *

Prospective House Speaker Kevin McCarthy: The GOP’s Benghazi Committee was created to sabotage Hillary Clinton’s bid for the Presidency.

* * *

Fox News, the criminal enterprise, announces that Congressman McCarthy, who accidentally admitted that the Benghazi committee was nothing more than a cynical attempt to destroy Hillary Clinton, has pulled out as a candidate for U.S. House Speaker. . . . The Republicans are now publicly imploding in the midst of a fight between its far right and its crazy right. . . . Democrats: Get out of the way, and let them do it.

* * *

I told you Trump would try to use Vincent Foster's death. No self-respecting screwball can resist. (May 24, 2016)

7: Danny Wexler’s homage to Anne Wexler


Danny Wexler's homage to his amazing and wonderful Mother:

"My mom, Anne Wexler, passed away six years ago today. It doesn't seem that long. I have been thinking today about what she would have thought about the current state of American government and politics.

"The greatest political lesson I learned from her was the need to work together to accomplish common goals. That's what she did in the White House and throughout her political career. She understood the benefit of compromise and the power of reconciliation.

"We miss her every day and are thankful for what she taught us. We need more Anne Wexlers in today's world.

"Here is her obit from the New York Times."

Additional comments by DEM

Six years ago, I attended her memorial service at the Kennedy Center where both Bill and Hillary Clinton gave moving tributes about her life and career.

6: Tsutomu Yamaguchi survived two nuclear bombs 70 years earlier. (Hiroshima anniversary)


If you’re in the midst of a bad week, think about this 29-year-old Japanese man seventy years ago today. He was in Hiroshima on business when the first atomic bomb explosion occurred on August 6, 1945. Injured, he returned to his home in Nagasaki where he experienced the second blast on August 9. . . . The only known person to have survived both nuclear attacks, he died in 2010 at 93.
1: Homage to David Ashenfelter


Bravo Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist David Ashenfelter . . . "a role model for reporters everywhere."

*Additional comments by DEM*

David also spearheaded the FOIA case for the Detroit Free Press, finally forcing the release of the DOJ-FBI file about the disappearance of Jimmy Hoffa. Of the nearly 17,000 pages released, about 5,000 were unredacted.

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**July 2015**

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30: The Hoffa disappearance: What happened, based on the best evidence? (Gangland News)

http://www.moldea.com/Hoffa-40.html

**The Disappearance of Jimmy Hoffa: Forty Years Later**

**By Dan E. Moldea**

The mystery of Jimmy Hoffa's disappearance on July 30, 1975, has confounded the nation for forty years. Even as the trail has waxed and waned, and the baffling cast of sketchy characters is dying off, the FBI and the media still keep an eye peeled for the one clue or confession that will lead to the final resolution of the mystery, perhaps even the recovery of the remains of the long gone 62-year-old ex-boss of the Teamsters Union.

Based on the evidence, including my own contributions to the case, I believe that what I am presenting here is the most plausible theory to date as to what happened.

The Hoffa murder was a three-act drama with different characters in each act: In Act One, Hoffa went to the Machus Red Fox restaurant in a Detroit suburb in anticipation of a meeting with two Mafia figures, Anthony (Tony Jack) Giacalone of Detroit and Anthony (Tony Pro) Provenzano of Union City, New Jersey. Supposedly, neither man showed up.

In Act Two, Hoffa was picked up and taken to the location where he was murdered.

In Act Three, his body was disposed of.

This is a story about Act Three with passing references to Acts One and Two.

The first public break in the case came on December 4, 1975, when Salvatore and Gabriel Briguglio and Stephen and Thomas Andretta, four long-time associates of Tony Provenzano, appeared before a federal grand jury in Detroit and invoked their Fifth Amendment rights rather than answer any questions about the murder of Jimmy Hoffa.

The Briguglio and Andretta brothers had been implicated by Ralph Picardo, who had placed them on the FBI's radar screen. At the time, Picardo was serving 20 years for manslaughter in Trenton State Penitentiary. According to Picardo, Steve and Tom Andretta, along with an accountant used by all three,
had visited him at the prison a few days after Hoffa disappeared. While Steve and Ralph were alone, Steve allegedly gave him some specific details about how the Hoffa murder had been executed.

Picardo quickly made his way to the law-enforcement community and cut himself a deal. When he told his story, he suggested that Sal Briguglio had actually killed Hoffa, adding that Hoffa's body was placed in a 55-gallon drum and shipped via a Gateway Transportation truck to an unknown destination in New Jersey.

When pressed by the FBI to speculate on the actual location of Hoffa's body, Picardo suggested "Brother Moscato's dump," which was the PJP Landfill in Jersey City, where other victims of the Provenzano group had allegedly been laid to rest. But this lead about Philip (Brother) Moscato's landfill was nothing more than Picardo's educated guess, so the FBI stated that it was looking for the remains of a missing loan shark named Armand Faugno when they searched the landfill.

Later, during my exclusive face-to-face interview on October 25, 1976, with the Briguglio brothers and Steve Andretta, as well as with Tom Andretta by telephone, all of them denied any role in Hoffa's murder. No real surprise there, but I couldn't help but notice the extent to which they tried to dispel Picardo's account of Hoffa's murder and where his body was most likely buried.

Sally Bugs Briguglio, Hoffa's alleged killer, scoffed to me during our recorded interview, "They said we took Hoffa from Detroit, put him on a truck, brought him all the way down here in a fifty-five gallon drum, and we put him in Brother Moscato's dump."

Other potential suspects who invoked the Fifth Amendment before the grand jury in December 1975 were Rolland McMaster, and his brother-in-law, Stanton Barr. McMaster was a powerful Teamsters organizer and former Hoffa ally who had a falling out with Hoffa after the Teamsters president went to prison for jury tampering and pension fraud in March 1967. Charles (Chuckie) O'Brien, a Hoffa stepson who was labeled a suspect by the FBI when agents learned he had borrowed a car from Tony Jack Giacalone's son Joseph on the day Hoffa disappeared, also took the Fifth before the grand jury in September of 1975.

In 1976, I disclosed in a Detroit Free Press story that McMaster had used a 32-member goon squad to shake down trucking companies and solicit payoffs in return for labor peace. In a follow-up piece, I revealed that this same unit was also behind numerous acts of violence aimed at pro-Hoffa supporters in Detroit’s Local 299, Hoffa’s home local. One of McMaster’s crew was Jim Shaw, a driver for Gateway Transportation.

Notably, Stan Barr, who was McMaster's alibi for the afternoon that Hoffa vanished, was the head of the steel division of Gateway Transportation.

McMaster and Stan Barr both acknowledged to me that they were together on the afternoon Hoffa disappeared, but they insisted they were out of town for much of the day. McMaster had owned a private home just five minutes from the Red Fox restaurant where Hoffa was last seen, as well as a farm about twenty minutes away in nearby Milford Township in Wixom, Michigan.

In May 2006, FBI agents raided the farm looking for Hoffa's remains based on information provided by Donovan Wells, a former business partner of both McMaster and Barr. At the time, Wells was in a federal prison in Lexington, Kentucky. He and his family lived on McMaster's farm at the time Hoffa disappeared.

The FBI's search warrant for McMaster's farm has never been released. But Wells told me in 2009 that he informed the FBI that a large hole had been dug on the north end of the property several weeks before Hoffa's murder. In addition, his wife, Monica, claimed that on the afternoon of Hoffa's disappearance, she saw two or three dark-colored cars speeding onto the property, roaring past the farmhouse on an adjacent dirt road, and heading towards the pre-dug hole.

But what had really piqued the FBI's interest was what Wells had seen and heard the night before Hoffa's murder. At a local restaurant, as Wells, McMaster, and Barr were having dinner, Tony Pro – in the flesh –
suddenly appeared, slapped his hand on their table, and said: "It's going to be a great day tomorrow! A great day tomorrow! Right, Mac?" And he slapped McMaster on the back.

Provenzano then asked McMaster to accompany him to the bar for a private conversation.

While they were gone, Wells asked Barr what was going on. Barr replied that Provenzano and Hoffa were meeting the following day to settle their differences—and that Tony Giacalone was making the arrangements for the sitdown.

When Provenzano and McMaster returned to the table, Provenzano pointed to McMaster and Barr and asked, "Do you guys know where you're going to be tomorrow?"

McMaster responded, "Yeah, we're all straight on that."

The FBI never unearthed Hoffa's remains, or any evidence that he had been killed on McMaster's farm, but Don Wells—who passed an FBI polygraph test—provided the Bureau with important new information about Hoffa's disappearance in 2006: Rolland McMaster and Tony Pro were together at a restaurant in Detroit on July 29, 1975, the night before Hoffa disappeared. Wells also heard a portion of their conversation which was clearly about Provenzano's scheduled 2:00 P.M. meeting with Hoffa on July 30, as well as the need for McMaster and Barr to have established alibis for the afternoon when Hoffa was last seen.

After my interview with Wells, I visited my best underworld-connected source who was in a position to know the specific details about the Hoffa murder—but who disclosed information with the same frequency as a kosher butcher sells pork chops. To my surprise, he confirmed Wells's claim that Tony Pro was in Detroit the night before Hoffa vanished—something that Provenzano had always denied. However, he refused to say whether Provenzano was present at the scene of the murder the following day.

My source insisted that Ralph Picardo "basically had it right" but added that he had much more insight about the Hoffa murder. For instance, he told me that Vito Giacalone, Tony Giacalone's younger brother, had played an important role in the conspiracy, which had not been previously reported.

Nearly seven years later, on February 16, 2014, my best East Coast underworld-connected source died, taking many of the secrets of Hoffa's murder to his grave. However, as per our agreement, I am now free to reveal what he did tell me about the Hoffa case.

His words validate one of the FBI's earliest and best leads about the case, those provided by Ralph Picardo.

My source was Phillip Moscato, aka "Brother Moscato," the same man who owned the landfill on the Hackensack River in Jersey City that informer Ralph Picardo first mentioned as a likely site where Hoffa had been laid to rest following a stealthy 600-mile ride to New Jersey in a 55-gallon drum aboard a Gateway Transportation truck.

I first spoke to Moscato in a telephone call to his New Jersey home on April 28, 2007. He was very cordial and agreed to an interview.

I told Moscato that the first time I had heard his name was in early December 1975 after the Briguglio and Andretta brothers, along with McMaster and Barr, had appeared before a federal grand jury in Detroit.

Saying he had also been subpoenaed by that grand jury, Moscato told me he had known Salvatore Briguglio and Steve Andretta "since we were kids," adding, "Sally, as far as I was concerned, was one of the greatest guys. We hung out together. We had a little business together. Super guy."

Contrary to what had been previously reported, Moscato insisted that FBI agents were not looking for the remains of Faugno, a loan shark whom Sally Bugs was said to have murdered, during their search. "No, they were looking for Hoffa," Moscato insisted.
"What was the story with that?" I asked.

"Well, they said that me and Sally Briguglio buried Hoffa in my dump."

"They thought you were part of this?" I laughed.

"Yeah. Well, I was close with all them guys. And there was a rat by the name of Ralphie Picardo . . ."

"Ralph Picardo. He was in Trenton State Penitentiary."

Moscato laughed, "You've been doing your homework, huh?" He then continued, "Ralphie, I knew for years. I helped him out in business, in the trucking business. I helped him. Faugno helped him. Sally [Briguglio] helped him to get him started in his trucking business. He was around us a lot. And after he shot this guy, he wanted to get out of jail. So he goes and tells the FBI that he knows where Hoffa's buried. That he was with me and Sally when we buried Hoffa in my dump."

"Picardo said that he was with you and Sally?"

"Yeah. So he took them [the FBI] down there. They dug the dump up for three months."

"I thought they were looking for Faugno," I said.

"No," Moscato replied.

"In a fifty-five-gallon drum? They were looking for Hoffa himself?"

Moscato continued: "That was Hoffa in the fifty-five-gallon drum. [Picardo] said a pick-up truck brought . . . the truck in and Hoffa was in it, and we buried him."

"I never heard that story that you were part of it. I never heard that one before."

"That's what it was all about."

Although Moscato seemed cool, I was completely stunned.

This was new. Picardo never told that to the FBI. The hairs on the back of my neck stood at attention while my stomach churned as I tried to digest this new information as we continued talking.

One obvious problem with Moscato's story was that Picardo had been jailed in May 1975 and was in prison at the time Hoffa disappeared two months later. Consequently, there was no way that he could have made a claim to have been present when Moscato and Briguglio buried Hoffa at the landfill.

So what was Moscato telling me, wittingly or unwittingly, in our first conversation, during a telephone chat? Was he actually admitting that he and Sal Briguglio, the likely killer of Jimmy Hoffa, had buried Hoffa's body at Moscato's dump?

Ten days later, I pressed Moscato about that when I met him for the first time at his home on May 8, 2007, and we continued our tape-recorded conversation about the Hoffa case. A tall, handsome man who was suffering from myriad health issues, Moscato had been a U.S. Army paratrooper and demolition expert during the Korean War. He owned more than 40 restaurants during his life, as well as an auto-repair shop and a stable of racehorses. And at one time, he was a scratch golfer.

I must admit that I liked and even respected this man, Phillip Moscato.
"Let me ask you," I said, "when I interviewed you over the phone—again this is in my notes—did you say that Picardo said he was with you and Sal when you guys buried the body at the dump?"

"Yeah."

"So he wasn't in jail then—in July '75?"

"The government took him out."

"No, no. In July '75. Was he in jail for manslaughter then?"

"I don't know. I don't know. But he took them down there. 'Oh, here's where [Hoffa] is.' And they dug and dug. 'No, it was over there. . . . No, it was over here.'"

I then asked, "He said he knew?"

"Yeah."

Clearly, Moscato was confused about the timing, but not about the facts. Picardo had to have accompanied federal agents to Moscato's dump to search for Hoffa's body after he flipped and turned state's evidence in November 1975.

I told Moscato: "We never thought that Hoffa was any place but Detroit. I mean, why would you move him? I mean, Detroit's capable. There are plenty of places in Detroit to take care of a body for heaven's sake."

Regarding the FBI's May 2006 dig for Hoffa's remains at McMaster's farm in Wixom, Michigan, Moscato replied with absolute certainty and unquestionable authority in his voice, "Put that to rest."

"So you don't think he's at the farm?" I asked him twice.

Moscato shook his head, No, both times.

"Do you think he was taken care of right there in Detroit? I mean, why not, right?"

Yet again, Moscato shook his head.

As I completely lost whatever poker face I had maintained during the interview, I replied somewhat sheepishly, "What are you telling me? He was at Moscato's dump?"

Moscato barked, "I ain't telling you nothing. But I'm telling you that he ain't [at McMaster's farm]."

On June 18, 2013, in the midst of a much-publicized "new" FBI search for Hoffa's body, I called Moscato and asked him how seriously I should be taking this latest effort.

Moscato laughed and told me that this latest excavation of a field just north of Detroit would also amount to nothing. "I think I've already told you what happened," he said.

**Frank Sheeran Did Not Paint Jimmy Hoffa's House**

It would probably make a great movie, but with all due respect to author Charles Brandt, Frank Sheeran did not whack Jimmy Hoffa 40 years ago today. As I politely told Robert De Niro last December, who still may play Sheeran in a movie adaption of Brandt's book, *I Heard You Paint Houses*, Sheeran has successfully conned a lot of people despite his conflicting versions of events.
Phillip (Brother) Moscato, who owned the landfill where Hoffa's remains were most likely disposed of, took many secrets about the killing to his grave. But he told me emphatically: "I can assure you that Sheeran had no role in the actual killing of Jimmy Hoffa." No ifs, ands, or buts about it from a guy who rarely spoke in declarative sentences.

As I wrote in my 1978 book, The Hoffa Wars, Sheeran was involved in the murder plot. But his main role was to convince Hoffa—who trusted his longtime Teamsters Union partner in crime with his life—that it was safe for him to get into a car at the Machus Red Fox restaurant in a Detroit suburb where Hoffa was waiting for what he thought would be a sitdown with Tony Provenzano and Tony Giacalone. Chuckie O'Brien was most likely in another car, and his actions, perhaps unwitting, were another ploy to lull Hoffa into a false sense of safety.

Sheeran threatened in a letter from his attorney to sue me for libel because I had accused him of participating in the murder conspiracy. But in 2003, when he was dying of cancer, rather than die virtually penniless, he gave himself a much bigger role in the famed murder so he could sell his life story, one that had been repeatedly rejected. I Heard You Paint Houses was published in 2004, a year after he died.

Indeed, as I alleged in my book 37 years ago and Brandt claimed in his book 26 years later, Mafia Boss Russell Bufalino—who was based in Pittstown, Pennsylvania, and had business dealings with Hoffa and Sheeran for years—authorized the murder. But Provenzano, a New Jersey-based Genovese crime family captain worked out the details. Tony Pro chose the hit team, and Sheeran wasn't on it.

The best evidence, based on what all the key sources have told law-enforcement authorities and/or me, is that Hoffa was driven to McMaster's farm where he was murdered by Sally Bugs Briguglio, and then stuffed into a 55-gallon drum, and shipped via a Gateway Transportation truck for his final resting place at Brother Moscato's landfill on the Hackensack River.

Additional comments by DEM

Also, here is what Andy Petepiece says about the 2004 one-source book about Frank Sheeran, which will be the subject of the upcoming Scorsese-De Niro film. . .

http://www.moldea.com/PetepieceOnSheeran.html

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Today, once again, Fox News insisted that Frank Sheeran murdered Jimmy Hoffa. I don't know a single federal prosecutor or FBI agent who would agree that this case has been solved with Sheeran's supposed confession. .

*          *          *

David also spearheaded the FOIA case for the Detroit Free Press, finally forcing the release of the DOJ-FBI file about the disappearance of Jimmy Hoffa. Of the nearly 17,000 pages released, about 5,000 were unredacted.

28: DEM interviewed on MSNBC’s The Docket about upcoming the Hoffa 50th anniversary


Here's my vague and evasive interview this morning about the Jimmy Hoffa murder case on MSNBC—two days before the 40th anniversary. My article about the case—which will contain the real stuff—will be published at GangLandNews.com on Thursday, July 30th.

Additional comments by DEM
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* * *

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15: Jonathan Kwitny’s Introduction to The Hoffa Wars


“Dan Moldea’s book stands above the journalistic exposes and glossy tomes that were published in abundance when the Hoffa case was the crime of the decade and the Teamsters were a national scandal. What differentiates this book, and makes it of continuing importance to anyone interested in the fabric of American society, is that it is documented as thoroughly on the streets as it is in libraries and courthouses. Danny knew the workingmen who lived this story. He worked with them. And he was able to combine this street experience and personal empathy with the skills of a professional journalist. Few writers can bring that combination to their work.

“Every page shows it. Dan not only knew the union members, he was able to talk to the mid-level officers—the local presidents and vice presidents torn between the graft at Hoffa’s level and the needs of the truckers. And he talked to them not as other reporters had to, by appointment across desks. He talked to them in grungy cafes or on loading docks, as one of the boys. Reading "The Hoffa Wars," you don’t have to be told of the violent atmosphere that influenced everything about the Teamsters. You feel it. . . .”

See what Jon wrote about our search for Hoffa just three days after he vanished.

Additional comments by DEM

I had the honor of delivering one of the eulogies at Jon Kwitny’s memorial service in New York on December 17, 1998. He was a wonderful investigative journalist, as well as a great friend.

* * *

Jon was a winner, as well as a teacher and even a big brother—although he could be a little prickly at times. Along with the Hoffa caper, he and I had a couple of other adventures together, including one involving my book, Dark Victory, which was about Ronald Reagan, MCA, and the Hollywood Mafia.

4: The Grateful Dead, Jerry Garcia, Christmas dinner, and UFOs

On Christmas Eve 1989, I flew from Los Angeles to San Francisco to spend the holiday with Mimi and her family. The following night, all of us went to the home of Bob Weir of the Grateful Dead for Christmas
dinner, along with sixteen others who were family and friends of Weir. Mimi and her sister had become friends with him through a mutual friend.

Jerry Garcia also attended the dinner. To my surprise, Garcia—like rockers Graham Nash, Frank Zappa, and even Jello Biafra—had been actively touting my book, "Dark Victory: Ronald Reagan, MCA, and the Mob," since its 1986 publication.

At one point during the evening, Garcia sat in a big comfortable chair against the wall in Weir's living room, holding court, discussing "Dark Victory," and articulating his views about the Reagan-Bush administrations and politics in general. Listening to his monologue from another part of the room, I heard him say, "And there is one common denominator to everything that has happened in the world."

Hearing that, I stepped around to the back of the group, who were sitting on the couch and floor around Garcia, wondering what this "common denominator" could possibly be.

Garcia looked up, and, with a straight face, concluded, "UFOs, man! UFOs!"

While everyone was getting their dinner at the buffet table, I went over and sat with Garcia. "What do you think about what I had to say?" He asked.

"About the UFOs?" I replied.

"Yeah. What do you think?"

"Jerry, do you really believe that bullshit?"

"It's what it's all about," he replied. "It's what everything's all about."

Garcia asked me for my card, saying that he would send me some material about UFOs—which he later did. (Attached is the cover letter from his assistant, as well as the first two of the 28-page document he sent.)

I really respected Jerry Garcia. He was a very intelligent and talented man. But I still think his UFO thing is bullshit.

1: Chuck de Caro and the shooting


BREAKING NEWS: Our friend and colleague, Chuck de Caro, was shot last night in an Albuquerque, New Mexico, hotel room where he was staying with his wife, former CNN anchorwoman Lynne Russell. The incident occurred after an alleged armed robber broke into the couple’s room. Chuck, who was armed, pulled his own gun and reportedly shot and killed the assailant. . . . According to a source who asked not to be named, Lynne was not injured. He also said that Chuck was expected to survive. . . . The Albuquerque police refused comment, saying that the incident was the subject of an active investigation. Our mutual friend, Patrick Clawson, who told me about the gunfight, said that he had heard that Chuck was in serious but stable condition.

I tried to call Chuck on his mobile but did not receive any answer. I did leave a message. God bless Chuck and Lynne, who are pictured here at their wedding last July.

June 2015
28: **Chief Justice John Roberts with friends**


Feared and respected opposition-researcher Michael Rogers discovered this rather interesting photograph: Note the young man on the left . . . a future Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

5: **My announcement of my appearance on the Hoffa case at The Mob Museum on June 24**


I will appear with author Scott M. Burnstein, the co-producer of the documentary, *Killing Jimmy Hoffa*, and former U.S. Organized Crime Strike Force prosecutor Stanley Huntsert on at a symposium about the July 30, 1975, disappearance of Jimmy Hoffa at The Mob Museum in Las Vegas on June 24 at 7:00 P.M. Professor Michael Green of UNLV will moderate. (Many thanks to Geoff Schumacher, director of content for The Mob Museum.)

Admission is $25.00, which includes a reception prior to the event, marking the 40th anniversary of Hoffa's murder.

**Additional comments by DEM**

Jack: I still don't know how I got through those early freaking days—when Teamster goons like Rolland McMaster, Jack Ferris, Larry McHenry, Jack Robison, and Jim Shaw were constantly on my tail. . . . I am neither naturally courageous nor trained to be brave. And I was in a never-ending battle not to freeze up when I was overwhelmed with fear.

* * *

In fact, Rolland McMaster, Larry McHenry, and Jim Shaw will be front and center during my talk about the Hoffa case at The Mob Museum in Las Vegas on June 24. I will also be throwing in Stanton Barr for good measure, along with a few others.

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23: **Defending Sid Blumenthal**


Is anyone else getting tired of all the unfair grief that is being hurled against Sid Blumenthal, the Archangel for Bill and Hillary Clinton? I fully expect the far, extreme, and crazy right wing of the Republican Party to despise him, as well as those journalists in Washington who desperately tried but flat-out failed to bring down President Bill Clinton and are now determined to continue their cynical efforts against Hillary Clinton. . . . Yes, I get that. . . . But Sid Blumenthal is a first-class family man, writer, and investigator who understands the real “enemy within” in today’s political world and has been fighting accordingly. If I were in a political battle, I would want Sid in my corner.

**Additional comments by DEM**
“Too much of a gossip”? I don’t know what that means. . . . Sid is an opposition-research specialist. I assume that he collects occasionally unverified information about the enemies of his friends and passes it along to those to whom he is loyal. I can assure you that he doesn’t gossip about his friends. Do you believe that there is anything unique about that in Washington? . . . Also, remember that the Washington Post, like the New York Times, needed Bill Clinton’s head on a stick during the impeachment drama in order to justify its abuses and excesses, as well as its sloppy reporting about the so-called Clinton scandals, especially those revolving around the embarrassing Whitewater non-scandal. . . . President Clinton, with the critical help of Sid Blumenthal, helped to foil the dreams and schemes by these great institutions of journalism. . . . So when it comes to covering the Clintons and their allies, I trust the Washington Post (and the New York Times) as much as I trust the Wall Street Journal’s editorial page and even Fox News.

*          *          *

In the midst of the impeachment drama, Chris Hitchens—God rest his soul—had just published a book that was falling flat. In my opinion, he trumped up some cheap charges against Sid Blumenthal in the heat of battle in a cynical and, again in my opinion, corrupt effort to capture some cheap publicity—which he immediately received. . . . Essentially, even though Sid was one of Hitchens’s closest friends, Hitchens chose to betray him for no other reason than to help sell his book. . . . The ploy worked. Long-time lefty Hitchens became a darling among the right wing, as well as a relentless critic of the President and Hillary Clinton. . . . In my opinion, Hitchens lost his honor when he betrayed Blumenthal.

*          *          *

The GOP leadership and its right-wing followers do think. Many of them are very smart. Some are even, as Cindy (see above) would say, “intellectuals.” However, most of what they think and care about revolve around tax breaks for the rich, busting unions, blaming the poor and the powerless for America’s problems, and sending brave young soldiers to fight what President Obama rightly calls “stupid wars.” They are also slick enough to use wedge issues, like gun control, immigration, religion, and anything having to do with the American flag for nothing more than cynical partisan purposes. . . . Most of them are against abortion “because life is sacred,” but they believe in capital punishment “because it is a deterrent to crime.” . . . They also have conflicting standards of private behavior of public officials—one for those they like and quite another for those they don’t like.

*          *          *

I don’t know of any real players who want to ban the use of guns for sports and home protection. And there was a time when trying to ban cop-killer bullets, automatic weapons, open-carry, and even concealed-carry were not considered “ridiculous gun control regulation.”. . . With regard to the issue of gun control, we are now in Archie Bunkerland.

*          *          *

Roger Stone, my distinguished right-wing friend: I have always viewed you as Thomas Aquinas-like. . . . with just a dash of Grigori Rasputin. . . . Actually—as you might have seen earlier—my updated 1998 book about the suicide of Vincent Foster will be re-released in June. . . . Remember that caper? A group of your right-wing buddies tried to make the case that Bill and Hillary Clinton murdered Foster. . . . Don’t you guys ever get tired of always being wrong about them?

Once again, Roger, I encourage you to leave the dark side—and come into the light.

19: Bill Knoedelseder on David Letterman (for Letterman’s last show)
For a good time, see Bill Knoedelseder on David Letterman talking about his fabulous book, "I'm Dying Up Here," about, among others, Letterman, Jay Leno, Richard Lewis, and Andy Kaufman, and the Golden Age of stand-up comedy. While with the Los Angeles Times, Billy predicted Letterman's success long before he appeared on the public's radar screen.

18: The death of Louie Farris

God bless Louie, as well as the George and Debbie Farris family. Lots of fun, lots of great memories. All of us already miss him. In fact, we started missing him five years ago when he first became seriously ill. George took care of his brother right up until the very end.

9: WWII flyover in DC

This is what my pocket Canon and I saw overhead at the Georgetown Reservoir yesterday afternoon. Here are twelve photographs.

11: The Hunting of Hillary by Joe Conason and Gene Lyons

This is must reading—and, for a limited time, it's free. The Hunting of Hillary, a new e-book, by Joe Conason and Gene Lyons, based on their fabulous bestselling 2000 book, The Hunting of the President: The Ten-Year Campaign to Destroy Bill and Hillary Clinton.

April 2015

28: Jim Neff’s book about Jimmy Hoffa and Bobby Kennedy, Vendetta

My long-time friend, Seattle Times Investigations Editor James Neff, whose reporting teams just won their third Pulitzer Prize since 2010, will be publishing an important and exciting new book about the Shakespearean conflict between Robert Kennedy and Jimmy Hoffa. Titled Vendetta, Jim’s work is a nonfiction thriller which breaks new investigative ground about the storied battle between Kennedy and Hoffa. This “heart-pounding epic of crime and punishment,” which reportedly has a whopping 65,000-copy first printing, will be released by Little Brown on July 7—twenty-three days before the 40th anniversary of Jimmy Hoffa’s disappearance.

One of the gods of investigative journalism, Seymour Hersh, another Pulitzer Prize winner, described Vendetta as “a psychological thriller, . . . a study of two men who always got what they wanted, staging a shootout on the streets of Laredo.”

I have already bought an advanced copy. And I highly recommend that all of my friends and colleagues do the same.

This is Jim’s fifth book. He is also the author of the award-winning Mobbed Up: Jackie Presser’s High-Wire Life in the Teamsters, the Mafia and the FBI, which was adapted as the HBO movie, Teamster Boss.
Jim is also a former president of Investigative Reporters and Editors (IRE) and served on its board of directors for ten years.

Jim graduated from St. Ignatius High School in Cleveland where he was part of the Class of 1970, which included two other legendary Mafia hunters: former U.S. Strike Force prosecutor John Sopko (now the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction), and the late, great John Sikorski, who tragically died in 2008.

Additional comments by DEM

Today is the 40th anniversary of the disappearance of Jimmy Hoffa. I want to remind my friends and colleagues to get behind Vendetta by Jim Neff, a long-time friend of mine. Even though Jim and I have some very real disagreements about the Kennedy-Hoffa wars, I know that Jim is one of the greatest investigative journalists in the country. And I am cheering him on.

22: Barry Bonds's conviction was overturned

The conviction of Barry Bonds, the greatest baseball player who has ever lived, has been overturned. . . .

Good. It was a bad case from the outset.

Additional comments by DEM

Everyone loves and respects Roberto Clemente. And I wouldn’t even think of making the case that Barry Bonds was Mr. Congeniality. To the contrary, according to every sportswriter I know who has covered him, Bonds goes out of his way to be a jerk. . . . However, his statistics speak for themselves. At the top of list, Bonds won Most Valuable Player seven times. No one else has ever received that award more than three times. And, if Bonds wasn’t such a disagreeable character, he probably could have notched up two additional MVPs. . . . Here are his mind-numbing statistics:

* * *

I think Barry Bonds is the greatest baseball player who ever lived—which is why I collected the best and most complete collection of PSA-graded Bonds cards from 1986 to 1993. (The entire collection is in my attorney’s safe.) According to the description on the PSA registrar’s site: "This remarkable collection almost entirely consists of cards with Barry Bonds in a Pittsburgh Pirates uniform (PSA-graded cards: 1986-1993)—with a perfect 23-card PSA-10 rookie collection (1986-1987), including the rare and exquisite PSA-10 of the famous 1987 Donruss Opening Day error card, #163A." . . . Since Bonds’s now provably unfair conviction in 2011, the value of this wonderful collection has plummeted. . . .

* * *

Speaking of McGwire and Sosa . . . To me, their rivalry for the all-time home run title in 1998 saved the game of baseball, which had been crippled by MLB’s self-inflicted wounds over the years. McGwire and Sosa, along with Barry Bonds, belong in the Hall of Fame. . . .

16: On Al Profit and Scott Burnstein’s documentary, Killing Jimmy Hoffa

As the 40th anniversary of the disappearance of Jimmy Hoffa approaches, Al Profit and Scott M. Burnstein have produced one of the best documentaries to date about this unsolved mystery. . . . Great job, gentlemen! Let's solve this damn case this year.
Additional comments by DEM

With regard to Hoffa, I stand by what I wrote in the first sentence of Chapter One of "The Hoffa Wars" . . . “Jimmy Hoffa's most valuable contribution to the American labor movement came at the moment he stopped breathing on July 30, 1975. The involuntary act occurred in the midst of his dramatic bid to recapture the general presidency of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, which he had lost during nearly five years in prison. Still popular among reporters with short memories who insisted upon portraying him as a working-class hero, and among rank-and-file admirers who had forgiven him for stealing from them, Hoffa nevertheless had slim chances for a comeback.”

8: On Ethelbert Miller getting laid off by Howard University

Plain and simple, Howard University has ambushed a good and decent man, a loyal friend and trusted colleague to many of us.

Nearly every writers’ rights activist in America knows E. Ethelbert Miller. And in Washington, D.C., he is nothing less than a treasured institution. Since 1974, Ethelbert—the former chair of the D.C. Humanities Council—has been the director of the African American Resource Center at Howard University. Along with a slew of other positions, he is also the founder and director of the Ascension Poetry Reading Series at Howard. In addition, he is the author of nine books of poetry, two memoirs and the editor of three poetry anthologies.

He and his lovely wife, Denise King-Miller, have two wonderful children, Nyere Miller and Jasmine-Simone Morgan, now a Washington attorney.

After 40 years at Howard University, Ethelbert, now 64, appears to have been unceremoniously laid off by the university’s administration. He still doesn’t know for sure. He has not received any official notification. And the attached article in today’s Washington Post explains what seems to be happening.

Additional comments by DEM

Here is Ethelbert’s 2009 memoir, “The Fifth Inning.” (I took the photograph of his family which he used on the cover of this wonderful book.):

* * *

Still standing tall and looking good, Ethelbert Miller, in repose after a rough couple of weeks of combat with Howard University, reviews my scorecard and waxes reflective about God’s game at the Nats’ blowout of the Phillies last night.

Also, The Bert-Man did his usual soothsayer thing. . . “Harper is going to hit the next pitch for a homerun,” followed by Harper hitting the next pitch for a homerun. . . . “Zimmerman is going to drive those two guys home with a shot down the rightfield line,” followed by Zimmerman getting two RBIs—with a double down the rightfield line.

His predictions were so on target that I wanted to drag him to the racetrack or to a roulette table after the game—or at the very least to a 7-11 to get a Powerball ticket.

3: The death of Robert Blair Kaiser (I highlighted Sirhan’s “Hey Punk” letter about RBK.)
Former *Time* magazine reporter Robert Blair Kaiser died yesterday. He was a good man, as well as a wonderful journalist. In addition, Bob had worked as an investigator for Sirhan Sirhan's defense team and wrote the important 1970 book, "*R.F.K. Must Die!: A history of the Robert Kennedy assassination and its aftermath*" (Dutton).

Bob, aka “RBK,” had earlier studied for the priesthood. He arranged for me to obtain the attached letter, handwritten by Sirhan who threatened to kill him, just as he had shot and killed Robert F. Kennedy, aka “RFK.”

I published the contents of this remarkable and never-before-published confession in my 1995 book about the killing of Senator Kennedy—in which I concluded that Sirhan, whom I interviewed on three different occasions, had committed that murder and acted alone.


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**March 2015**

11: *My photographs taken at Jim Grady’s appearance at Politics & Prose.*

Included in Janet Donovan's attached story about James Grady are some photographs I snapped at Jim's reading for *Last Days of the Condor* on February 18 at Politics & Prose. The article appears in Janet's popular blog, "Hollywood on the Potomac.” Kim Dalferes, Author, Danielle Brian, Mark Olshaker, and David Corn.

3: *The Hoffa Wars goes eBook—with posts about the history:* QT Driver, Mitgang, Kinuko, *Playboy*, Baltimore interview, reply to NYRB-Kempton, DEM said it first cites, DEM on 10-25-1976 interview, Sheeran-McMaster, De Niro sitdown

My first born has been given rebirth—as an eBook. . . . But in lieu of bombarding my friends and colleagues with a different promotion each day for the next few weeks, I will post one FB thread today, which I will simply update from time to time. . . . Please feel free to give *The Hoffa Wars* some love. As you will see later this year, even though this book was originally published 37 years ago when I was 28 years old, it is still the “go-to” book about the July 30, 1975, disappearance of Jimmy Hoffa. (And please don’t give me any nonsense about that one-source book about Frank Sheeran, which I deal with at length in the new Afterword to *The Hoffa Wars*)

Additional comments by DEM

*The Hoffa Wars:* Act One, Scene One: Here’s my first incident with a truck—which I just happened to be driving as a summer job during college—and the truckers who probably saved my life. (Akron Beacon Journal: July 9, 1971)

* * *

After Murray Kempton’s attack on *The Hoffa Wars* for my first-time claim that Jimmy Hoffa and two Mafia figures, Carlos Marcello of New Orleans and Santo Trafficante of Tampa, had arranged and executed the murder of President Kennedy in 1963, I wrote this prophetic letter to the editor of
the *New York Review of Books*, which appeared in the May 1979 edition. . . . Two months later, in July 1979—a year after the release of *The Hoffa Wars*—the U.S. House Select Committee on Assassinations concluded that Hoffa, Marcello, and Trafficante had the “motive, means, and opportunity” to kill the President. “The mob did it,” the committee’s chief counsel declared. “It’s a historical fact.”

* * *

In my 1978 book, I implicated Frank Sheeran in the Hoffa murder plot. His attorney threatened to sue me for defamation. (See his letter in the above post.) I stood by my reporting and was not sued . . . . 26 years later, Sheeran, after giving a variety of conflicting stories about his role in the murder, gave dubious “confessions” to author Charles Brandt and Fox News, claiming that he had actually committed the murder. . . . Although I do believe that Sheeran was the trusted friend of Hoffa’s who lured him into the car which drove him to the crime scene, I am sure that Sheeran did not commit the murder. . . . In my opinion, the killer was Salvatore Briguglio, who was murdered in a gangland-style killing on March 21, 1978, a month after my fourth and final interview with him.

* * *

Just to be clear, Sal Briguglio never confessed to any crimes during his interviews with me. Our interviews focused primarily on the information provided to federal investigators by their top informant, Ralph Picardo, who had implicated the Briguglio brothers and Andretta brothers in the Hoffa murder in November 1975. (In my opinion, Picardo’s information remains rock solid.) . . . Also, Briguglio, who was under indictment at the time of his death for his role in the murder of a union rival, wanted to impress upon me the extent to which the federal government was pursuing him.

* * *

Enticed by a reporter from Fox News, Robert De Niro obtained the film rights to the Sheeran book, reportedly bringing Martin Scorsese, Al Pacino, Joe Pesci, and Harvey Keitel into the project, along with Oscar-winning screenwriter Steven Zaillian, who has already completed the screenplay. . . . On December 2, 2014, author Gus Russo, a close and trusted friend of mine, brought De Niro to a dinner of nearly 70 authors that I hosted at The Old Europe restaurant in Washington, D.C. One of the reasons De Niro attended was to have a meeting with me about his Sheeran-Hoffa film. Once again, I am very critical of Sheeran’s version of events—as De Niro was well aware. . . . Attached is a photograph of this meeting with De Niro. (Gus’s back is to the camera.) . . . More about this meeting—and what was discussed—at a later date. (Photo credit: Dale Myers)

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**February 2015**

**20: On Corn v. O’Reilly, Part 2**

I just watched Bill O’Reilly who continued to mischaracterize his supposed war reporting tonight on his show. Just as during the Andrea Mackris sex scandal—for which he still has never been publicly held to account—O’Reilly distracted his viewers away from the charges actually made against him by concocting non-issues never claimed by David Corn and then using two well-paid Fox News stooges, Geraldo Rivera
and Bernie Goldberg, to support him. ... I have worked with David Corn on several occasions, and I stand by him. His reporting about O’Reilly was completely accurate and on target. ... Here is David’s point-by-point response to O’Reilly’s phony tap dance tonight.

**Additional comments by DEM**

Just as he did against Senator Al Franken (D-MN), O’Reilly has made a thinly-disguised threat of violence against David Corn. Specifically, O’Reilly told an interviewer, “I expect David Corn to be in the kill zone. Where he deserves to be.” *Mother Jones* has demanded an apology. ... When is O’Reilly, who views himself as a watchdog of other people’s actions, finally going to be held responsible for his own bad behavior?

* * *

Forget about a defamation case, Michael. We should get this tough-talking coward, as well as the entire Fox News network, on a civil RICO. The predicates are clear and present. This case can be made.

* * *

God, I wish I had the time to jump into this fray. ... My read? O’Reilly is in very deep trouble right now. And we will start hearing the death knell when Bob Schieffer, one of the legends at CBS News whom O’Reilly shamelessly accused of plagiarism yesterday, chimes in. ... Will Fox News, which has already expressed its support for O’Reilly, handle this as quickly as NBC News handled the Brian Williams matter?

* * *

Clearly, O’Reilly’s cover-up is only exacerbating by his original sins. Seeing that he is trapped with no graceful exit, he could decide, as he did during the Andrea Mackris sex scandal, to make an angry but brief declarative statement and then refuse any further comment about the matter. Remarkably, that cynical tactic worked in the Mackris case—inasmuch as the mainstream media allowed him to escape and didn’t press him further.

* * *

The Brian Williams caper is another game-changer. It is now open season on journalists. ... In politics, opposing candidates have tried to destroy each other for years. Now, with the blurring of the line between news and opinion, it was only a matter of time until journalists with different political perspectives would feel the need to destroy each other. ... O’Reilly, with his long reign of terror at Fox News, has been the worst offender. The major challenge to his integrity by David Corn and Mother Jones is well deserved and long overdue.

* * *

Bill O’Reilly remained defiant on his program tonight, portraying himself as a reasonable and even heroic man battling against an onslaught of evil Fox News haters. ... In fact, nothing that David Corn wrote for *Mother Jones* has been successfully challenged. His facts remain as solid now as when he first published them on February 19. ... Meantime, the cowardly O’Reilly, after threatening Corn by placing him in the “kill zone,” has also threatened a woman reporter from the *New York Times*. ... With the full support of the top brass at Fox News, the shameless O’Reilly has refused to apologize for anything—not his exaggerations, fabrications, lies, cynical survival tactics, or even for his threats of violence against reporters covering his provably bad behavior. ... If O’Reilly does manage to survive, it will signal just how dangerous both he and Fox News have become.
Here’s the inexplicable valentine the New York Times gave to Bill O’Reilly today—coauthored by the woman reporter whom O’Reilly had just threatened two days ago. There are only two sentences about the Andrea Mackris litigation—with no reference at all to his now-familiar violent talk in the Mackris’s transcripts. . . . . Even Ronald Reagan didn’t enjoy this level of Teflon.

19: David Corn’s article about Bill O’Reilly’s lies about his war-reporting experiences

Investigative journalist and best-selling author David Corn, the Washington editor of Mother Jones magazine, has accused cowardly right-wing blowhard and world-class hypocrite Bill O’Reilly of Fox News of lying about his war-reporting experiences. In his usual pithy yet degenerate manner, O’Reilly has responded by calling David a "despicable jerk" and a "pig."

Will Fox News, already an alleged criminal enterprise, hold O’Reilly to the same standards of honesty and integrity that NBC has held Brian Williams—who, of course, was relentlessly attacked by O’Reilly and Fox for the exaggerations of his own wartime experiences?

In this battle, I’m betting on David Corn, the respected reporter who gave the world Mitt Romney’s “47-percent speech,” the defining moment of the 2012 Presidential election.

Additional comments by DEM

Hillary has surely been vetted—over and over again. However, Fox News and its right-wing zombie/stooges have been trying to perfect their swiftboating operations, which they worked so effectively against John Kerry in 2004. . . . Essentially political jiu jitsu, they take a candidate's greatest strengths and, through lies and fabrications, leverage them into campaign-stopping weaknesses.

I also still believe that Fox News and the right-wing Republicans are trying hard to make the entire political atmosphere so toxic and disgusting that Hillary will decide that she doesn't need the obligatory abuse she is sure to receive and will decide not to run.

If Hillary doesn't run, I see two Ohio boys going head-to-head for President in 2016: Sherrod Brown v. John Kasich.

In 1974, before I started writing books, I ran for the state legislature in Ohio while I was in graduate school. I was an anti-war Republican who supported Gene McCarthy in 1968 and George McGovern in 1972. I also supported the impeachment of President Nixon. . . . On the day after the Republican primary—during which I got clobbered—my biggest contributor, who was out of town, called to see how I did. I told him, "Hey, we ran a clean race, stuck to the issues, stood on principle . . . ." He stopped me in mid-sentence and said, "Cut the bullshit, Dan. Did you win or did you lose?" . . . . That's really what it's all about. (BTW: Shortly after my big loss, I became Democrat—but that's another story.)
I just watched Bill O’Reilly who continued to mischaracterize his supposed war reporting tonight on his show. Just as during the Andrea Mackris sex scandal—for which he still has never been publicly held to account—O’Reilly distracted his viewers away from the charges actually made against him by concocting non-issues never claimed by David Corn and then using two well-paid Fox News stooges, Geraldo Rivera and Bernie Goldberg, to support him. . . . I have worked with David Corn on several occasions, and I stand by him. His reporting about O’Reilly was completely accurate and on target. . . . Here is David’s point-by-point response to O’Reilly’s phony tap dance tonight:

17: A photograph of the 1999 surprise party for Jim Grady at The Palm

Today is the pub date for Jim Grady’s fabulous new book, Last Days of the Condor, the sequel to his 1974 book upon which the landmark motion picture, Three Days of the Condor, was based. At 7:00 on Wednesday night, February 18, at Politics & Prose on Connecticut Avenue NW, Jim will speak to his many friends, colleagues, and fans. . . . A handful of them, a group of local authors, are in this picture, taken at a surprise party we threw for Jim’s birthday in 1999 at The Palm. From left to right: Dan Moldea, James Bamford, Lou Mizell, David Corn, John Weisman, Mark Olshaker, James Grady, and Jeff Stein. . . . We all salute you, Jim. See you tomorrow night.

Additional comments by DEM

Jeez, you are the youngest guy at the table, David. I keep forgetting that you learned about Watergate from your Weekly Reader. . . . However, your 47-percent story on Romney saved the day in 2012. I can’t think of anything that influenced that election more than your work.

12: Mark Fuhrman of Fox News, convicted perjurer, in light of Brian Williams’s sins

Convicted perjurer Mark Fuhrman, the racist former LAPD junior detective, remains on the Fox News payroll as a news analyst while Fox News relentlessly dances on Brian Williams’s head because of the NBC news anchor’s exaggerations. . . . What? No sky-is-falling outrage over Fuhrman’s provable lies from the zombie-stooges who love Fox News?

Additional comments by DEM

Why are so many of us surprised that Bill O’Reilly is surviving his boatload of provable lies, considering that Fox News also continues to stand by Mark Fuhrman, who was actually convicted of perjury?

January 2015

24: My appearance at the NoVa library

On Saturday, January 31, from 1:00 to 3:00, I will be speaking at the Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA. . . . Along with discussing my latest book, Confessions of a Guerrilla Writer, I plan to explain to those present how to win tons of money via gambling on football—a nearly foolproof process I learned from a Chicago Mafia guy in the Federal Witness Protection Program. . . . On the downside, though, you could get killed if caught trying to pull this off. . . .
So drag your favorite sports fans along to The Big Show.

Additional comments by DEM

I will also be discussing how I helped to save Bill Clinton’s presidency during the impeachment battle, as well as how I solved many of the complicated issues revolving around the murder of Senator Robert Kennedy and the suicide of Vincent Foster, as well as the corruption of Ronald Reagan and a view inside the police investigation of the O.J. Simpson murder case. And—oh yes—I will discuss the 1975 disappearance of Jimmy Hoffa forty years ago, and I will tell you how Hoffa, Carlos Marcello, and Santo Trafficante arranged and executed the murder of President Kennedy in 1963. I was the first to make that claim in my 1978 book about Hoffa.

14: Jeff Stein on Mark Rossini and 9-11

Here is a spectacular story in this week's Newsweek by Jeff Stein about the great Mark Rossini, a legendary FBI agent in New York, who made a bad mistake and has paid dearly for it. Now, he is on his way back with what should be a best-selling memoir, featuring his unique version of the tragic events revolving around the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

11: DEM on the film, Selma

We saw Selma last night in Ballston, Virginia. After watching this very moving but clearly defective motion picture, I completely agree with David Kaiser’s critical analysis in Time. . . . With such a sensational and dramatic real-life story, there was simply no reason to sensationalize the plot or to fabricate the well-documented events portrayed in this movie. The drama was already inherent with the unfolding history. . . . What particularly disturbs me in the ongoing defense of this fatally flawed film is the argument that artistic freedom should be allowed to trump historical accuracy without any notifications, disclaimers, clarifications, or apologies—and that such bad behavior should be protected by the First Amendment.

Nevertheless, friends and colleagues should see the film for its accurate portrayal of “Bloody Sunday,” March 7, 1965, on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, which includes the shameless and even criminal reaction to a peaceful protest, as well as the heroism of John Lewis—for whom I was honored to have written a handful of speeches back in 1980 before he was elected to Congress.

Additional comments by DEM

I was blown away by the 1970 Sidney Lumet-Joseph Mankiewicz Oscar-nominated documentary, King: A Filmed Record . . . Montgomery to Memphis, as well as by Abby Mann’s 1978 Emmy Award-winning television mini-series, King, starring Paul Winfield.

* * *

I graduated from Ohio’s Akron Garfield High School in 1968 and was mostly insulated from the early work of the civil-rights movement. As I recall, the black and white kids at my school were united by sports, music, and fashion. I don't recall any serious racial tensions and, if there had been, I believe that most of the white kids would have sided with their black friends. . . . I studied black history as both an undergraduate at the University of Akron where I was a student-rights activist, as well as student-body president, and in graduate school at Kent State University where I taught a course called "Racism and Poverty" in the Honors and Experimental College. In addition, I had a job as the deputy director of the Portage County Community Action Council in Ravenna, Ohio, just a few miles away from Kent—while the Nixon Administration was in the midst of
dismantling our federal parent agency, the Office of Economic Opportunity. . . . I was also the
token white columnist for *The Reporter*, a weekly newspaper that served the black community in
northeastern Ohio, which was where I began my career as an investigative journalist. My boss
back then was a very dignified and distinguished man, William Ellis, who had been a young
attorney with the litigation team for the NAACP which won the 1954 landmark decision in *Brown
v. Board of Education*. . . . In 1979-1980, after the publication of my first book, I became the
executive assistant for the Deputy Director of ACTION, the federal volunteer agency. My boss
was the great Mary King, a former activist with SNCC. While there, as I noted earlier, I had the
honor to write a handful of speeches for the legendary John Lewis, who was then an associate
director of ACTION.

* * *

To me, apart from all that Dr. King believed in and fought for on behalf of blacks and racial
equality, Dr. King was also an inspiration for whites to lead what he often called, "a committed
life.

9: Support for the French journalists killed in the terrorist attack in Paris

The list of the 1106 journalists killed in the line of duty worldwide since 1992, compiled by the Committee
to Protect Journalists (CPJ). . . . https://www.cpj.org/killed/ . . . God bless those murdered yesterday in
Paris.

6: Declaration of support for President Obama

Today, an unprecedented onslaught of right-wing Republicans will take over both houses of Congress and
begin their final assault against Barack Obama with the complicity of Fox News. President Obama is a
courageous visionary with a remarkable record of achievements in office despite the malicious and
unparalleled attempts to sabotage his Presidency. . . . As a personal declaration, I will continue to fight for
and defend President Obama.

Additional comments by DEM

A lot has changed since the 1960s. Just to be clear, I admire and respect centrists from both
parties. When I moved to Washington in 1976, the top Republicans in town, all moderates,
included: President Gerald Ford of Michigan and Vice President Nelson Rockefeller of New York,
as well as the following U.S. Senators: Howard Baker of Tennessee, Robert Griffin of Michigan,
Charles Mathias of Maryland, Edward Brooke of Massachusetts, Jacob Javits of New York,
Charles Percy of Illinois, William Saxbe of Ohio, Mark Hatfield and Bob Packwood of Oregon,
and Lowell Weicker of Connecticut, among many others.

None of these guys—all of whom I had great respect—could get past a GOP primary these days.

* * *

I understand, Matt. President Obama receives the blame for everything that goes wrong and is
credited with nothing that goes right. I get it. The new majorities in both houses of Congress today
will agree with you completely. . . . Fret not, political nirvana awaits. Hillary is on the horizon.

* * *
Who gets threatened with primaries if they compromise with the other side? The Republicans—there are dozens of examples, including Eric Cantor. But I don't know of a single Democrat who has received a primary challenge because he or she wanted to compromise with Republicans. . . . Doesn't that tell you something? Who are the real obstructionists in this situation?

* * *

I have to stand by what I wrote to you earlier. . . . There is simply no way that the crime-fighting Kennedys would have embraced the Mafia. And there is no way that the Mafia, particularly Chicago’s acting crime boss Sam Giancana, would have supported the Kennedys, especially after Robert Kennedy identified him as “Public Enemy Number One” three months before the 1960 election. Bottomline, the Kennedys didn’t need the Mafia to win Chicago. Mayor Daley and his Democratic Party machine could ensure that victory.

The rumors to the contrary are, to me, just Mafia gossip and general hogwash—and there has been plenty of it aimed against the Kennedys who were the Mafia’s worst enemies. I still believe that Robert Kennedy, as U.S. Attorney General from 1961-1964, was the greatest crime fighter this country has ever had. And I still believe that John Kennedy was murdered as a result of his brother’s war against the Mafia. In fact, I was the first to make that specific case in my 1978 book, *The Hoffa Wars*.

With regard to our friend, Gus Russo, I have far too much respect for him to argue against his work without him not directly involved in the conversation. But, as you might or might not know, he and I have had this battle for years. . . . I can assure you that this will be a major topic of conversation when we get together at the next Leamer’s Table at Café Deluxe. In fact, I’m sure that Laurence Leamer, the author of “Kennedy Men,” will want to weigh in on this, too.

With regard to our ongoing debate over President Obama and inasmuch as we have been close friends for over thirty years, we are going to have to agree to disagree—just as I wrote to Matt Simmons. I believe that history is going to be very kind to this President and very critical of the manner in which the Republicans blatantly tried to sabotage his Presidency.

* * *

Inspired by the legacy of the great crime fighter Robert Kennedy, I switched parties in 1976 and became a Democrat, as well as an advocate of a strong and honest central government—because the enemies of the American people are so centralized: corrupt corporations, corrupt unions, corrupt media, and organized crime. I realized that decentralization was conducive to public corruption. . . . However, I am still second to none in my support of safeguards to prevent the government from becoming organized crime—as it exists today in Russia.

* * *

The Republicans and Fox News are now going to try to destroy President Obama personally, ram a stake through his heart, and turn him into a mere cautionary tale. . . . That's what the Republicans believe they were elected to do last November. And those who even try to compromise with President Obama will receive primary challenges in 2016. I know of no Democrat who will receive a similar challenge for compromising with the Republicans. . . . Who has really been behind the divisiveness?

* * *

Hey, guys. This is Washington, D.C. If you don't accept the differing views of others—especially among your friends—you will not have many long-term friendships. . . . I don't think anyone doubts my ferocity in defense of my own political beliefs.
5: Homage to Linda Deutsch of the AP who has retired

The legendary trial reporter of the Associated Press in Los Angeles, Linda Deutsch, has retired. She covered everyone from Sirhan Sirhan and Charles Manson to O. J. Simpson and Michael Jackson. . . . Linda is the goddess of great courtroom journalism. . . .


In the midst of controversies over the historical accuracy of The Imitation Game and Selma—two Oscar-contending motion pictures—here is my 1992 essay about the Jack Nicholson movie, Hoffa, in the Washington Post, asking why Hollywood, when dramatizing real-life events, too often produces films that are “based on fact [with] several departures from reality.”

Additional comments by DEM

Roger: I am waiting for your book that trashes the Clintons. . . . Simultaneously, I'll try to get my 1998 book about Vincent Foster's suicide—and it was a freaking suicide—re-released. . . . Sooner or later, you and I are going to wind up in a steel cage. But, until then, I would really enjoy having lunch or dinner when you return to D.C.

2014

December 2014

20: 16th anniversary of Bob Livingston’s resignation and Bill Clinton’s impeachment

Yesterday was the 16th anniversary of the resignation of U.S. House Speaker Designate Bob Livingston (R-LA) after I caught him having an affair while he was in the midst of using the Monica Lewinsky matter to supercharge the impeachment of President Bill Clinton which occurred later that same day. However, with the Republicans’ hypocrisy clear and present for all to see, President Clinton’s approval rating skyrocketed to 73 percent, ending nearly all calls for his resignation and derailing any chance the Republicans—whom we continued to pursue and expose—had to convict the President at the Senate trial. . . . You’re welcome.

In the aftermath of my work and the President’s acquittal, I survived a federal investigation and a possible criminal indictment, promoted by the Republican National Committee, for obstruction of Congress, jury tampering, and blackmail.

Get ready for the knuckle draggers who will take control of both houses of Congress at the beginning of January to make a similar move against President Barack Obama. . . . We will be there for him, too.

Additional comments by DEM

The only thing worse than the right-wing Republicans’ greed and stupidity was the overall lack of backbone by those Democratic candidates and others within the Jello Left who abandoned President Obama, his progressive agenda, and his monumental successes while in office—which
led to the midterm-election disaster. . . . Those Democrats should be bitch-slapped and horse-whipped.

* * *

As you know, since 2009, the Republicans have been on a jihad. Figuratively speaking, they are going to start cutting off heads in January. . . . First, they will swift boat President Obama, using skewed political jujitsu to portray his greatest strengths as egregious weaknesses—a tactic they employed successfully against John Kerry during the 2004 Presidential campaign, dishonestly portraying a legitimate war hero as a brazen coward. . . . And then, they will come after Hillary Clinton—with all of the old allegations about the Rose Law Firm, the suicide of Vincent Foster, Travelgate, Filegate, Whitewater, and, of course, Monica Lewinsky. And, oh yes, Benghazi. . . . They will cynically make the entire political atmosphere incredibly toxic and disgusting, hoping that Hillary will reconsider running for President. . . . God bless Elizabeth Warren and all of her noble intentions, but, in lieu of Hillary, the Republicans would love to run against this first-term Senator in 2016. At the polls on election day, they would beat Senator Warren into submission.

* * *

241 brave American servicemen were murdered in 1983 by suicide bombers at the Marine barracks in Beirut while President Ronald Reagan was asleep at the switch—the same guy who later secretly sold arms to Iran and then diverted the profits to his illegal secret war in Nicaragua. And then, when caught, he lied about everything. . . . Can you imagine the reaction if President Obama had secretly sold arms to Iran. . . .

* * *

George H.W. Bush, as Reagan’s vice president, insisted that he was “out of the loop” with regard to Iran-Contra—although there is considerable evidence to the contrary. However, after he lost his reelection bid for President to Bill Clinton in 1992, he pardoned six administration officials who were indicted and/or convicted for their roles in the Iran-Contra scandal.

* * *

Yes, Chuck O'Brien is still alive—although I have not interviewed him since 1978 when I questioned him about his alleged complicity in an attempted murder in Las Vegas. . . . There will be important news on that front in 2015—but it will not originate with me. . . . I have been sworn to secrecy on that matter.

18: The Sony hacking—and DEM’s qualified laud of Dave Robb

Since 2006, my estranged “brother,” Dave Robb, has not been my favorite person—for reasons many of our friends and colleagues are fully aware. But he is still the best investigative reporter in Hollywood. . . . See his ongoing timeline on the Sony hacking scandal at Deadline Hollywood:http://deadline.com/…/sony-hack-timeline-any-pascal-the-in…/. . . . Happy holidays to Dave and his bride.

Additional comments by DEM

In the Anthony Pellicano wiretapping-conspiracy case, the FBI and the prosecutors controlled all of the information—and wound up getting their convictions on the basis of the lowest hanging fruit and with minimal embarrassment to the Hollywood elite. . . . In this Sony caper, the hackers are in complete control of the information, as well as when and how it will be released. And, instead of protecting the elite, they appeared determined to blow them up, promising the next set of disclosures on Christmas Day. . . . Now that Sony has unconditionally surrendered, what lesson will we learn if the public attacks against the company continue?
Paul: I hear you, Big Guy. Let’s face it. . . . Michael Lynton and Amy Pascal are fighting for their professional lives. And they have executed the mother lode of all mea culpas. . . . Will the hackers allow them to survive or will they kill their careers and ram stakes through their hearts?

3: With Robert De Niro at Authors Dinner Group at The Old Europe

Robert De Niro and Luca Brasi: Reunited at the authors’ dinner last night at The Old Europe restaurant in Washington, D.C. . . . Many thanks to Augusto “Machine Gun” Russo for making the introduction while Jim “Hit Man” Grady lurks in the background. (Photo credit: Allison “Psycho Killer” Romano.)

Additional comments by DEM

Robert De Niro, whom I had never met before, and I have a couple of mutual friends—including author Gus Russo who brought the actor to our authors’ dinner on Tuesday. They have been trying to arrange a meeting between De Niro and me during which we could privately discuss some matters of common interest. . . . I was neither pitching nor catching. I don’t think he has any interest in doing films about any of my books—and I wasn’t trying to sell him anything. We simply had some things we had to straighten out, and those things will become clear during the coming year . . . Once again, he could not have been more of a gentleman to all of us at the dinner. I genuinely liked and respected him. And I hope to see him again someday.

Our fellow authors’ dinner group member, Gus Russo, has been doing important business with Robert De Niro and his team. In addition, Gus had been trying to get De Niro and me together to discuss a pressing common concern. A couple of months ago, he mentioned to De Niro that we have an authors’ group that has dinner together twice a year. De Niro replied that he wanted to attend one of our dinners.

Because we have a hard and fast rule that only published authors can come to these events, Joel Swerdlow, who is our master of ceremonies, and I decided to invite De Niro as a “guest speaker.” Also, Gus and I gave De Niro and the wonderful Jane Rosenthal, the president of his Tribeca Productions (pictured), the confirmation list of those authors who would be attending the dinner—the same list that all of those who RSVP’d received.

De Niro and Rosenthal did whatever due diligence they wanted to do with the names on the list. Jane, one of the most powerful women in the motion-picture industry, accompanied De Niro to our dinner, also as a "guest speaker." I have no idea whether or not they plan to contact any of our authors to discuss any future film projects.

The hardest part for Gus, Joel, and me was keeping all of this a secret until the night of the dinner.

Here is a photograph of the private meeting at The Old Europe that Gus Russo, who has his back to the camera, arranged between Robert De Niro and me on December 2. (Photo credit: Dale Myers)
During the next few months, because of our dispute over his Hoffa film, De Niro, along with Scorsese, will squash me like a bug—, even though I know the Hoffa case as well as anyone in or out of the DOJ—and most certainly in or out of Hollywood. . . . But, I'll be fine. I've been previously squashed many times by my betters.

November 2014

23: On Marion Barry’s death

The former mayor of Washington, D.C., Marion Barry, had a heart attack and died this morning. Legal or moral considerations aside, I liked and respected this man. I thought he was a great mayor, especially during his first two terms, who genuinely cared about the poor and powerless in a city that is all about wealth and power. . . . God bless Mayor Barry.

Additional comments by DEM

On June 8, 1982, I moderated a mayoral debate for the Progressive Club that pitted Mayor Barry, who was running for reelection, against several challengers in the upcoming Democratic primary. Until that day, I never knew that Mayor Barry had been working on his doctorate in chemistry and then left academia to begin his celebrated work with SNCC and the civil-rights movement. . . . BTW: Barry blew away his competition during the debate that day. Nobody cared more about Washington, D.C. than Marion Barry.

19: David Horsey’s political cartoon with Obama as Caesar and the Senators with knives

The way it is, has been, and will be . . .

Additional comments by DEM

Big John: Thanks for the Fox News talking points. But implying that President Obama and the Democrats controlled both houses of Congress for the first two years of Obama’s term and had the ability to get anything they wanted passed is very misleading. Without 60 votes in the U.S. Senate, virtually nothing can get done—because of the never-ending Republican filibusters which required 60 votes for cloture. And even though for a brief period of time in 2009, the Democrats, along with two independents who caucused with the Democrats, had exactly 60 votes in the Senate, the reality was that two key Democratic Senators, Ted Kennedy and Robert Byrd, were very ill, bedridden, and unavailable for most votes. (Kennedy died in August 2009, and Byrd died in June 2010.)

The Democrats have not come close to 60 votes in the Senate since. And I really doubt that your friends, the knuckle-dragging Republican leadership, have ever had any real intention of passing effective and humanitarian immigration reform. It took President Obama, after the cowardly red state Democrats ran away from him during the recent midterm elections, to do it on his own.

It was the right thing to do. It was the humanitarian thing to do.

* * *
MSNBC talking points? Considering the ill-health of Senators Kennedy and Byrd, did the Senate Democrats effectively have 60 votes or not in 2009-2010? Because they clearly didn’t, your entire argument collapses, and you are back to blaming President Obama when a cat gets caught in a tree or five feet of snow falls in Buffalo.

We’ve been friends for years, and I don’t remember you ever being so passionate or principled about the issue of executive orders when Reagan and/or the Bushes were issuing them.

Also, there are a lot of us who are very happy to see that the President is finally picking fights with those same Republicans who have been busy sabotaging his Presidency since Day One.

With regard to your reference to a future “President Paul,” let’s put some money on that one.

8: DEM’s speech at the Elms

Few, if any, of my friends in Akron would believe that my name and "Our Lady of the Elms" are colliding in the same sentence. But, as part of the school’s popular "Author Author" series, I will be speaking on Tuesday evening, November 25, to discuss my nine nonfiction, true-crime books.

There is a cover charge, but all of the proceeds are going to The Elms. Also, there will be a nice reception with beer, wine, and light hors d’oeuvres, hosted by the great attorney, George L. Farris, and his fabulous wife, Debbie. . . .

No doubt, while in town, I will also be going to Belgrade's and Swenson's.

Additional comments by DEM

Thank you so much for the wonderful turnout, the great reception, and the walk down memory lane. God bless Ruth, Peggy, and The Elms, and George and Debbie Farris, as well as the gangs from my church, Garfield High, the University of Akron, Phi Delta Theta, Kent State, and all of my family, friends, colleagues, and sources in Ohio who attended. I really appreciated your thoughtfulness, not to mention the standing o at the end. Happy Thanksgiving!

4: DEM’s view of Jello Left after the midterm disaster

The Jello Left needs a lesson in loyalty. The main problem in this election was the cowardice of Democratic candidates who refused to embrace—or even finesse support for—President Obama and his progressive agenda. By running away from him early on and not defending his programs and successes, those Democrats did nothing less than validate the ongoing sabotage of the Obama presidency by the Republicans and Fox News.

Additional comments by DEM

I enjoy watching Fox News at the end of an election night. In 2012, when President Obama was reelected, the network’s “news” anchors appeared on camera like their dogs had just died. Tonight, in the midst of the Republican onslaught, those same anchors look like giggling and wide-eyed children on Christmas morning.

* * *

I agree with you, Burt. But those House Republicans are freaking crazy. And, now, they are emboldened, and they are already plotting to go for the gold. And, as of tonight, there are enough
screwball Republicans in the Senate who appear willing to make these next two years a complete and total nightmare for the American public.

* * *

I still believe that the most effective way to govern is to do so from the center. . . . The Republicans are now going to be forced to govern—needing 60 votes in the Senate to get anything done. Mercifully, they fell short of that number tonight. Look for those Democratic Senators who are up for reelection in 2016 to be the first to make deals to help them get to 60.

* * *

At the moment, my biggest concern is that President Obama is almost completely isolated. I was up on Capitol Hill this afternoon, and I heard very little support for him from Democratic staffers, even among those whose bosses survived the carnage from last night. It is inexplicable.

Throughout the day, Fox News has been dancing on the President’s head, showing no respect for him or his office while expressing over-the-top disdain and ridicule. They are clearly trying to destroy him once and for all.

I supported Hillary Clinton during the primaries in 2008. And, of course, I supported Barack Obama in the general election that year, as well as during his reelection effort in 2012.

I am proud of that support, and I stand by him still.

* * *

I’ve been in Washington since 1976—when the Republican Party was not run by the knuckle draggers it is today. In this town—inside The Beltway—you have to learn to disagree without being too disagreeable. . . . Yes, I do think that the right-wing of the Republican Party is, in fact, an emerging organized-crime group and that Fox News is already a criminal enterprise, but that is business, not personal.

And even though you are committed to the dark side of American politics, we can not only be friendly but actually be friends. . . . After all, we’re from Akron, Firestone Park no less. . . . We went to Garfield High. Go Rams.

* * *

I never cease to be amazed by those who oppose abortion because “life is sacred,” but support capital punishment because “it is a deterrent to crime.” . . . Also, as I discovered in the midst of my role during the Clinton impeachment battle in 1998-1999, such hypocrites have conflicting standards of private behavior for public officials. . . . One for those they like and another for those they don’t like.

Case in point: Rep. Scott DesJarlais (R-Tennessee), the anti-abortion, pro-Tea Party physician who pressured his mistress, who was one of his patients, to get an abortion. Last Tuesday, the people of his conservative district reelected him to Congress.

* * *

Thank you for making my point, Sandy. Yes, you are absolutely right. Those are, indeed, White House talking points—boasting of a remarkable and irrefutable record of achievement by the Obama Administration—which many recent Democratic candidates inexplicably refused to embrace. In doing so, they legitimized the trashing of this great President for no other reason than
to curry favor with a handful of religious fanatics, rabid gun nuts, shameless war mongers, and those who believe that America means “every man for himself.”

* * *

God bless Hillary Clinton for staying loyal to President Obama. . . . If the Democrats are going to give themselves a chance to win it all in November 2016, they are going to have to learn from the harsh lesson of 2010 and 2014: . . . the need to stay loyal to this great President and to embrace his progressive agenda, not run away from it.

3: President Obama’s victories ignored prior to the 2014 midterms

“You’d never guess that the economy is growing at 3.5 percent, unemployment is below 6 percent and gas prices are way, way down.” — Rachel Maddow, November 3, 2014.

September 2014

27: DEM’s interview with James Traficant

The Mafia and the Congressman: My 1985 interview with James Traficant

Here is a rough-and-tumble 1985 interview I did with James Traficant, a former county sheriff in Youngstown, Ohio—who was indicted by a federal grand jury in 1982 for accepting money from the Mafia. In the presentation of their case, federal prosecutors had, among other evidence: 1) tape recordings of Traficant accepting the bribes, 2) the testimonies of several witnesses to the payoffs, and 3) Traficant’s own signed confession.

Still, Traficant, who was not a lawyer, pled not guilty, fired his defense attorneys, and represented himself at trial—inexplicably winning a complete acquittal in an episode that the U.S. Department of Justice has yet to live down.

And then, after all of that, the people of Youngstown, Ohio, elected Traficant to Congress.

Additional comments by DEM

In this town, when they say, “It’s not about money,” you can bet that it is all about money. And when they say, “It’s not about sex,” you just know that it’s all about sex. The disgraceful impeachment of Bill Clinton in 1998 by Republican hypocrites provided ample evidence of that.

* * *

Significantly, the Traficant caper was about a sheriff who was knowingly and willing being corrupted by taking payoffs from Mafia guys—and was then elected to Congress. . . . There is a big difference between Traficant’s sins and those of Hays and Mills, et al. . . (Don’t get me started about Rep. Alcee Hastings while he was a federal judge.)

* * *
It's the Louisiana theory of politics: Generally speaking, a politician can survive anything—except for getting caught with a live boy or a dead girl.

26: On Jim Grady and Condor sequel

Our friend and colleague, the legendary Jim Grady, has sold the long-awaited sequel to his fabulous 1974 novel, which became one of the greatest motion pictures ever produced: “Three Days of the Condor.” The book will be titled, "Last Days of the Condor.”

Hey Jim: Will Robert Redford and Faye Dunaway make return appearances? Did the New York Times publish or kill Condor’s story, the cliffhanger at the end of your first film? Will the postman ring twice? Will someone “save us all from Satan’s power when we were gone astray?”

Have fun, Jim and Bonnie! Your fans, like us, are cheering for you!

Additional comments by DEM

Actually, with life imitating art, Dawud Salahuddin, aka David Theodore Belfield, was sent by Tehran to assassinate “an anti-regime activist” who was living in Bethesda. Possibly taking a page from Grady’s book, Salahuddin dressed as a postman to commit the murder.

24: DEM on the 50th anniversary of Warren Report

“Jimmy Hoffa, Carlos Marcello & Santo Trafficante arranged and executed the 1963 murder of President John Kennedy”

50 years ago today, the Warren Commission released its final report. I find it difficult to believe that had former CIA Director Allen Dulles, who sat on the Warren Commission, revealed what he knew—that the CIA and the Mafia had teamed up to kill Fidel Castro—that this information would not have created a whole new avenue of investigation for the Commission.

I was the first to make the case in my book, The Hoffa Wars, which was released in August 1978, that Jimmy Hoffa, Carlos Marcello, and Santo Trafficante, underworld figures who were involved in the CIA-Mafia plots, arranged and executed the 1963 murder of President John Kennedy. That is what I continue to believe today. . . . That this was a straight mob hit—with the witting and/or unwitting cooperation of some in the intelligence community.

Attached is an excerpt of my work—which was published in the November 1978 issue of Playboy.

A year after the publication of my book, the U.S. House Select Committee concluded in its final report that Hoffa, Marcello, and Trafficante had the “motive, means and opportunity” to kill the President. G. Robert Blakey, the chief counsel of the committee and the country’s most respected expert on organized crime, declared, “The mob did it. It’s a historical fact.”


Additional comments by DEM

I have a lot of appreciation and respect for the work that Lamar and Thom Hartmann have done. I thought that Ultimate Sacrifice was an amazing contribution to the body of knowledge about this case. In that 2005 work, the authors wrote of the President's murder: “The complexity of this four-
part arrangement has stymied investigators for decades. It was only through the efforts of Bobby
Kennedy’s investigators in 1959—and work by Dan Moldea, whose mentor was Bobby’s top
investigator, Walter Sheridan—that the operation can be documented today, despite all of the CIA
files that remain classified.”

* * *

This past Sunday, Phil Shenon, a former reporter for the New York Times, wrote a piece for the
Outlook section of the Washington Post, essentially claiming that Frank Ragano—an attorney who
had represented Hoffa, Marcello, and Trafficante and wrote a 1994 book about it—first laid out
the theory that Hoffa, Marcello, and Trafficante were behind the President’s murder.

Ragano’s book was published sixteen years after the release of my book, The Hoffa Wars.

BTW: While my Hoffa book was coming out 36 years ago when I was just 28 years old, Ragano
offered me $250,000—through my then-attorney Steve Martindale—for all the rights to the book .
. which, of course, I turned down. (Walter Sheridan got a kick out of this bribe attempt. See page
167 of my memoir, Confessions of a Guerrilla Writer.)

Later, when he became a good guy, Ragano reached out to me. Even though Shenon refused to
credit my work, Ragano had no problem doing so, writing: “In 1978, a Washington journalist
released a controversial book that began to unlock the secrets of the brutal murder of President
Kennedy. He did it by piecing together the Hoffa-Marcello-Trafficante puzzle for the first time.
That journalist was Dan E. Moldea, and his book was The Hoffa Wars.”

* * *

Thank you for bringing that up, Sue. Here is something that I wrote in the Washington Post
several years ago: “The message from the publishing industry and Hollywood is clear: If there is
inadequate evidence upon which to base a book or film with a controversial point of view, then
fictionalize the story—but promote the finished product as ‘reality-based’ non-fiction. When
mistakes and distortions are later alleged by critics or lawsuits are threatened, quickly remind
everyone that the work is really only fiction ‘based on fact [with] several departures from reality.’

“Novelists [like James Ellroy] must be amused, if not perplexed, by journalists and nonfiction
writers who often risk life and limb in pursuit of true facts and have to face long, drawn out libel
suits if they’re wrong. Meantime—and I often kid my fiction-writing friends [like the wonderful
writer Jim Grady] about this—novelists, without leaving their word processors or the comfort of
their homes, can turn night into day, wrong into right, and make villains into heroes.

“It has become a classic victory of style over substance.”

* * *

Frank Ragano told me in 1992 that Jim Garrison—the district attorney of New Orleans who was
defied in Oliver Stone’s spurious 1991 film, JFK—did nothing more during his 1967-1969
investigation of the President’s murder than divert public attention away from Carlos Marcello, the
boss of the New Orleans Mafia.

"Garrison was shielding Marcello from being implicated in the Kennedy murder case," Ragano
said.

In fact, Garrison—whom Stone portrayed as a misunderstood visionary—was actually a stooge for
Marcello and the organized-crime syndicate, demonstrating, once again, Hollywood’s ability to
"make villains into heroes."
After Jim Garrison detained David Ferrie, alleging that he was a person of interest in the President's murder, his investigation became public property. The problem was that Ferrie, who was portrayed by Joe Pesci in Oliver Stone's film, was Carlos Marcello's personal pilot. In fact, at the moment of the President's murder, Ferrie, a member of Lee Harvey Oswald's Civil Air Patrol unit (see picture), was with Marcello in a New Orleans courtroom. . . . After Ferrie was found dead from a brain hemorrhage soon after, Garrison started flying off walls with his investigation in his effort to protect Marcello. . . . The NBC program that you spoke of was an expose of Garrison—his connections and his tactics.

The staff reports accompanying the July 1979 final report of the U.S. House Select Committee on Assassinations contain an impressive body of evidence about Oswald’s connections to the Marcello operation in New Orleans. See this link to the National Archives: http://www.archives.gov/.../select-committee.../part-1c.html, and navigate at will.

Also, two recent books about the President’s murder—which address the issue of the Mafia’s likely involvement—are Ultimate Sacrifice by Lamar Waldron and Thom Hartmann, to which I referred earlier in this thread and The Road to Dallas by David Kaiser.

To my knowledge, there has been no grand jury testimony about Oswald’s mob ties.

Also, I think you will get an argument from many as to whether it is universally accepted that Oswald was the lone shooter.

Me? While I was writing my 1978 book, The Hoffa Wars, I focused on the Mafia connections of the principals—primarily those of Jack Ruby. . . . I have never studied that very messy 1963 crime scene in Dealey Plaza, and I have no opinion about Oswald’s role.

I haven’t studied the minutia of this case in 36 years. However, I do know and respect Bob Blakey, as well as some of the key members of his staff, including Dick Billings and Mike Ewing. I was also a student of the late Ralph Salerno, the committee’s expert on organized crime. I stand by them and their conclusions. And, to my knowledge, Blakey has not recanted the claims in the committee's final report. Also, I refuse to believe for a second that Blakey, Billings, Ewing, and Salerno would have embraced anything created by Garrison. . . . Although I have great respect for both Gerald and Vince, I do not consider either of their books absolute truth on this case.

David: My expertise as an investigative journalist is on organized crime. I have been investigating the Mafia for forty years, and I have published eight books. As I have already admitted, I am not an expert on Oswald, but I do have friends and colleagues—some of whom I have cited—who are. As I have learned from considerable experience, I believe people I know and trust, especially when they have investigated subjects about which I am not familiar.

You are naming people whom I do not know and who are citing alleged facts that I have no reason to believe. I do not know Tom Bethell, and I do not know Gaeton Fonzi or Patricia Lambert. I have not seen or spoken with Patricia Orr in over thirty years. And—regardless of all the minutia with which you are determined to clutter this thread—I do not know you or what your angle is.

As I have also said, I believe that Garrison stumbled onto David Ferrie—who was potentially the key to implicating Carlos Marcello in the murder of the President without Garrison, a Marcello
stooge, realizing it. When it became clear that Garrison had unwittingly placed Marcello at risk—and after Ferrie was found dead—Garrison began flying off walls with his investigation.

If there is any part of Garrison’s probe that was possibly legitimate it is what he did and what he discovered before he learned of Ferrie’s connection to Marcello. And I’m sure that was what Bob Blakey, once the world’s top expert on organized crime, and Dick Billings, who was a first-rate journalist, found interesting, too.


With all due respect, please do not waste any more of my time with people I do not know who are citing facts I do not trust.

* * *

Please forgive me for not sharing your enthusiasm that you—a person I do not know and have never heard of before—own Absolute Truth.

Please forgive me for not accepting your work over that of my friends and colleagues whom I have known and trusted—some of whom for forty years.

To be clear, I have zero interest in further investigating the JFK murder. With the release of “The Hoffa Wars” thirty-six years ago, I made my contribution to this controversial case. And then I moved on to other investigations and other books.

**15: On Sopko and US IGs**


God bless John Sopko/SIGAR and the entire cadre of U.S. Inspectors General, as well as the outstanding staff at POGO, all of whom work effectively to keep government honest. . . .

**13: Table of NFL arrests since 2000**


Here is a fairly shocking database that has catalogued the arrests of NFL players since 2000—a whopping 730 records. In comparison to the Ray Rice caper, how much publicity have any of these perpetrators' alleged crimes received? . . . No wonder. As I wrote in my 1989 book, *Interference: How Organized Crime Influences Professional Football*, “NFL Security is a damage control operation, created to protect the multi-billion investments of the NFL team owners.”


*Additional comments by DEM*

Chris: I am just a grunt crime reporter, not a sociologist. But I do know that athletes who are placed on public pedestals and makes hundreds of thousands dollars or more each year should be held to a higher standard than those of us in "the general population." . . . Also, we only know what Commissioner Goodell and the NFL choose to release to us—and he only places himself in the best light when he does step onto center stage. Goodell is not a public official who is tasked with rooting out corruption and exposing it. He is accountable only to the NFL team owners. His job is to keep things quiet—and to keep everything positive. . . . We hear nothing about the gambling investigations involving players, coaches, and owners—because those matters directly go "the integrity of the game." And those investigations are particularly bad for business. . . . That hasn't changed since I published my book 25 years ago.
Keith Olbermann never ceases to amaze me. He is a truly independent man of remarkable integrity who operates in the world of sports reporting—which some consider the whorehouse of American journalism. In my opinion, he is a completely honorable man, personally and professionally.

11: On NFL Security—from Interference, Chapter 1


As a result of the 1963 players' betting scandal, [NFL Commissioner Pete] Rozelle created NFL Security and selected Jim Hamilton, the former chief of intelligence with the Los Angeles Police Department, as its first director. In 1966, Hamilton, who died after a long illness, was replaced by William Hundley, the chief of Robert F. Kennedy's organized crime division in the Justice Department. Hundley was succeeded by Jack Danahy, a New York FBI agent, in 1968. Danahy held the position until 1980, when he was followed by the current director of NFL Security, Warren Welsh, a former Miami-based FBI agent.

The directors of NFL Security have attempted to safeguard the league against the corruption of its more than 1,500 players, trainers, coaches, owners, and referees, all of whom are potential targets for blackmail and payoffs in exchange for inside information and other favors. NFL Security is supported by a network of private investigators, mostly former officials with the Justice Department and other law enforcement agencies, who are stationed in the twenty-six cities where the twenty-eight NFL teams are based (New York and Los Angeles each support two teams).

"These representatives are on retainer to the league, and they specifically report to the league," Warren Welsh told me. "In addition to their game-day coverage and their liaison with the local law enforcement community, they would also do background investigations that we might have for game officials, an ownership group, impersonations, misrepresentations, whatever it might be, as opposed to just working for the local team."

The NFL, under Rozelle, followed [former NFL commissioner] Bert Bell's policy of maintaining regular contacts with members of the gambling underworld in order to monitor the betting on NFL games. Warren Welsh explains, "We're very cognizant that the early line comes out on Sunday, and we have somebody in Vegas that follows that for us. And then we have our security reps all over the country report in to us, and give us the opening line. And then if there are changes in the line that are over two points they report that immediately. If not, then the security reps report to us on Friday at about noon. And then we are able to disseminate the line and any changes to our key executives, so that they are aware of the information and any changes."

Monitoring NFL personnel, as well as the line, may be unpalatable, but it is necessary. Two years before the Schlichter suspension, several members of the Denver Broncos were quietly disciplined by the league for receiving cocaine from gambling figures. And, in 1986, the league began an investigation of Irving Fryar, a wide receiver for the New England Patriots who was accused of betting on NFL games. Fryar had been named by his team's officials as one of six Patriots players who used illegal drugs. The investigation remains open.

The conditions under which players may be compromised are clear and present in the NFL today. "Our worst case would be the athlete who is strung out on drugs and has a line of credit with his drug dealer and can't pay the bill," says Warren Welsh. "Then he gets that knock on the door. And [the player] says, 'Hey, I told you. I can't pay the bill.' And then [the dealer] says, 'Hey, I don't want your money, but now you're going to work for us.'" . . .
Criticism of the NFL's security system is generally not targeted at the commissioner or the security director. Instead, it's directed at the NFL owners, who establish the league's policies. Aaron Kohn, the former executive director of the Metropolitan Crime Commission of New Orleans, told me, "They [the NFL owners] have a tendency to employ as security people former FBI agents and other people of confidence who do competent investigations and do accumulate adverse information. But at the policy-making level, the decisions are not made consistent with the fact-finding.

"I know that the NFL can't go too far. They are going to do whatever they have to prevent the problems of their owners and players and their overall profits from becoming subjects of public scrutiny."

Some critics say that the league enforces its rules selectively. "Rozelle [couldn't] enforce the rules against the owners because he works for them," Gene Upshaw, the executive director of the NFL Players Association and a former All-Pro guard for the Oakland Raiders, told me. "There's no way he [could] say, 'I'm going to punish you because you own a racetrack, because you're involved in Las Vegas, or because you do business with people who are involved in gambling.' But I would like to think that the rules of suspension and banishment should also apply to the owners."

One top NFL official says, "We've had owners that have supposedly been friends or associates of mobsters, and when we looked into it they had dinner in a restaurant, maybe four or five times in a year." Nevertheless, the NFL did nothing about these owners who socialized with underworld figures.

Another football insider says that many investigations of NFL owners have ended up in "a black hole" and were never disclosed. "To me," he says, "NFL Security is a special police force that monitors the players but protects the owners. It's one thing to monitor the activities of the players, because they come and go. It's quite another to monitor the activities of the owners. They seem to last forever."

Patrick Healy, the former executive director of the Chicago Crime Commission, told me, "The NFL tries to give you the public Kiwanis Club talk: 'We have very little gambling; we have very little drugs. We have everything under control. We have FBI agents working for us, and whenever any rumor comes out they pounce on it. They discover it. They investigate it.' Actually, the whole thing is really just a witch tale."

Former Senate investigator Phil Manuel, another critic of the NFL security system, told me, "The oldest trick in the world is to hire old Justice Department officials and then make them understand that the security they are to protect is the security of the NFL owners.

"These retired law enforcement guys maintain their ties to their old agencies, and they can then tell which investigations are being done and whether they might be troublesome. When some wrongdoing is ready to go public, the NFL Security people can go to their old fellow workers and say, 'We can handle this ourselves. Give us a chance to straighten the mess out without all the attention your public investigation will bring."

Ralph Salerno, the former chief of detectives for the New York Police Department, goes even further. "How does the NFL protect itself with one guy in each NFL city? They do it illegally. The local NFL Security guy takes the local police commissioner, the chief of detectives, and any other important law enforcement official and gives him season tickets and box seats. They get wined and dined and taken out to play golf.

"And then these public employees who are paid with public funds come up with criminal information and turn it over to profit-making corporations, like the New York Giants, the Cincinnati Bengals, and so on. And that is illegal. Do the police do that for every trucking company or every furniture manufacturer? Of course not. It would be illegal for them to do it with anyone. But they do it for the NFL. That whole NFL Security operation that Rozelle [bragged] about is simply an illegal operation."

Welsh defends the current system. He insists that he is a "fact finder" and has never been asked to halt an investigation of any NFL personnel. "And there have never been any roadblocks put up in my path in terms
of investigating anything that would have to do with a member club—whether it was a player, coach, or an
owner."

That might be true: Warren Welsh and his predecessors have all been men of high integrity. But they have
had no final decision-making powers. Thus, the real question is: What have their bosses, the NFL owners,
done once they received the results of their investigations?

The evidence is clear that they have protected themselves and their investments—sometimes to the
detriment of the sport they represent.

NOTE: After laying this foundation in the opening chapter, I then proceeded to concentrate much of the
rest of my book on how NFL Security manages to gain the cooperation of a variety of law-enforcement
agencies in order to avoid public-relations problems when people involved with the NFL get into trouble.

In fact, I charged and documented in my book that over 50 legitimate investigations of corrupt activities
within the NFL had been either suppressed or flat-out killed because of this sweetheart relationship
between NFL Security and the law-enforcement community.

Additional comments by DEM

Every original idea is first ridiculed, then vigorously attacked, and finally taken for granted. –
Schopenhauer

10: DEM’s photograph of Bill Clinton and Al Gore

Twenty years ago, my cousin, Jim, and his family from Cleveland visited me in Washington, D.C. While
seeing the sights, we were walking on the sidewalk near the northwest edge of the White House grounds—
at the corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and West Executive Avenue—when Jim handed me his camera and
asked me to photograph his wife, Marcy, and their three children with the White House in the background.

Pointing the camera to the east, I was taking pictures of the four of them when I heard a commotion behind
me in the direction of the Blair House across the street.

I turned around quickly and blindly snapped this picture of President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al
Gore.

Why were the President and Vice President smiling? As they were walking by, Jim—notoriously friendly
and fearless—called out, “Greetings from my ‘cousins’ in Cleveland, Peggy Zone-Fisher and her husband,
Lee Fisher!”

In 1994, Lee Fisher was the attorney general for the state of Ohio. Peggy was a highly-regarded
businesswoman from one of Cleveland’s most respected families. They were also major Clinton-Gore
supporters.

Both the President and the Vice President stopped and told Jim to send their best regards, along with those
of their wives, to the Fisher-Zone families.

BTW: This brief encounter was the first and only time I had met President Clinton.
http://www.moldea.com/Clinton-Gore.html

August 2014
22: On Robert Sherrill’s death

Robert Sherrill, a great independent muckraker, has died. Although we disagreed on occasion, I honor him today.

Additional comments by DEM


18: POGO’s interview with DEM about Confessions of a Guerrilla Writer

Did I help save the Clinton presidency during the impeachment battle and then face a possible criminal indictment for obstruction of Congress, jury tampering, and blackmail for doing so? As a matter of fact, I did. And I finally come clean during this penetrating interview. Please forgive me for all of my sins, real or imagined . . .

Thanks to the Project on Government Oversight (POGO) and its wonderful staff for all of their outstanding work throughout the year—year after year.


6: DEM at the Watergate hearings, behind John Dean, with Bob Corlett

Up against the back wall over John Dean’s left shoulder on June 25, 1973—as the former White House counsel takes the oath on the opening day of his testimony before the Senate Watergate Committee in this famous (but cropped) AP photo—I am the 23-year-old stiff wearing the tie, standing next to the cool guy with the long dark hair, the beard, and the shades: my old friend from Akron, Ohio, and a wonderful musician, Bob Corlett, who still has his own band, Zydeco Kings.

And . . . oh, yeah, Saturday, August 9, is the 40th anniversary of Richard Nixon’s resignation as President

Additional comments by DEM

Tonight is the 40th anniversary of Nixon’s speech, announcing that he would resign the following day. . . . I watched it with George and Louie Farris—after we ate pickerel at Martini’s on Copley Road in Akron.

July 2014

22: PBS on Hoffa, Sheeran letter to DEM
In my 1978 book, "The Hoffa Wars," I alleged that Frank Sheeran was involved in the July 30, 1975, murder conspiracy against Jimmy Hoffa. . . . Attached is a 1979 letter from Sheeran’s attorney, threatening me with litigation for making this claim—which I have stood by ever since.

Tonight (July 22, 2014) on PBS at 9:00 P.M. (Eastern), “History Detectives” will feature a special report about the Hoffa case—in which the program, in part, will recount how Sheeran admitted that he was Hoffa’s killer in his 2004 single-source deathbed-confession book.

The problem is that, in my opinion and among many in law enforcement, he was not the man who pulled the trigger—although I do believe that Sheeran, who has given numerous conflicting versions of events over the years, was responsible for luring Hoffa into the car that drove him to the crime scene.

My candidate as Hoffa’s actual killer has been and continues to be Salvatore Briguglio, then the top lieutenant for New Jersey labor racketeer Tony Provenzano, who engineered the murder on behalf of Eastern Pennsylvania crime boss, Russell Bufalino—which is what I wrote in my book 36 years ago.


Additional comments by DEM

Here is what I said about Sheeran on 3-13-2004 prior to the release of his memoir: "As I wrote in my 1978 book, The Hoffa Wars, Frank Sheeran was directly involved in the murder of former Teamsters boss Jimmy Hoffa. Even though I do not believe that Sheeran, either in his alleged signed confession or Charles Brandt's upcoming book, was telling the truth about his specific role at the crime scene, I do believe that he honestly revealed many important details about certain events that occurred prior to the killing.

"Make no mistake: This is the biggest break in the case since Hoffa disappeared on July 30, 1975. Now, in the wake of Sheeran's death in December 2003, the task will be to separate fact from fiction."

Here is what I wrote about Sheeran on 2-14-2005 after the DNA results for the site where he claimed to have killed Hoffa were negative: "As I have been saying all along: Frank Sheeran was involved in Jimmy Hoffa's murder—and, despite today's news, the FBI believes this, as well.

"However, like the FBI, I have never believed Sheeran's story about his role at the crime scene. Nevertheless, I continue to insist that Sheeran's information about the events that preceded the actual murder—as reported in Charles Brandt's book, as well as by Fox News and the Detroit Free Press—are extremely important to understanding what really happened to Hoffa on July 30, 1975."

*   *   *

Sheeran did it for money. . . . The details are in my 2013 book, Confessions of a Guerrilla Writer, but here is the nickel tour.

Sheeran's publisher, which was already complaining about his credibility problems because of his years of conflicting accounts about the crime, didn't want a book saying that Sal Briguglio did the murder. Consequently, the publisher rejected Sheeran’s manuscript and voided their contract.

Another publisher was interested—but only if Sheeran was willing to confess that he personally killed Hoffa. After a pep talk from his literary agent, Sheeran very reluctantly gave the confession—but refused to memorialize it on videotape. He would only say, "I stand behind what's written."
Without that confession to a crime that he did not commit, Sheeran—who was certainly involved in the overall conspiracy against Hoffa, as I had alleged in my 1978 book—would have died broke and with nothing to leave to his family.

* * *

Feel free to believe Charles Brandt’s one-source book—which was based on nothing more than Frank Sheeran’s account that conflicted with all of his previous accounts, including the earlier book he was writing with another author, John Zeitts.

Did you know about the Zeitts book? And, if you did, have you seen the videotaped interviews Zeitts did with Sheeran? The information Sheeran provided to Zeitts was completely at odds with what he told Brandt.

I have those recorded interviews which are filled with Sheeran’s delusions and fantasies. Zeitts gave them to me before he died in 2011.

Also, what did you think of Sheeran’s previous signed confession? In that document, he wrote that when he arrived at the Hoffa crime scene—where Sal Briguglio was already present—“The deed had already been done.”

Since you found “Sheeran’s account credible,” how do you explain that?

Also, you are playing a weak hand if you are discounting the late Ralph Picardo’s information. And Picardo, who is still the FBI’s most important informant on the Hoffa case, said nothing about Frank Sheeran, who was known in the law-enforcement community as a notorious liar.

* * *

Further, do you really believe that money—and the fact that the Brandt-Sheeran book had been rejected by their publisher—had nothing to do with Sheeran’s sudden decision “to confess” just before he died?

With regard to Briguglio, he was murdered on March 21, 1978—a month after my fourth interview with him. According to federal investigators, Briguglio, who was under indictment for another murder, was silenced by mobsters who believed that he was getting ready to plea bargain with federal prosecutors.

In short, I will stand by my 39 years of work on this case, as well as what I have written in both The Hoffa Wars and Confessions of a Guerrilla Writer, including but not limited to Sheeran’s supposed videotaped confession to Brandt—which was really no confession at all.

36 years ago in The Hoffa Wars—26 years before the publication of the Brandt-Sheeran book—I wrote that Sheeran was involved in the murder conspiracy against Hoffa. And I was threatened with litigation by Sheeran for saying this in my book—as I documented when I began this thread.

I continue to believe now as I did then that Sheeran was the lure who managed to get Hoffa into the car.

But he was not the killer of Jimmy Hoffa. That job was handled by Sal Briguglio.

If you are really interested in my informed opinions about this matter, I suggest that you read what I have already written in my books.

* * *
Steve: Clearly, you have fallen in love with this perpetrator—who had a long history of lies and deceit, which you have obviously forgiven. And you refuse to believe anything but the last story Sheeran told—which you refuse to consider was told for money.

You refuse to acknowledge the importance of Ralph Picardo’s information. You refuse to address the conflicting versions of events that Sheeran told his first co-author, John Zeitts. You refuse to deal with the impact that the rejection of the manuscript that Sheeran and Brandt wrote, as well as the cancellation of their first publishing contract, had on Sheeran’s final decision “to confess” while he was on his deathbed.

Also, as you know, after testing was done for the blood found at the home where Sheeran claimed to have killed Hoffa, the DNA tests came back negative. . . . It wasn’t Hoffa’s blood.

But, no doubt, you will forgive that, too.

* * *

BTW: I don’t know of any serious investigator on this case who believes the story told by another pathological liar, Donald Frankos, that Hoffa was buried in Giants Stadium.

With regard to my “competing theory,” which I published 26 years before the release of the Sheeran-Brandt book—which, to Brandt and Sheeran’s credit, praised my trail-blazing work on this case—I believe that most if not all of the federal prosecutors involved with this investigation continue to believe what they learned about the actual murder from Ralph Picardo—who did not even mention Frank Sheeran’s name.

Finally, you can pretend that this case is solved—but it is not. . . . Just ask any FBI agent.

16: On the death of Jack Tocco


On July 30, 1975—the day Jimmy Hoffa disappeared 39 years ago this month—Joe Zerilli and Jack Tocco were running the so-called Detroit Partnership, aka the Detroit Mafia. After Zerilli died in 1977, Tocco assumed control of the entire empire and remained in that position for decades. Not a knuckle-dragging thug, Tocco was an educated and well-spoken man who knew all of the secrets and where all of the bodies were buried—including Hoffa’s.

On Monday, Tocco died, taking all of that historical information to the grave.

See John Wisely’s excellent article in today’s Detroit Free Press.

Additional comments by DEM

Detroit’s Walter Reuther—a great union leader who created a truly democratic labor organization—was a stark contrast to that other union leader across town, Jimmy Hoffa, whose pact with the Mafia during the early 1940s diminished him from being a potential champion of the rank and file to nothing more than a mobbed-up labor racketeer.

In fact, the top suspect in the unsolved attempted murder of Reuther, who was hit by a shotgun blast through a window in his home in 1948, was Santo Perrone—one of those Detroit mobsters to whom Hoffa was beholden.

15: Hagler v. Hearns: the greatest single round of boxing


(In the third round, the bloodied Hagler went on to knock out Hearns, who broke his right hand in that wild first round, to retain the middleweight championship.)

Additional comments by DEM

In the Ali-Foreman fight, the stunning denouement comes at about 06:12 on the film. . . . but do yourself a favor and watch the entire final round to appreciate how great Ali really was. . . . To me, it was Ali’s greatest moment—and one of the most memorable moments in sports history.

June 2014


“All should the published opinions of critics and editorial writers be subject to the same strict legal standards of accuracy and fairness as those works by news reporters and nonfiction authors?” . . . Revisiting “Moldea v. New York Times,” a long-running drama from 1990 to 1994 in which the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit—the nation’s second most powerful court in an unprecedented moment in American jurisprudence—hijacked the victory it had earlier given my attorney, Roger C. Simmons, and me.

All of this came in the aftermath of the publication of my 1989 book, “Interference: How Organized Crime Influences Professional Football,” and a review in the “New York Times” in which a reviewer with major conflicts of interest made numerous false statements about what I wrote and didn’t write in that book.

Attached is a chronology of events about the litigation, based solely on the press coverage of this dispute.


(After twenty-five years, “Interference” has just been re-released as an eBook by Open Road Media’s “Forbidden Bookshelf” series which includes a new Afterward about this controversial legal case.)

Additional comments by DEM

I attempted to solicit independent studies of Moldea v. New York Times by a variety of writers' organizations. Such proposals were sent to the Authors Guild, Investigative Reporters & Editors, and even the National Book Critics Circle (NBCC), among others. All of them refused to take sides, which, in an odd way, I accepted as somewhat of a victory. If the review was correct, none of these groups would have even hesitated to support the New York Times.

NBCC president Jack Miles later wrote in the Los Angeles Times Book Review: “After much consideration, the [NBCC] board decided to take no position on the matter. Thinking as reviewers faced with the prospect of future litigation if their work struck an author as defamatory, some on the board tacitly sided with the New York Times. . . . Others on the board, perhaps thinking of their vulnerability as authors to essentially unaccountable reviewers, tacitly sided with Moldea, who claims: ‘If I win this case, the worst that can happen is that reviewers and other opinion-writers
will suddenly have a responsibility to be accountable for what they write. Any writer who cannot live with that should not be in this profession."

*          *          *

I'm a fan of Seymour Hersh and Bob Woodward, as well as Steve Weinberg who is among those who "liked" this thread. Steve, who is also a successful author, has always been a journalist's journalist . . . and has a long history of defending other authors, like me during Moldea v. New York Times. As the attached timeline shows, Steve, without taking sides, wrote a fair and balanced article about the case for the Columbia Journalism Review.

*          *          *

A lot of people do think that by filing my libel suit against the New York Times I destroyed my career. However, in the four years that followed my stolen victory in that case in 1994, I published three new books, including one that received two great reviews from the New York Times and another that made all of the national best-seller lists, including that in the New York Times Book Review. . . . Twenty years after I lost the case, I am still alive and kicking, trying to finish my ninth non-fiction book.

14: Interference eBook, still #1 on Amazon for all o/c books


Still holding at #1 among books about organized crime in any format on Amazon’s Best Sellers List. . . . The reason? The Thursday-night interview with Keith Olbermann on ESPN in New York. Thanks to Jeff Stein of Newsweek for posting the video for his legions of friends last night. If you haven’t seen it, here’s the film for my friends and colleagues.

The interview, which lasts about eleven minutes, is in two parts. After watching the first part, you will be offered part two.

Thanks to everybody. There is quite a story looming here for those who have known me since 1989, as well as the tragic history of this book—which I am as proud of as anything I have ever written.

13: Interference eBook, goes to #1 (thanks to Keith Olbermann interview)


Additional comments by DEM

And I am a grudging fan of Roger Stone—who, to my chagrin, is perhaps the most effective opposition-research specialist in America. Sadly, Roger, for whom I have great respect, does his work on behalf of his candidates on the right.

I stake the claim that I am the most effective opposition-research specialist on the left—and will put my record of successes up against those of anyone on my side of the political spectrum.

One of these days, Roger and I will be on the same battlefield. And that will be a monster movie that no one will want to miss.
In 1997, I co-authored the book, "Evidence Dismissed: The Inside Story of the Police Investigation of O.J. Simpson," with the two lead detectives of the Simpson murder case: Tom Lange and Philip Vannatter, two of the finest investigators I have ever known. In the picture below, Linda Lange (left) and Rita Vannatter are standing behind their husbands. (Phil died in 2012.)

Today, on this twentieth anniversary of the tragic murders of Nicole Brown and Ron Goldman, I excerpt a portion of my first-person story about the creation of this work from my 2013 memoir, "Confessions of a Guerrilla Writer."

Excerpt: Chapter 104, “Mark Fuhrman's lies and delusions”

While working feverishly to meet the tight deadline for my book with Lange and Vannatter, I followed, with some concern, the attempts by the media to rehabilitate the reputation of the racist junior detective Mark Fuhrman. A one-time high-school dropout, Fuhrman was in the midst of three years’ probation for perjury after his "no contest" plea in early October 1996 for making false statements during his sworn testimony at O.J. Simpson's criminal trial.

Diane Sawyer of ABC's "Prime Time Live" had softballed Fuhrman during an interview broadcast on October 8. That was followed by an announcement in the October 28 edition of "Publishers Weekly" that Regnery Publishing, a conservative, Washington based publishing house, had purchased Fuhrman's book, which would be released shortly after ours.

Predicting that Lange and Vannatter were going to be the villains in Fuhrman's book, I advised the detectives to launch a full-scale preemptive strike against Fuhrman in our book. However, even though they were extremely critical of Fuhrman’s behavior during the Simpson trial, they rejected my suggestion, still harboring a basic loyalty towards this fellow cop. In fact, our book already contained a qualified defense of Fuhrman, who had been accused by Simpson's attorneys of planting evidence at the murder scene and at Simpson's residence.

Despite all of his negatives, Fuhrman was completely innocent of that allegation. And all charges to the contrary were completely wrong and unfair. In short, because of the timing of his appearance at the crime scene, Fuhrman could not have planted this evidence, which had already been identified. It was simply impossible. And his perjury plea was limited to his repeated denials of using the racist N-word while under cross-examination by defense counsel F. Lee Bailey during the criminal trial.

Then, just before I completed our manuscript, a friend faxed me the galleys to an upcoming story about Fuhrman in “Vanity Fair.” Journalist H.G. Bissinger, the author of this shameless valentine to Fuhrman, had allowed him to charge that Lange and Vannatter had missed, among other items of evidence, a "bloody fingerprint" on the back gate of Nicole Brown's residence on South Bundy, the scene of the murders. Apparently, Bissinger, a Pulitzer Prize winner, never bothered to check this and Fuhrman's other mistaken observations at the crime scene, allowing his attacks on Lange and Vannatter to go unchallenged.

After reading Bissinger's story, I went through my files and found a copy of Fuhrman's three pages of crime scene notes, which provided clearly erroneous information, which, along with the nonexistent "bloody fingerprint," included that:

* a simple watchman's cap that Fuhrman wrongly claimed was a ski mask;

* a delivery menu from the Thai Flavor restaurant that Fuhrman wrongly claimed was from a local pizzeria;
* the killer had been bitten by a dog; and

* Brown and Goldman, who had been slashed and stabbed, had died from "gunshot wounds."

In fact, other than the false and misleading statements Fuhrman had made, nothing contained in his notes added any new information beyond what had been already reported by the patrol officers who had arrived at the scene two hours before Fuhrman.

After faxing the “Vanity Fair” story to Lange and Vannatter and speaking with them on a conference call, they agreed that Fuhrman’s book was going to be his last desperate attempt to rehabilitate himself—at the expense of everyone else in the case, especially them. As a result, they authorized me to add an endnote to our book, stating: “Fuhrman claimed in his notes that he had also observed a bloody fingerprint on the locking mechanism of the rear gate at the South Bundy crime scene. However, no such fingerprint was seen by anyone else. Also in his notes, Fuhrman speculated that the victims died from gunshot wounds, and that the killer had possibly been bitten by Brown's dog.”

On January 2, 1997, I completed our manuscript, submitting it at 4:26 A.M.—one day before my deadline—to our editor, Sue Carswell, who had checked into the Georgetown Inn to await my final draft. After Carswell’s last minute editing, Pocket Books delivered the final proofs of the book to me on January 14. I spent the night reading them and personally delivered the finished product in New York the following day.

Then, shattering any schedule I had ever seen or heard of for a hardback book, “Evidence Dismissed: The Inside Story of the Police Investigation of O. J. Simpson,” was bound and finished ten days later, as 200,000 copies of the first printing began to appear in bookstores throughout the country on January 28—just twenty-six days after I had submitted our manuscript.

Remarkably, that same day, the Simpson civil case went to the jury. In other words, our timing just could not have been better.

Demands for Lange and Vannatter's appearances on a variety of radio and television shows flooded in, including those from NBC’s “Today Show” and “Dateline NBC,” “ABC's Good Morning America” and “Prime Time Live,” CNN's “Larry King Live” and “Burden of Proof,” and even Howard Stern's morning radio program, among many others.

On February 4, Pocket flew me to Los Angeles, first-class, to be with the detectives when the jury returned with its verdict. When I arrived at LAX, I called Lange, who asked me to have dinner at his home that night with him and his wife, Linda, as well as Phil and Rita Vannatter.

On route to Lange's house in my rented Thunderbird, I stopped at a liquor store to buy a bottle of Cordon Rouge champagne. As I was paying the cashier, a news bulletin appeared on the television behind the counter, announcing that the jury had reached a verdict in the Simpson civil case, which would be given to the court later that night.

Although it only took me fifteen minutes to get to Lange's home from the store, two television news crews had already arrived to interview the detectives—and then the press people kept coming.

We did not even have time for dinner.

At the exact moment that the verdict was read, Lange and Vannatter were in the back seat of a Lincoln Continental while I was in the front seat with the chauffeur. We were speeding along on the Ronald Reagan Freeway, en route to an appearance on ABC's “Nightline,” which had just booked Lange and Vannatter an hour earlier. Program executives had sent the limousine to guarantee the detectives' on time delivery. Lange and Vannatter watched the report of the jury’s decision on a color television with a three-inch screen and a fuzzy picture that I had brought along.
After hearing the unanimous verdict against Simpson, neither Lange nor Vannatter cheered or gloated. There were no high fives, no gleeful back slapping. They simply looked at each other momentarily with considerable relief, smiled, and shook hands.

For the rest of the night and early into the morning, as we hopped from one interview to the next, Lange and Vannatter were, once again, treated like rock stars. And, even though I instinctively hung back, they always grabbed me and pulled me into the action, introducing me as their co-author and allowing me to share their experience.

The most frequently asked question in nearly every interview was: "Do you feel vindicated?" Lange replied on one program, "I don't know that we have to say we've been vindicated. We didn't do anything wrong. What we did was our job." Then, reflecting for a moment, he added, "Our only real mistake was not sending Mark Fuhrman home that night."

On the evening of February 6, I hosted a dinner party in Lange and Vannatter's honor at Musso & Frank's on Hollywood Boulevard. Forty-six writers and law enforcement officials attended. To my great surprise, our publisher called the restaurant in the midst of the dinner and, using a company credit card, picked up the entire check.

Why the celebration? Just the day before, the detectives and I were together between shows when we heard that “Evidence Dismissed” would enter the New York Times Best Sellers List at number six the following week.

Additional comments by DEM

That was a great night. . . . As you might recall, Vince Bugliosi kept an air of morality about the place. There were also several other prosecutors there, including two from the US Strike Force Against Organized Crime, along with a handful of PIs, like Mike, and even the head of the LAPD's Robbery-Homicide Division. . . . Then, there was the cadre of investigative journalists present. . . . All of us ate like Vikings. . . . And we all toasted Jack Tobin, The Godfather Of Mafia Reporters, who had recently died. Jack was like a second Father to many of us. . . . I'm glad you were there.

* * *

No doubt, “Charlie,” who handed him the knife, was OJ’s imaginary friend. . . .


10: CNN on the OJ Simpson case, 20th anniversary. DEM’s transcript of the Bronco chase


Additional comments by DEM

The lead LAPD detectives, Tom Lange and Phil Vannatter, agree with your initial belief, Greg. O.J. was guilty. Bet it. Book it. Take it to the bank. . . . The problem was that the defense team successfully took the racist behavior of that convicted perjurer, Mark Fuhrman, along with an inflated view of his minimal role in the investigation, and turned the focus of the case into a police conspiracy against Simpson. . . . Nothing could be further from the truth—and Lange’s dramatic attempt to save Simpson during the Bronco chase illustrates my point. But the jury bought this
fairy tale, fell in love with the perpetrator, and acquitted him. . . . In short, O.J. did it, and he did it alone.

10: Release of DEM’s Interference eBook

Twenty-five years ago, I published a book that nearly destroyed my career: “Interference: How Organized Crime Influences Professional Football.” Even though I am as proud of this 1989 book as anything I have ever written, it has had a tragic history, culminating with my libel suit against the New York Times, the newspaper that created me as an author in an article by the late-Herbert Mitgang about my first book, “The Hoffa Wars,” published on June 29, 1978—perhaps the greatest day of my life.

Today, Open Road Media releases the eBook of this chronicle of crime and corruption in the NFL. Included is my new Afterward which details the untold story of “Moldea v. New York Times,” a case I was winning until the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, in a bizarre and unprecedented moment in American jurisprudence, hijacked that momentary victory from my great attorney, Roger Simmons, and me.

Then, after creating me in 1978 and then destroying me in 1989, the New York Times resurrected me in 1995 with not one but two great reviews—a daily and a Sunday—of my next book, “The Killing of Robert F. Kennedy.” . . .

There is a lesson to be learned here somewhere, but—even after all of these years—I have yet to figure out what the hell it is. . . . However, I really appreciate all of the support I received from my family and friends, especially Roger Simmons, during that horrible nightmare.

Additional comments by DEM

Yes, that was the Times’s defense . . . . An author releases his/her book and then takes his/her chances with the critics. Trust me, I have written enough books to understand that concept.

But in this case, a reviewer with verifiable conflicts of interest published a review in which he claimed that I wrote things I didn't write or that I didn't present material that was clearly in the book. . . . When I complained, the Times refused to retract the review and even failed to correct the reviewer’s blatant errors, clinging to his right to be wrong in an opinion piece.

Then, the newspaper refused to publish my defense, which is when I sued. In short, my attorney and I wanted to force opinion writers to be held to the same standards of accuracy as news reporters.

While I was in the midst of getting clobbered by the press for filing the suit, the president of the National Book Critics Circle, the trade association for America’s book critics, told the Washington Post: "None of the big media outfits seem to take seriously that it may be Moldea who’s on the right side of freedom of expression here. His argument—that he and authors like him have little chance to respond to book reviews in major publications—is well taken."

*   *   *   *

For the moment, I want to leave you with this. . . . In 1991, I challenged the pre-Romano National Book Critics Circle, as well as the Authors Guild and IRE, to take positions—as organizations—on Moldea v. New York Times. After a seven-month investigation, NBCC, like the other two, refused to take sides. Specifically, NBCC stated: “After much consideration, the board decided to take no position on the matter. Thinking as reviewers faced with the prospect of future litigation if their work struck an author as defamatory, some on the board tacitly sided with the New York Times . . . Others on the board, perhaps thinking of their vulnerability as authors to essentially unaccountable reviewers, tacitly sided with Moldea, who claims: ‘If I win this case, the worst that
can happen is that reviewers and other opinion writers will suddenly have a responsibility to be accountable for what they write. Any writer who cannot live with that should not be in this profession."

* * *

As a result of all of this non-action, I simply declared victory, telling journalist Debra Gersh of *Editor & Publisher* during an interview, "Officials from all three of these organizations reviewed the key documents in this case. If the facts didn't support what I've been saying all along, these organizations, especially the NBCC, wouldn't have hesitated to kick my ass and defend the *New York Times*.”

5: **Secretariat on the anniversary of his Triple Crown**


Take two minutes and 24 seconds to watch the greatest race by the greatest horse in the history of the sport. . . . Secretariat wins the Belmont Stakes on June 9, 1973, by 31 lengths—along with the Triple Crown.

Will California Chrome also rise to the occasion at Belmont on Saturday?

*Additional comments by DEM*

After all of these years, Secretariat still has the stakes/speed records at the Kentucky Derby (1:59.40), the Preakness (1:53), and the Belmont Stakes (2.24)—all three of the Triple Crown races. And you see Secretariat at #9? . . . . . . With respect, Secretariat would have blown Man O’ War’s socks off.

5: **DEM on 46th anniversary of RFK shooting, DEM on KNBC**


Senator Robert Kennedy was shot by an assassin 46 years ago today. He died at 1:44 A.M. the following day, June 6, 1968.


But, like a *Columbo* TV mystery, the adventure lay not so much in the destination but during the trip to get there. “Newsweek” stated: "If his reporting doesn't seal the case, Moldea's [three] chilling prison interviews with Sirhan do."

BTW: Because I have spent much of my career investigating organized crime, which by definition is "conspiracy crime," I have investigated a whole bunch of conspiracies.

The lessons learned from the RFK case? I realized that even law enforcement officials—who possess the training, qualifications, and experience to determine the significance of crime scene evidence—do make mistakes if their abilities are not put to the test under the proper circumstances and conditions.

In other words, if one does not account for occasional official mistakes and incompetence, then nearly every such murder could appear to be a conspiracy, particularly if a civilian investigator—like me, with limited access and resources—is looking for one.

Here is probably the best interview I did about this case nineteen years ago—with my big glasses and still a little bit of hair left on the top of my head. The interview was conducted by the legendary television anchorman Jess Marlow of KNBC in Los Angeles. There are two blackouts where commercials appeared—
the first one lasts for about 90 seconds, and the second takes about two minutes. Please wait ‘em out or scroll ahead.

* Additional comments by DEM *

Prove that she was part of some conspiracy—and a lot of people have tried over the years—and you will make history. The simple fact is that a participant of a complex murder conspiracy is not likely to run away from the crime scene, shouting, "We shot him! We shot him!" . . . I deal with this issue in considerable detail in my book beginning on page 112.

* * *

Yes, I could add a book about Benghazi to what Jeff Stein of Newsweek has called my "never-mind series" which consists of my fifth, sixth, and seventh books. In those three works, 1) Sirhan Sirhan acted alone, 2) O.J. Simpson acted alone, and 3) Vincent Foster acted alone. . . . Actually, I think that Media Matters has already published the definitive book about Benghazi.

* * *

Bill: The untold story is that my publisher, W.W. Norton, bought the book project—via the wonderful agent that you and I shared, Alice Martell—based upon my promise to deliver clear evidence that two guns had been fired at the crime scene. In fact, my editor, the great Star Lawrence, was absolutely convinced that I had succeeded after he read the first 27 chapters of what would be my 30-chapter book. . . . Then, after Gene Cesar, whom I believed was the second gunman, passed Ed Gelb's polygraph test, I started my interviews with Sirhan. I thought Star was going to punch my lights out when I told him Sirhan might have done it and done it alone. . . . Essentially, when I admitted that I had been wrong and then turned in a no-conspiracy final manuscript, I thought that Norton was going to reject the book and demand that I return all of my advance money. Instead, Star and I—along with Alice and my long-time writing coach, Dr. Nancy Nolte, aka Mrs. Nolte—reorganized the book like a "Columbo" mystery. Star accepted the edited manuscript, and Norton published the book. . . . Although I didn't make any of the best-seller lists with this book, I did get the best reviews I have ever received for any of my books—because I was willing to admit that I had been wrong and to detail how I had been wrong. . . . Sometimes, the system works.

* * *

That meeting with Star Lawrence at the Princeton Club in midtown Manhattan was in June 1993—right in the middle of my libel suit against the New York Times when absolutely no publisher in New York would have anything to do with me. . . . Alice, who was very critical of me for that litigation, miraculously sold the RFK book to Star and Norton under the worst possible circumstances and, to all intents and purposes, saved my ass.

* * *

You have my deepest sympathy, Chris. BTW: When I interviewed Sirhan, he made it very clear that he was neither mind controlled nor part of any conspiracy. He insisted that he was drunk that night, which caused his inability to recollect certain key events, including the actual shooting.

* * *

* High Treason * came out in 1998, twenty years after my book, *The Hoffa Wars*. During the interim, I wrote books about a contract killing in Ohio, the Mafia in Hollywood, the Mafia's influence on professional football, Sirhan Sirhan's murder of Senator Robert Kennedy, the OJ Simpson case, and the suicide of Vincent Foster. . . . In other words, I had moved on from the JFK murder, which I continue to believe was a mob hit.
Rumors abound on this 49th anniversary, a top motion-picture producer in cooperation with a Kennedy family member are working in concert with a group of conspiracy theorists on a major documentary to show that Sirhan is a mere victim, wrongly accused of murdering RFK. . . . Yeah, yeah, yeah; sure, sure, sure. I'll be ready to respond to this latest nonsense. (June 5, 2017)

May 2014

27: On Sopko v. The World . . . Bet on Sopko


13: DEM photo of Stevie Wonder

Today is the 64th birthday of the great Stevie Wonder of Saginaw, Michigan. Here's a photograph I took of him thirty-three years ago.

4: CGW on Kent State with DEM’s 1982 photo of the shooting site

This is a 1982 photograph I took of the May 4, 1970, Kent State shooting site.

From Confessions of a Guerrilla Writer:

When we arrived on Monday, May 4, just before 9:00 A.M., the atmosphere on campus was tense. Even though we smelled no tear gas and saw no Guardsmen point their guns at anyone, both of us were afraid. And, because nearly everyone else seemed either equally scared or just plain pissed off, we decided to leave Kent, especially since Susan's morning classes had been canceled because of bomb threats. She didn't even want to go to her room in the dorm to pick up anything.

Susan was lucky that her parents lived nearby, and I was lucky to have a car. Most of the kids on campus were trapped there. I took Susan to a diner just outside Kent for breakfast and then back to her parents’ home. Returning to the University of Akron, I then attended my own classes.

When I walked into the student center at a little after 2:00 P.M., the entire place was buzzing. Seeing some friends playing bridge at a corner table, I asked what was going on.

They told me that the National Guard had opened fire into a crowd of anti-war demonstrators at Kent State. Few details were available. But rumors were flying that scores of students had been shot and killed, and that several Guardsmen had been hit by sniper fire.

Shocked and shaken, I simply couldn't believe what I was hearing, telling them that I had been on Kent's campus earlier in the morning but hadn't seen any violence, just fear and anger.

That same afternoon, while listening to a bitter debate about the war in the lobby of the student center, a friend and I were surprised to find ourselves in agreement with the anti-war activists. Then, along with
several others in the crowd, both of us grabbed our wallets, pulled out our draft cards, and burned them.

For me, this overt act of defiance was a point of no return.

By nightfall, news reports clarified some of what had happened at Kent State. Four students had been shot to death and nine were wounded. There had never been any student snipers. The thirteen second barrage of gunfire had occurred at 12:24 P.M., a little over three hours after Susan and I had left Kent.

That night in Akron, I was at my part time job as an ID checker at an off-campus bar. The guy who owned the joint was a friend and saw how overwrought I was over the shootings. Midway through my shift, he instructed me to clock out for the evening and go to the rally on Akron's campus, protesting the shootings and the war.

I went and was just another face in the crowd. Jim Heinisch, one of my fraternity brothers, was the editor of the student newspaper and a leader of the demonstration. He picked me out of the mass of people and invited me to be among the dozens of students who were delivering brief statements.

When I told him I didn't know what to do, he instructed me to say whatever was in my heart. It was the first time I had ever spoken to an angry crowd. I'm sure that whatever I said was completely unintelligible—but I did get up there and speak.

During the days that followed, like tens of thousands of other students across the nation, I wore a black arm band and participated in the national moratorium for the four dead white students at Kent State—Allison Krause, Jeff Miller, Sandy Scheuer, and Bill Schroeder—and later two black students at Jackson State—Phillip Gibbs and James Earl Green—who were shot and killed in a hail of police gunfire on May 14. None of us knew any of these kids when they were alive, but nearly all of us now felt a genuine connection to them and their families in the wake of their deaths.

**Additional comments by DEM**

I’m glad that you were not a party to what happened, Ron. I’m sure that the other Guardsman who were there—kids like us—wish they had been somewhere else that day.

After I burned my draft card, I dropped my 2-S student deferment for the military draft and went 1-A, knowing that if my lottery number was not selected by the end of that year, I would receive an ironclad exemption that was offered nationwide. The numbers drawn nearly came to mine—but, mercifully, did not, making me exempt from military service and Vietnam.

My dad, who had left the Air Force Reserves as a lieutenant colonel and now opposed the war in the wake of the shootings at Kent State, could not have been more supportive. . . . You and I were lucky to have great fathers in our old Firestone Park neighborhood.

I did not write a book about Kent State but did discuss it in the first chapter of *Confessions of a Guerrilla Writer*.

In my opinion, the two very best books about the tragedy are *The Truth about Kent State* by Peter Davies and *The Kent State Coverup* by Joseph Kelner and James Munves.

* * *

I believe that this is the only beginning-to-end film footage of the actual shooting at Kent State, which appears to have been taken from the Tri-Towers area about 500-plus yards away. In the distance, the National Guard squad that opened fire is in the center of the picture, on top of the hill, to the left of Taylor Hall. In this 56-second film, the audio begins immediately. The video starts at 00.13. See: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TZzkEIYIBYE.
Jeez, Kay. That was your freshman year. I didn't know that you were among those actually present for the shootings. Your pictures could have historical significance. Did you take any photographs during the moments just prior to or even in the immediate aftermath of the shootings? I ask because there are investigators who are still trying to track the movements of Terry Norman—and have been searching photographs in which he might be pictured.

Actually before, during, and after I was elected student body president at the University of Akron in 1972, I never had any kind of leadership role in the anti-war movement. To me, that responsibility was reserved for those who had fought in Vietnam. In my opinion, they were the only people who could credibly describe the horrors of that particular war and why it should be opposed. . . . My special gift was that I was a relentless proponent of student rights. . . . BTW: I also did not oppose ROTC on campus—because I supported the concept of the citizen-soldier. Many of the students in ROTC needed the scholarship money that went along with that program. And I always appreciated that the ROTC students, after hanging up their uniforms for the day, returned to the dorms, their fraternity/sorority houses, or off-campus housing to interact with non-ROTC students—in lieu of being trapped in a purely military environment.

While I was in Ohio last week, I had the pleasure of meeting and having dinner with Alan Canfora—one of the nine students shot and wounded at Kent State 46 years ago today, along with the four who were shot and killed. Alan is the most articulate and knowledgeable spokesperson about the Kent State tragedy. . . . Here is a photograph of Alan on Kent State’s campus on May 4, 1970—alone and waving his “black flag of despair and anger,” just days after he attended the funeral of one of his closest childhood friends who had been recently killed in Vietnam. A few minutes after this historic picture was taken, Alan was shot with an M-1 in the right wrist as he took cover behind an oak tree when the Ohio National Guard opened fire into the crowd of students. . . . I have always admired and respected Alan for his dedicated and outstanding work on behalf of the students at Kent State, both living and dead. . . .

While I was framing the photograph, I noticed the fork in the road just below the pagoda where the National Guardsmen stood and fired into the crowd of students. That crossroad symbolizes a point of no return for me and so many others who also didn't witness the tragedy. I can only imagine how significant it was to Bob, Kay, and the others who were actually there . . . and especially to Alan who was among those shot and wounded.

1: *CGW on Jeane Palfrey on the 6th anniversary of her death*

Today is the sixth anniversary of the suicide of the D.C. Madam, Deborah Jeane Palfrey, who asked me to write her doomed memoir in May 2007. Notably, her undergraduate degree was in criminal justice, and she had spent a year in law school.

Shortly after I completed my investigation and exposé of U.S. Senator David Vitter (R-Louisiana)—a self-proclaimed “family values” Christian and co-author of the “Federal Marriage Act” whom I discovered in her client-phone records—I snapped the picture, below, of Jeane just before we had lunch at the National Republican Club here in Washington with Jeane’s attorney and the brave member of the club who invited us as his guests.

The lunch went off without incident. But, after that, everything in Jeane’s life became deadly serious.
As some will remember, that moron, Alex Jones, the radio-show demagogue, flat-out accused me of either conspiring in the actual “murder” of Jeane or actively participating in the cover up of her murder. Over 70 websites and blogs immediately followed suit with these false accusations. Even the New York Times placed me at the epicenter of the conspiracy theories.

All of this caused me to put up my own webpage to respond to this nonsense—which continues to this day.

* * *

Kevin: After I found Senator Vitter’s number in her phone records, I called Jeane and asked her about him. She took a moment and told me, “I knew a Dave on C Street. But I never knew his real name. In fact, I really didn’t want to know. I never wanted to know.”

Significantly, all of the publishers to whom we pitched our book proposal complained that Jeane did not know any other big names or “really juicy stuff,” which was really all they wanted. Consequently, our proposal had made Jeane “look like Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm,” according to one editor. . . . When we failed to sell the book, I reverted all of my rights back to Jeane. She then teamed up with a reporter with Vanity Fair—but she couldn’t sell Jeane’s story either.

With the regard to the hundreds of other names I came up with via Jeane’s phone records—men who were not public figures—I took all of my research about them and fed it into my shredder.

* * *

The last time I saw Jeane was when you and I took her to lunch on Friday, April 11, 2008, at that sushi joint on Connecticut Avenue just four days before her conviction. In fact, I wrote about that final meeting in Confessions of a Guerrilla Writer saying:

“When I returned to the restaurant, Palfrey took Grady and me into her confidence, telling us that she and [her attorney] had decided to rest immediately after the prosecution completed its case. In other words, after all of her bravada and promises to take on the government with her supposedly overwhelming evidence of its abuses, she had decided to roll the dice, gambling that the jury would reject the government’s case, which she hoped had not proven her guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

“Despite all of the anticipation and hype, there would be no fireworks, only a total anticlimax.

“Completely confident of acquittal, Palfrey did not discuss her future, but she certainly gave us no indication that she felt she had no future if she lost her case—although I did warn Grady, just as I had with her attorneys, that she had thrice threatened to commit suicide in lieu of returning to prison.”

* * *

The sad irony is that Jeane is dead after her conviction for conspiracy—essentially a conspiracy of one—and that moral hypocrite, Senator David Vitter, was reelected in 2010 by the good people of Louisiana with 57 percent of the vote.

* * *

And let’s not forget that, along with claiming that I was involved in the murder of the D.C. Madam, the shameless Alex Jones and his merry band of screwballs have also flat-out accused me
of participating in coverups of Senator Robert Kennedy’s murder and the suicide of Vincent Foster—whom they claim was murdered. . . . Geez, I must be one horrible person.

* * *

After she quit law school and opened her first escort service, Jeane was indicted, convicted and did eighteen months for pandering. However, she did not hold up well during her time in prison. She nearly went blind. In lieu of returning to jail, she told me on three different occasions that she would kill herself. I was very alarmed by this and told her attorneys—one of whom replied, “I know. I know. I know. It’s a real problem.”

Jeane’s mother also told me that after her daughter’s 2008 conviction on federal conspiracy charges, Jeane, who would have a three-month wait before sentencing, returned to her condo in Orlando and intentionally took an overdose of pills. Although she was unconscious for nearly thirty hours, she survived. Failing to end her life in that manner, she then went to her mom’s home near Clearwater and hanged herself in her mother’s shed, leaving two very long and detailed suicide notes . . . one for her mom and the other for her sister.

* * *

Thanks, Paul. I had not seen that article . . . . Just so you know, I arranged for Wendy to take a polygraph test after she claimed that Vitter was a client . . . . The polygraph operator I selected was Edward Gelb of Los Angeles, the former president of the American Polygraph Association. Gelb had done work for me in the past . . . . For the record, Wendy passed the lie detector test with flying colors.

* * *

Attached is the official police report about the suicide of Jeane Palfrey. The interview with me is on pages 7 and 8. As noted, the last time I saw Jeane was during our lunch in Washington, D.C. with my friend, novelist James Grady, on April 11, just four days before her conviction and twenty days before her death in Florida. The police interview with Jim is on page 9. . . . Also on page 9 is a note by a police detective, stating that the screwball, Alex Jones, who had accused me of participating in a coverup of Jeane’s “murder,” refused to speak with the police to support his false charges. . . . http://www.moldea.com/DJP-death-report.pdf.

April 2014

28: DEM on Donald Sterling and Mark Fuhrman, racists

Re: Donald Sterling, Cliven Bundy, Mark Fuhrman, and Fox News

The outrage on Fox News over the racist remarks of Donald Sterling of the Los Angeles Clippers and that crazy cowboy, Cliven Bundy (whom Fox had earlier embraced), rings hollow in light of the network’s long and continuing association with former LAPD junior detective Mark Fuhrman, who pleaded no-contest to perjury charges in October 1996, stemming from his repeated use of the “n-word” which he lied about during his sworn testimony in the midst of the O.J. Simpson trial. Fuhrman’s lies helped to derail the prosecution’s murder case against the ex-football star.
Be assured that Fuhrman—now a convicted felon who had almost nothing to do with the actual Simpson murder investigation—will lead Fox News’s upcoming coverage of the twentieth anniversary of the June 12, 1994, murders of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ron Goldman.

Like Fuhrman—now a convicted felon—racists Sterling and Bundy could find redemption at Fox News. Sterling could be a color commentator on Fox’s sporting events. Bundy could be a regular on O’Reilly and Hannity, railing against big government.

For more on the Simpson case—and details of Fuhrman’s bad behavior and blatant racism—see the 1997 bestselling book—Evidence Dismissed: The Inside Story of the Police Investigation of O.J. Simpson—which I wrote with the two lead detectives of the murder investigation: Tom Lange and Philip Vannatter, both of whom were honorable men and outstanding investigators.

11: DEM photos of Hillary Clinton


Thank goodness she is safe after the shoe-throwing incident yesterday at the Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas. . . In 2007, I had the pleasure to be in the same place at the same time as then-U.S. Senator Hillary Clinton—and I took a couple of nice pictures of this wonderful woman.


Additional comments by DEM

Anytime you anti-Clinton Republicans want another showdown on the issue of morality, we’ll be happy to oblige.

* * *

Please feel free to comment on the 241 brave American servicemen who were murdered in 1983 by suicide bombers at the Marine barracks in Beirut while President Ronald Reagan was asleep at the switch—the same guy who then secretly sold arms to Iran and then diverted the profits to his illegal secret war in Nicaragua. And then, when caught, he lied about everything. . . . Now talk to me about a blue dress or your right-wing fantasies about Benghazi.

* * *

With respect, where on this thread were you “talking about the future for [your] kids and grandkids”—your wisecrack about the blue dress or your uninformed opinion about Benghazi?

And don’t even think about challenging my service. I have spent forty years fearlessly investigating the Mafia and a variety of other dangerous criminals, alone, as an independent journalist and the author of eight books. . . Listen, you’re right. I have no idea who you are, and life is too short for us to be involved in each other’s lives—even on Facebook. . . . I hope you and your family are well.

* * *

Re: The so-called “Email Scandal of March 2015”: I just cannot believe that Hillary Clinton would do anything that is illegal, immoral, unethical, or just plain wrong. It’s not even possible. . . . Move along, folks. There’s nothing to see here.

* * *

Matt, my good friend: I think you are playing a very weak hand if you actually believe that Hillary Clinton—the most vetted woman in the history of mankind—is either tone deaf or dumb. . . . I'm
betting that she will emerge from this situation stronger than ever—while further frustrating the Republican majorities in both the House and the Senate, along with the gang at Fox News.

* * *

My choice for her running mate is U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown of Ohio. In fact, he would make a great President, too... In my opinion—while the Far Right is at war with the Extreme Right for the support of the Crazy Right—Hillary has to grab the center. Her choice of either Warren or Sanders, two lefties, would be a nightmare scenario and blow her candidacy right out of the water. . . . The stakes are too high for experimentation. Hillary is the only person who stands between a reasonable American and control of all three branches of government by the Far, Extreme, and Crazy Right of this country—who only know how to make the rich richer and how to get brave American soldiers killed in stupid wars.

10: DEM and David Corn for The Nation, “Influence Peddling—Bush Style”

If and when Jeb Bush runs for President, it will be a field day for opposition research. Here is an October 2000 article that David Corn and I co-authored for The Nation about the Bush family and their long relationship with the mysterious Chinese-born Dhanin Chearavanont, one of the wealthiest people in Asia, and his family-owned company, the CP Group.

8: On Billy K’s book Stiffed and Al Sharpton

The New York Post—which is owned by the same parent company as Fox News—is making much of Rev. Al Sharpton and his history as an informant for the FBI. That news is old news. See Bill Knoedelseder’s fabulous 1993 book, Stiffed, which explains what really happened.

2: DEM on work for CREW: Sean Hannity and the Freedom Concerts

Attached are the results of a lengthy investigation I did in 2010 for CREW, a Washington-based public-interest watchdog group, about Fox News anchor Sean Hannity and his so-called “Freedom Concerts.” We alleged that Hannity used these popular events to do little more than finance his right-wing agenda—and not exclusively for the stated purpose of raising scholarship money for the children of killed and wounded soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The immediate beneficiary of the enormous amount of money raised by Hannity and his allegedly “illegal and deceptive marketing practices” was an organization called Freedom Alliance, which touts Oliver North of Iran-Contra fame as its “Honorary Chairman.” North is now a commentator for Fox News.

While promoting his Freedom Concerts, Hannity made such statements as, “Every penny, 100 percent of the donations are applied to the Freedom Alliance scholarship fund.” North added, “There’s no overhead. There’s no expenses taken out. Every penny that’s donated or that’s raised through things like the Freedom Concerts” goes to the scholarship fund.

The evidence shows that such statements were demonstrably false.

Based upon my research, attorneys with the group for which I did this investigation wrote complaints to both the Internal Revenue Service and the Federal Trade Commission.

Four years later, we are still waiting for action.
Marty: I don’t think that any serious person would consider Sean Hannity a journalist. However, as an employee of Fox News—a likely criminal enterprise which only pretends to be a news organization—Hannity will enjoy the protective shield of Roger Ailes and company. Fox News has made a science out of cloaking responsibility for its bad behavior and its shabby journalism by wrapping itself around the First Amendment.

For the IRS or the FTC to investigate the circumstances of this alleged scam, it will have to defy the gods of journalism—like the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post*, among many other legitimate and respected news organizations. Predictably, they will take the side of Fox News if either government agency decides to pursue this situation.

If the mainstreamers don’t protect Fox News and weasels, like Sean Hannity, they will surely fear that they could be the next target of a government investigation.

The last time I remember a government agency pursuing a news organization for criminal behavior was during the 1990s when the incorruptible Manhattan District Attorney’s Office investigated the *New York Times* and other local newspapers for making payoffs to Mafia figures and/or their associates in return for labor peace. . . . But we don’t get to read much about that.

*      *      *

Today, CREW will file suit against President Trump, citing a provision in the Constitution known as the Emoluments Clause which “bans payments from foreign powers like the ones to Mr. Trump’s companies,” according to the *New York Times*. “They cite fears among the framers of the Constitution that United States officials could be corrupted by gifts or payments.” (January 23, 2017)

*      *      *

In his attack on Jim Acosta of CNN, Sean Hannity, Trump’s media stooge, views himself as the sole arbiter on good v. bad journalism. [https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/sean-hannity-jim-acosta-journalistic-integrity_us_5be537b5e4b0e84388961a8](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/sean-hannity-jim-acosta-journalistic-integrity_us_5be537b5e4b0e84388961a8) (November 9, 2018)

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**March 2014**

25: DEM photo of Gloria Steinem

Today is the 80th birthday of Gloria Steinem. I had the honor to interview her 33 years ago when she was still a kid at 47. Here’s a photograph I took of this multi-talented woman back then..

Additional comments by DEM

This is one of my favorite stories: In or about 1979, Gloria Steinem was the keynote speaker at the annual banquet of the Women’s Equity Action League (WEAL), a national women’s rights organization. After the dinner, which I attended with WEAL’s president, she greeted and spoke to everyone who wanted to meet or to speak with her . . . every single person.
At about 2:00-2:30 in the morning, Ms. Steinem was in the last group to leave the banquet room.

She was and always has been pure class.

* * *

I met her at that banquet in 1979 and briefly interviewed her for a radio program in 1981—and haven't seen or talked to her since. I really don't know anything about her love life. . . . But I do believe that men who really love truly independent women should also admire and respect Gloria Steinem because of the influence she has had on the women they love.

21: On death of Lawrence Walsh, Independent Counsel of Iran-Contra

During the 1980s, President Ronald Reagan illegally sold arms to Iran and then secretly diverted the profits from those sales to finance his illegal war in Nicaragua. When he was finally caught, Reagan, at first, lied about everything. But when confronted with the evidence, he modified his original denial—and merely claimed a bad case of amnesia.

Can you imagine the GOP’s reaction if Bill Clinton or Barack Obama had pulled such a stunt? Lawrence Walsh—the U.S. Independent Counsel who investigated the Iran-Contra Affair, as well as the corruption of Reagan's stooges—died on Wednesday. Here is the Washington Post’s obituary about this honest man.

Additional comments by DEM

Let’s not put “I did not have sex with that woman,” and “If you like your doctor, you can keep your doctor,” in the same category as Reagan’s blatant deception and treachery with Iran-Contra—or, for that matter, the George Bush-Dick Cheney flat-out lie of “weapons of mass destruction” in Iraq, which led to the biggest blunder in American military history.

The flood of lies that led to the war in Iraq resulted in the deaths of nearly 5,000 U.S. soldiers, as well as tens of thousands of Iraqi civilians.

“When Clinton lied, no one died.”

* * *

Sorry, Tim. That doesn’t fly. History shows that whenever Ronald Reagan was cornered by the facts of his bad behavior—and even his personal corruption—he either lied or claimed a convenient memory lapse.

For instance, here is a story I published in the Washington Post on March 15, 1987—edited and re-published in 2001—about Reagan’s 1962 testimony before a federal grand jury in the midst of the U.S. Justice Department’s antitrust investigation of MCA, which included Reagan’s tenure as president of the Screen Actors Guild with whom and with which MCA had sweetheart agreements. See:http://www.moldea.com/ReaganGJ.html.

* * *

Bob Parry was the real unsung hero of the Iran-Contra matter. . . . I initially learned what I knew about Reagan and MCA from other greats, like journalists Bill Knoedelseder, Jack Tobin, and Dave Robb, as well as the legendary citizen-activist Mae Churchill of Los Angeles. . . . Also, our friend on this thread, Dennis McDougal—wrote the definitive book about MCA board chairman Lew Wasserman, The Last Mogul.
18: On the death of Philip “Brother” Moscato

A note to my colleagues who have investigated the Jimmy Hoffa caper: Philip Bernard “Brother” Moscato has died after a long illness. Over the past seven years, I had the opportunity to spend some time with him. Even though he disclosed information with the same frequency as a kosher butcher sells pork chops, I liked and respected him. To my chagrin and to the very end, he kept his mouth shut. . . I will have more to say about this at a later date.

Attached is a photograph I took of him in 2007.

Additional comments by DEM

I spoke with Phil twelve days ago—on February 6 by phone—in what became my lame, last-ditch attempt to get him to spill. I even offered to drive up to his home in New Jersey right then.

He was weak and bed ridden, protected by his devoted wife. Considering what he was in the midst of and with all he had on his mind, I felt like a damn vulture imposing on the final days of his life. As always, he was friendly and courteous to me, but he refused to give it to me—if you know what I’m saying.

Still, I do have a great story to tell about Brother Moscato, and I will be telling it soon. . . . As I said, I liked and respected the man.

*   *   *

During one of my tape-recorded interviews with Moscato, he refused to confirm that Salvatore Briguglio was Hoffa’s killer, but he did dismiss any and all speculation that Frank Sheeran committed the murder.

“I’m not going to talk about Sal,” he told me, “but I can assure you that Sheeran had no role in the actual killing of Jimmy Hoffa.” (see CGW, p. 622)

Moscato was a very interesting man who adored his wife and three children. As I said, I liked and respected the guy—but a lot of untold history died with him.

17: Excerpt of Gabriel Sherman’s book on Fox, Bill O’Reilly and Andrea Mackris

How much hush money did Bill O’Reilly of Fox News pay Andrea Mackris? And why is that blowhard—who demands accountability from everyone else—not being held accountable for that?

Here is how Gabriel Sherman reported it in his new book.

13: DEM on the death of George Wilson
Sad news: Our friend and fellow Authors Dinner Group member, fearless war correspondent George C. Wilson of the *Washington Post*, has died. . . . He was a helluva guy, and he will be missed.

**January 2014**


Knowing that I have spent my entire career—as an independent investigative journalist and the author of eight nonfiction books—rightly or wrongly taking sides on public issues, my good friend, Pamela Johnson, just sent my favorite Pete Seeger song, “Which Side Are You On?” . . .

My dad didn't work in a coal mine, but I have always been inspired by Seeger's message about living life with honor and principle, especially during those moments when I have fallen short of both.

13: Arthur Fox on “Inequality”

Renowned Teamsters-reform attorney Arthur Fox, a widely-respected public-interest litigator, speaks out on economic inequality and the absolute necessity for strong and vibrant labor unions. He provides a brief but remarkably on-point analysis of the current state of America’s middle class and its “utter lack of meaningful bargaining power.”

**2013**

**December 2013**

31: Ethelbert Miller interview of DEM on UDC-TV

In this truly penetrating end-of-the-year interview on UDC-TV about my new book, *Confessions of a Guerrilla Writer*, author and poet Ethelbert Miller plunges into the deepest recesses of my shallow psyche and emerges unscathed with my freaking soul. . . . Happy 2014 to all of us!

5: On the death of Nelson Mandela, Hugh Masekela

A great and fearless man has died. . . . Ethelbert Miller's homage to Nelson Mandela—which I share with my family and friends.

**November 2013**
In mid-November [1977], I again interviewed Otto Wendell, the [Local 299] secretary-treasurer.

The following month, on December 12, Wendell was found shot twice in his car. He never regained consciousness and died on Christmas Eve. He had been killed with his own gun. The police, who ruled out suicide, didn't know whether Wendell had shot himself accidentally or whether he had been murdered.

Tina and I were in Detroit when Wendell died, spending the Christmas holidays with her parents at their home in Southfield.

Two days after Christmas, I visited Jimmy Hoffa, Jr., whom I had not seen since I left the *Detroit Free Press*, at his law office. Murray Chodak, Hoffa's law partner, was also present.

"How's your book going, Dan?" Hoffa asked.

"Pretty good, pretty good," I replied. "I should probably tell you something, though."

"What's that?"

"I've collected a lot of evidence, and I'm going to claim that your father, Carlos Marcello, and Santo Trafficante arranged and executed President Kennedy's murder in 1963."

Clearly agitated, Hoffa shot back, "That's such bullshit, Dan. I think my dad knew Jack Ruby, but from what I understand, he [Ruby] was the kind of guy everybody knew. So what?"

Seeing me react to his statement, Hoffa started to backpedal, saying he couldn't recall any specific information upon which he based his opinion. However, he did add, "It doesn't make any sense." Pausing for a moment, he continued, "If my dad had decided to kill Kennedy, he would have gotten a gun, walked right up to him, and blew his brains out."

Actually, I was still stunned over Hoffa's statement that he believed his father "knew Jack Ruby." No one, not even among the hard core conspiracy theorists, had ever made that allegation.

Seeing me pull out my notepad to write down the quote, Hoffa exclaimed, "That's off the record!"

"Bullshit, Jimmy!" I replied. "You know the rules. When you want something off the record, you say so. And then you make your statement. You don't wait to see my reaction, and then try to take it off the record. That statement is on the record."

Turning quickly to Chodak, Hoffa said, "What did I just say, Murray?"

"I didn't hear you say anything, Jim," Chodak insisted.

Turning towards me, Hoffa concluded, "See, Dan? It's our word against yours! What do you have? You have nothing!"

As the conversation quickly deteriorated, I left the office but finished writing down Hoffa's quotes on my notepad as I walked to the elevator. . . .
Motivated by the market power of the *New York Times*, publications all over the country suddenly began writing about the pending release of *The Hoffa Wars*—written by a completely unknown 28-year-old author and published by a little British company no one had ever heard of before. [The *New York Times* had given my new book and me respectability after a story it published on June 29, 1978. Essentially, that story created me.]

Riding the wave, I went to New York on Monday, July 24 to work on the excerpt for *Playboy*. The story concentrated on the violence in Local 299 and the politics behind the Hoffa murder, as well as the possible Marcello-Trafficante-Hoffa scenario in the murder of President Kennedy.

During an early morning breakfast with Barry Golson, *Playboy*'s executive editor, on Saturday, July 29, I felt exhausted after the week's work. It was 2:30 A.M., and we had just put the story to bed.

Golson—who had edited the article along with his top lieutenant, Tom Passavant—offhandedly remarked, "It's too bad that we don't have anyone saying that Hoffa personally knew Jack Ruby."

"Yeah," I replied. "The only thing I ever heard was . . ." and I told Golson about my meeting with Jimmy Hoffa, Jr. the previous December—during which he said he believed his father knew Ruby.

Astonished, Golson exclaimed, "Why isn't that in the story?"

"Barry, it's my word against both Hoffa and Murray Chodak."

"Did he say it?"

"Yeah, of course, he said it."

"Did you write it down?"

"Yeah, as I left Hoffa's office."

Golson paid the check and said we were going back to the office to add Hoffa's quote to the *Playboy* article. He assured me, "Our attorneys will back you up if Hoffa comes after us."

Emboldened by Golson's confidence, I also added the Hoffa quote as a last minute endnote to my book's galleys. . . .

On Monday, September 25, the U.S. House Select Committee on Assassinations opened its public hearings on the possible role of the Mafia in the President's murder. National Public Radio covered most of the gavel to gavel action.

Listening to NPR while waiting to go on a television show in Boston, I nearly fell off my chair when Nina Totenberg, who anchored the NPR broadcast, began reading long excerpts from *The Hoffa Wars*, which already contained much of what the committee was now presenting. . . .

In his own assault on me for my Marcello-Trafficante-Hoffa theory, Ralph Orr of the *Detroit Free Press* quoted Jimmy Hoffa Jr., denying that he had ever told me that his father had known Jack Ruby. Hoffa told Orr, "That is a complete fabrication. I categorically deny that any such conversation ever took place."
Orr continued: "Said [Hoffa's] law partner, Murray Chodak, whom Moldea said was present for the interview: 'Jimmy never, never said that. I was stunned when I read it. We would sue, but we don't want to help hustle the damned book.'"

Soon after, a staff investigator for the U.S. House Select Committee on Assassinations called and told me that Hoffa had called me "a liar" and denied making the statement during an official interview with the committee. Specifically, the investigator's report stated: “Speaking of the recent book, The Hoffa Wars, Hoffa stated that ‘it is completely inaccurate. It is a scandalous and malicious book. An outrage. It's the worst fabrication and worst book since The Enemy Within, [Robert Kennedy's 1960 book about Hoffa and the Mafia].’ In response to the question of whether the book accurately quotes him as having stated that he believes his father knew Jack Ruby, Hoffa stated, ‘That's a total lie. I never said my father knew Jack Ruby or anything like that. He made that up for the book.'

The staff investigator called and asked me if I had any corroboration for my claim that Hoffa had made this statement.

"Come over to my place," I told him.

When he arrived, I gave him a copy of a tape.

"What's on this?" He asked.

"Hoffa called me on the phone on September 14 [1978]," I replied. "During our discussion, he confirmed the quote. To protect myself, I taped the call. This is the tape of my conversation with Hoffa."

In short, Hoffa, Jr.—after seeing either my book or the article in Playboy—had called my home and verbally attacked me for alleging that his father had been involved in President Kennedy's murder. After reminding Hoffa what he had told me on December 27, 1977, in his office, Hoffa confirmed his statement to me—that his father had personally known Jack Ruby.

* * *

On September 18, after my appearance on a WCVB-TV morning radio show in Boston, I called my attorney, Steve Martindale, who told me that he had been contacted by attorney Frank Ragano of Tampa, the former legal counsel to Santo Trafficante, as well as Carlos Marcello and Jimmy Hoffa, during the time of the Castro plots. According to Martindale, Ragano made an offer of $250,000 to buy the rights to my book—supposedly to make a movie. He said that his project was backed by television talk-show host David Susskind. Martindale asked me what I wanted to do. I telephoned Walter Sheridan who told me to stay clear of Ragano because he was "bad news."

I called Martindale back and told him to tell Ragano to forget it. However, I instructed him first to ask Ragano his opinion with regard to my chapters on the Castro and Kennedy murder plots and, specifically, the possibility of Hoffa's involvement.

Later that day, Martindale reported that Ragano had said that I was “essentially correct.” but that I had "oversimplified" the scenario. Ragano would say no more. . .

* * *

Upon the release of its final report on July 17 [1979]—a year after I had said it first in The Hoffa Wars—the U.S. House Select Committee on Assassinations concluded that, indeed, Jimmy Hoffa, Carlos Marcello, and Santo Trafficante each had the "motive, means, and opportunity" to have President Kennedy killed. Then, placing an exclamation point on all of this at the end of the committee's investigation, Chief Counsel Robert Blakey insisted, "The mob did it. It's a historical fact."
Here is a photograph of Jimmy Hoffa Jr. and me in December 1975—five months after his father's disappearance and two years before the conversation described in the excerpt above. . . . Hoffa Jr. is the current General President of the Teamsters Union. (Photo by Michael Vincent)

18: DEM on the 50th anniversary of the JFK murder


Hey! I gotta weigh in on the 50th anniversary of the JFK assassination, too, with this October 1978 television interview—especially since I was the first to lay out the scenario that ex-Teamsters president Jimmy Hoffa, along with Mafia bosses Carlos Marcello of New Orleans and Santo Trafficante of Tampa, had arranged and executed the murder. I detailed this and more in my first book, "The Hoffa Wars," which was released in August 1978. . . . In July 1979, nearly a year after the publication of my work, the U.S. House Select Committee on Assassinations insisted that Hoffa, Marcello, and Trafficante had the "motive, means, and opportunity" to have President Kennedy murdered. "The mob did it," committee counsel Robert Blakey declared. "It's a historical fact."

That was true in 1963. It was true in 1978 and 1979. And it is true now.

Additional comments by DEM

With respect, Steve, I don't own absolute truth in this matter. But, at the time that I developed the Hoffa-Marcello-Trafficante theory, most of the JFK scholars were arguing that the hobos in Dealey Plaza were the Watergate burglars—or they were busy promoting the investigation of that mobbed-up stooge, Jim Garrison, the DA of New Orleans who was doing nothing more than deflecting attention away from his benefactor, Carlos Marcello. . . . So please feel to parse what I contributed to this case 35 years ago—especially when there are people coming out with books this week—using basically the same information and trying to claim that it's new.

* * *

50-year remembrance: During the late afternoon of November 22, 1963, I was in Miss Frances Abbott's eighth-grade, eighth-period American history class at Roswell Kent Junior High School in Akron, Ohio. We learned the news of President John Kennedy's death from our principal, Mr. John Griffith, who made the sad announcement over the P.A. system. School then adjourned for the weekend. . . . Two days later, during the early afternoon of November 24, I was sitting with my friends at our church when my dad, who had been outside with his friends listening to a car radio, suddenly rushed up the aisle and whispered something to our priest—who then announced to the congregation that the President's alleged murderer had just been murdered.

* * *

Diana: With the complicated JFK murder case, no one can really claim to own Absolute Truth, so it is unfair to criticize those with competing scenarios. But I do have serious disagreements with the theory that Dan Bonnano has presented. I certainly do not believe that Lyndon Johnson or George H.W. Bush were part of any conspiracy against President Kennedy.

I also completely reject the suggestion that Joseph Kennedy made any kind of deal with the Mafia in order to get his son elected President. There is simply no way that John and/or Robert Kennedy would have worked with the Mafia. No way. During their roles with the Senate Rackets Committee between 1957-1960, they were eating mob guys for breakfast. And when John Kennedy became President in January 1961 and appointed his brother as Attorney General, they started eating mobsters for lunch and dinner, too. . . . In my opinion, Bob Kennedy was the greatest crime fighter in this country's history.
Also, I’m getting a little tired of every time a cat gets caught in a tree, someone writes a book blaming the CIA as an institution. . . . To be sure, I am second to none in my criticism of the CIA for its plots with the Mafia to kill Fidel Castro. And I find it difficult to believe that had former CIA Director Allen Dulles, who sat on the Warren Commission, revealed what he knew—that the CIA and the Mafia had teamed up to kill Castro—that this information would not have created a whole new avenue of investigation for the Commission. . . . Also, I am very open-minded about the possibility that some CIA guys who had worked with the Mafia—like William Harvey and perhaps even Dulles himself—could have been complicit in a subsequent plot against the President.

But do I believe that the CIA—as an institution—participated in the Mafia’s plot to kill President Kennedy? No, I do not—although I do believe that the agency engaged in an institutional cover up during the Warren Commission, concealing its role with the Mafia in its plots to kill Castro which, I believe, evolved into the successful plot to murder the President. And I also believe—just as I wrote in *The Hoffa Wars* in 1978—that this plot was engineered by Jimmy Hoffa, Carlos Marcello, and Santo Trafficante.

* * *

One last thing: There are a lot of people who view this assassination business as a cult-like religion, creating personal truths which they believe they must defend. When they encounter someone with a different point of view, they often treat that person as a heretic—and respond accordingly. . . . I will defend what I believe about the JFK murder case (“Hoffa-Marcello-Trafficante”) and the RFK murder case (“Sirhan acted alone”), but, once again, I am fully aware of the fact that I do not own Absolute Truth. And I am very wary of those who believe they do.

11: On Desmond Doss, conscientious objector, Congressional Medal of Honor  

There are all kinds of heroes who should be celebrated on Veterans Day. Here’s a 2006 obituary for Desmond Doss, a pacifist and conscientious objector, who refused to carry a weapon—but won the Congressional Medal of Honor. . . . I know his niece, Jodi Foss, who is an attorney and previously worked in the law office of my long-time D.C. attorney and big brother, Roger Simmons.

* * *  

**Additional comments by DEM**

Hollywood should take an interest in this gentleman’s true story. . . . Imagine a war movie in which the lead character, a pacifist and a CO, performs heroically under fire during combat without picking up a gun and without killing anybody—doing nothing less than saving the lives of 75 wounded soldiers—and then wins the Congressional Medal of Honor. (November 12, 2013)

* * *

Mel Gibson has announced that his next film project will be about Desmond Doss. (April 21, 2015)

* * *

I wonder how the religious right and even the NRA view a pacifist who refuses to pick up a gun in combat because of his religious beliefs but still wins the nation’s highest award for bravery on the battlefield. . . . Would Desmond Doss be a poster boy for the NRA? Would he be a role model for Pat Robertson’s flock?

* * *

* * *

Two Oscars tonight. . . . God bless Desmond Doss.  (February 27, 2017)

* * *

Margie. . . . Thank you for noticing. I put this thread up seventeen months before Mel Gibson announced his intention to do a motion picture about Desmond Doss. . . . (February 27, 2017)

11: Dad on Veterans Day—Canterbury painting

I think it's wonderful that so many friends and colleagues are paying respects to their fathers (and mothers) on Veterans Day. . . . Here's our dad who also served.

Additional comments by DEM

In 1977, my parents came to Washington to visit me. In anticipation of their arrival, I called a trusted source at The Pentagon, hoping to find out what had happened to that painting of Dad. As it turned out, the painting was right there in the “E” Ring. . . . My source then arranged for Mom and Dad to receive a private tour, keeping secret our discovery. This photograph memorialized the climactic moment of that visit.

* * *

Here is a photograph from a reunion of the 357th Fighter Group in which Dad is pictured with his war buddy and one of my childhood heroes, Chuck Yeager (l), the first pilot to break the sound barrier. . . . Both of these guys had “The Right Stuff.” . . .

* * *

Pictured in London: Dad had a chance encounter in the midst of the war with one of his closest friends from Akron, Ohio: B-17 pilot and war hero C.P. Chima. (Along with being Romanian-Americans from the same church and growing up together in Firestone Park, both also graduated from Garfield High School.)

* * *

Today—November 11, 2018, the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day—is also the 100th birthday of our dad whom we miss every day. . . . Happy Veterans Day to all of those who served.

6: NYT article on Governor Christie's Mafia connection

A past and future area of political research: Governor Chris Christie and the Mafia.

Additional comments by DEM

Jeez, Pat. You of all people, a genuine expert about the Mafia, should understand—even with your inexplicable Tea Party roots: Any reasonable definition of "organized crime" is that it is conspiracy crime, enterprise crime, and crime by association. . . . You've investigated numerous political-corruption cases. How do you think it works? . . . You don't think that this New Jersey
governor—who once had to recuse himself from his mobster-relative’s case—deserves further scrutiny from people like you and me? . . . Why are you so quick to give this guy a pass?

October 2013

17: CGW: On the GOP exploitation of Vincent Foster, Part 2

Excerpt: Chapter 110: “[The GOP’s exploitation of the suicide of Vincent Foster: Part 2]”

The New York Times, in the midst of the 1992 campaign, had touted a series of questionable stories about the Whitewater real-estate project in Arkansas, sourced, in part, to Bill Clinton's most partisan and vicious enemies in Arkansas. However, the Times, which broke the Whitewater story just prior to the 1992 Super Tuesday primaries, refused to relent or correct its mistakes, despite clear evidence that conflicted with their news accounts. Regardless of its errors, the newspaper continued to suggest that this land deal provided a watershed of data indicative of Clinton’s corruption and lack of character.

Nevertheless, Clinton won Super Tuesday and became the Democratic front-runner. By the time of Clinton’s election victory over Republican President George H. W. Bush and Reform Party candidate Ross Perot the following November, Whitewater had come to nothing. Refusing to admit it, the New York Times had been embarrassed by its own reporting, which, according to many experts, had been sloppy and unprofessional.

Consequently, as Clinton took the oath of office in January 1993, the conservative Clinton-haters and heat-seeking media muckrakers were forced to regroup and refocus their attack. It was clear from the outset that Clinton would be held to standards of behavior that had never been applied to any other President while his enemies seemed prepared to blame him for anything and everything.

Yet, Clinton had already established a record of frustrating his political foes because of their own inability to ask the right questions. Consequently—whether the issue was the President’s personal sex life, the draft, or smoking marijuana—the Clinton haters always tried to place him in a perpetual no-win situation, accusing him of not telling the full truth in response to their imprecise questions, earmarked for Clinton to self-destruct when he tried to answer them.

But, simply speaking, Clinton refused to commit political suicide and mostly remained technically truthful when confronted with personal questions, which always infuriated his political detractors. Frankly, after my libel case, Moldea v. New York Times, I could attest that media lawyers routinely did the same thing, twisting and torturing the English language in order to allow their clients’ to evade responsibility for their mistakes.

Even though the press did not give the Clinton Administration the traditional honeymoon enjoyed by most new administrations, the only reporting that actually drew some blood resulted from the questionable firings of seven employees in the White House Travel Office during the spring of 1993. But, because the Democrats controlled both houses of Congress, no one anticipated any formal investigation.

Then, after Vincent Foster's suicide in late-July 1993, interest in the already-discredited Whitewater case was renewed by journalists who believed that more reporting needed to be done. Even though Foster's role in Whitewater was minor, the implications from the news stories led to editorials, essays, and opinion pieces—particularly in the Wall Street Journal, as well as the New York Times and the Washington Times—openly suggesting a White House cover up. Speculation ran rampant that a truly depressed Foster might have killed himself in order to avoid prosecution or to protect some dark secret about the Clintons revolving around Whitewater.
During my investigation, I discovered that immediately after the Foster case was closed by the Park Police and the FBI, reporters had alleged—based on several erroneous statements by Major Robert Hines, a top official in the Park Police—that Whitewater documents had been removed from Foster's office after an official search.

In reality, the four Park Police officers who had actually seen these documents admitted to me that, at the time of Foster's suicide, they didn't even know what Whitewater was. One laughed, "We couldn't have made a distinction between Whitewater land records and whitewater rafting records."

According to my investigation, Hines had based his false statements on nothing more than bad rumors, which he then made worse by stating them as facts to the media. Hines's role in this investigation was not insignificant because his comments to the press wound up giving Whitewater a new life.

Consequently, even though no wrongdoing had been shown, the Washington press corps demanded that the White House, which had made several missteps of its own, release the missing Whitewater documents from Foster's office.

These errors and misrepresentations by the media brought the then-Republican minority in Congress to life as they began demanding the appointment of an independent counsel to investigate Whitewater.

Even though the grounds for this action were dubious at best, Attorney General Janet Reno bowed to these demands in January 1994 and appointed attorney Robert Fiske, a respected Republican and a former U.S. Attorney in Manhattan, to probe Whitewater and Foster's death.

After a six-month investigation and the release of his interim report, Fiske, in cooperation with the FBI, was able to explain most of the controversies in the Foster case—including those surrounding the mystery man in the white van, who was identified—and corroborated the conclusion by the Park Police and the FBI that Foster had committed suicide.

Fiske declared that Foster had been depressed over his role in the Travel Office scandal, as well as the bad press he had received, especially on the rabidly anti-Clinton editorial page of the Wall Street Journal.

To no one's surprise, disappointed right wing extremists loudly criticized the work of Bob Fiske, their fellow Republican. Senator Lauch Faircloth (R-North Carolina) and Congressman Dan Burton (R-Indiana) angrily demanded Fiske's immediate dismissal. Faircloth was Fiske's most vocal critic during the U.S. Senate Banking Committee's oversight hearings in July that scrutinized the independent counsel's interim report.

As Fiske continued to investigate the White House's handling of the files found in Foster's office, President Clinton signed a new Independent Counsel Act into law. However, the procedure called for the appointment of independent counsels, not by the Attorney General but, by a panel of three appellate judges, who were appointed by the Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court—just as the act had originally been written in 1978.

In a surprise move on August 5, 1994, the three judge panel replaced Fiske with Kenneth Starr, who, by the way, was the author of "The World Amicus" in Moldea v. New York Times.

The following week, President Clinton appointed Abner Mikva—who was one of the three appellate judges and the original lone dissenter in my case—as his new White House counsel. . . .

16: CGW: On the GOP exploitation of Vincent Foster, Part 1

Excerpt: Chapter 109, “[The GOP’s exploitation of the suicide of Vincent Foster: Part 1]”
Leaving the White House at a little after 1:00 P.M. on July 20, 1993, [Deputy White House Counsel Vincent] Foster drove his 1989 gray Honda Accord to Fort Marcy Park just off the George Washington Parkway in McLean, Virginia. He parked his car next to a trail that led to a large open grove.

Taking off his blue pin-striped suit coat and tie, he placed them on the front passenger seat of his car, along with his White House pass and his wallet, which contained, among other things, a list of three local psychiatrists.

After loosening the top button of his white shirt, Foster opened the glove compartment and reached for an oven mitt in which he had concealed an antique, black-colored .38-Colt revolver. Inside the cylinder were two live rounds of round-nose lead ammunition.

He placed the gun in his left-front pocket, unknowingly transferring a portion of a sunflower-seed husk from the oven mitt. Leaving his car unlocked and the oven mitt in the glove compartment, Foster walked through the park, passing a Civil War cannon in a large grove, and into a smaller grove nearly 250 yards from his car. Upon entering this heavily wooded area, he saw a second cannon.

He switched off his White House pager, sat in front of the cannon's barrel, and removed the gun from his left pocket. Bracketed by dense foliage, he was facing downhill.

He cocked the hammer of the revolver. Placing his right thumb on the trigger and steadying the weapon with his left hand, he put the gun in his mouth and fired a single shot.

The bullet perforated his brain and crashed out the back of his skull, killing him instantly. The backlash caused his eyeglasses to fall from his face and tumble down the hill. His hands fell limply downhill at his sides with the gun still in his right hand—his thumb trapped in the trigger guard. A stream of blood trickled from his mouth and nose, soaking the right shoulder of his shirt.

More blood from a small exit wound in the back of his head flowed down the hill and soaked the ground beneath him, as well as the back of his shirt.

Plain and simple, Foster, who left no suicide note, had taken his own life. But no one had seen him do it, and no one had heard the shot. In fact, no known person had even seen him alive in the park.

A mystery man in a white van, who had stopped in the park to urinate in the woods, stumbled upon the body at about 6:00 P.M. Quickly leaving the area, the mystery man—who was later identified—went to a nearby maintenance station for the National Park Service and told an employee what he had found, asking him to call the police. Then, the mystery man vanished into the rush-hour traffic.

The park service employee dutifully called the local rescue squad and then the U.S. Park Police, which had jurisdiction. Within minutes, two rescue teams and a lone Park Police officer, who had been stationed nearby, arrived at the scene. The officer, Kevin Fornshill, joined two of the rescue workers in their frantic search for the reported dead body, splitting off from them in the main grove and finding his way into a shady grove. There, Fornshill located the unidentified body and called for the paramedics.

Within minutes, police investigators arrived at the crime scene and began a routine investigation which found no evidence of a struggle and no reason to believe that Foster, who was identified after a search of his car, had been murdered.

However, during that probe, some police mistakes were made. Evidence was left unchecked, and questions remained unanswered.

Also, in the midst of the Park Police probe, the White House Counsel's Office, which did not order Foster's office sealed until the day after his death, initially stalled police investigators, preventing them from conducting interviews and searching the office. When the police were finally permitted to speak with four of the last known White House staffers to have seen Foster alive, the interviews were monitored and, in one case, disrupted by members of the Counsel's Office.
Earlier, the police had agreed to the Counsel's Office request to allow attorneys from the Department of Justice to serve as intermediaries during a review of the documents in Foster's office. As the police understood the arrangement: If the White House declared a privilege on a particular document and did not want to show it to the police, then the attorneys from Justice would view the material and decide on the merits of the claim.

But, instead, White House Counsel Bernard Nussbaum—aggressively protecting the rights of his client—conducted the search unilaterally two days after Foster's death, refusing to allow either the Park Police or the attorneys from the Justice Department to participate in the search or to see any documents. Consequently, the police investigators and the Justice Department lawyers suspected that the White House was hiding something.

Immediately, the media went into its predictable frenzy. They detailed the close friendship that Foster had enjoyed with the President and especially the First Lady—with whom Foster, her one-time law partner, was rumored to have had an affair.

Although there was little initial speculation that any foul play had occurred, journalists quickly discovered that Foster had been involved in a handful of controversies, including a recent mini-scandal involving the White House Travel Office. As a result of this and other problems, the Wall Street Journal had written several editorials critical of Foster prior to his death.

During the week after Foster's suicide, the White House continued to maintain that he had not been depressed. But, after an attorney in the Counsel's Office discovered a torn-up note—that bitterly derided enemies of the President, as well as the "sport" of personal destruction in official Washington—the White House's position changed.

Suddenly, Foster's family and colleagues began to reveal details of the growing depression that had led to his suicide. His sister had given him the list of three psychiatrists found in his wallet, urging him to make an appointment with one of them. Her husband had given Foster a list of six attorneys in case he faced a legal battle over the Travel Office matter. Later, Foster's wife told police investigators that her husband—the day before his death—had contacted their family doctor who prescribed a mild anti-depressant.

The torn-up note was kept from police investigators for nearly thirty hours. It had been found in Foster's briefcase, which had been supposedly emptied by Nussbaum during the search of Foster's office several days earlier. The U.S. Capitol Police eventually confirmed that the note was in Foster's handwriting.

Although the note contained no fingerprints, the Park Police, in concert with the Department of Justice and the FBI, concluded that Foster had written it just before he committed suicide—although it was not considered to be an actual suicide note. . . .

Additional comments by DEM

The Republicans' bad behavior didn't start with its cynical exploitation of the tragic suicide of Vincent Foster, and it won't end with the events unfolding today. . . . The United States draws near a devastating financial default engineered by Tea Party Republicans, an emerging organized-crime group—which has been cheered on by Fox News, an ongoing criminal enterprise.

14: CGW: The corruption of Ronald Reagan


Excerpt: Chapter 55, “[The corruption of Ronald Reagan]”

(With appreciation to the late citizen-activist Mae Churchill, as well as journalists Bill Knoedelseder, Dave Robb, and the late Jack Tobin—whose roles in this investigation are highlighted in my book.)
Ronald Reagan had come to Los Angeles in 1937 to make motion pictures. In 1940, MCA bought out the talent agency that represented Reagan. Lew Wasserman, a rising star at MCA, became Reagan's personal agent, later negotiating his first million-dollar contract with Warner Brothers on Reagan's behalf, based on the success of the actor’s 1942 film, King’s Row.

In 1946, Wasserman became the president of MCA, and the following year, Reagan, with his film career already in decline at the end of his seven-year contract, became the president of the Screen Actors Guild (SAG).

A sweetheart relationship developed between MCA and SAG, which culminated in July 1952 during Reagan's fifth consecutive term as SAG's president. Reagan and Laurence Beilenson—an attorney for MCA who had previously served as SAG's general counsel and represented Reagan in his 1949 divorce from actress Jane Wyman—negotiated an exclusive blanket waiver from SAG that permitted MCA to engage in unlimited film production.

In fact, the agreement violated SAG's bylaws, which prohibited talent agents from employing their own clients. At the time, no other talent agency could receive a similar arrangement. A Justice Department memorandum . . . indicated that the waiver became "the central fact of MCA's whole rise to power."

At the end of Reagan's fifth term as SAG president, he began to have serious financial problems, particularly with the IRS. MCA negotiated a deal with a Las Vegas hotel-casino, which was owned and operated by associates of the Chicago Outfit, for Reagan to host a song-and-dance show and to receive enough money to cover his back tax debt.

When Reagan returned to Hollywood, MCA, through its newly formed film company, Revue Productions, selected him to host its flagship television program, the General Electric Theater for $125,000 a year. He was paid additional fees when he actually produced episodes for the series. Despite his status as a television producer, Reagan remained on SAG's board of directors in another violation of the guild's bylaws, which prohibited producers from holding office in the actors’ guild. In 1959, when Reagan ran for an unprecedented sixth term as SAG’s president, his opponents raised the bylaws issue. However, Reagan denied on the record that he had ever produced any episodes for the General Electric Theater—which was an outright lie.

Wasserman had encouraged Reagan to seek his sixth term. MCA was facing sensitive negotiations with SAG over residual television and motion picture rights for actors. The issue eventually forced SAG to strike in 1960, and Reagan, as SAG president, became the actors' chief negotiator.

The contract that Reagan arranged with the studios is still known in Hollywood as "The Great Giveaway." It did provide residuals for actors—but only for films made after 1960. The studios kept everything before 1960, which was worth billions of dollars. This greatly benefited MCA, which had recently purchased Paramount Pictures' huge film library in 1959.

(Later, Richard Walsh, the president of IATSE during the 1960 SAG strike, told me that labor lawyer and Mafia mouthpiece Sidney Korshak, a close friend of Lew Wasserman, was directly involved in the negotiations with Reagan—just as Jack Tobin had predicted.)

In 1962, the Justice Department filed a federal antitrust suit against MCA, alleging that it was both a talent agency and a production company. SAG was charged as a coconspirator.

Reagan became the subject of both criminal and civil investigations by the FBI and a federal grand jury in Los Angeles. A Justice Department memorandum quoted a Hollywood source as saying, "Ronald Reagan is a complete slave of MCA who would do their bidding on anything."
Reagan was subpoenaed to testify before the grand jury, but he experienced amnesia during his testimony on February 5, 1962, failing to recall significant details of his role in the SAG MCA blanket waiver decision in 1952.

Federal prosecutors were so convinced that Reagan had perjured himself repeatedly during his testimony that they subpoenaed his and his wife's federal income tax returns for the years 1952 to 1955. His second wife, actress Nancy Reagan, had been a member of the SAG board of directors since 1951.

However, in July 1962—in the aftermath of MCA's purchase of Decca Records, the parent company of Universal Pictures—MCA agreed to abolish its talent agency as part of a consent decree with the Kennedy Justice Department. As a result, all charges against and investigations of the company and its alleged coconspirators, including Reagan and SAG, were dropped, and the record of the case was sealed.

Universal quickly became the biggest film producer in the entertainment industry. Claiming that he was deeply affected by the breakup of MCA—which, in fact, had turned the company into an even more powerful multibillion dollar international corporation—Reagan, supposedly a lifelong Democrat, suddenly became an anti-big government Republican, just like his political mentors at MCA, board chair Jules Stein and vice president Taft Schreiber, both of whom were active in Republican Party politics.

In return for Reagan's long time loyalty to his benefactors, MCA, through its cooperation in the selling of Reagan's Malibu properties, helped Reagan to become a multi-millionaire—and, then, the governor of California. . . .

Additional comments by DEM

The Republicans' bad behavior didn't start with its cynical exploitation of the tragic suicide of Vincent Foster, and it won't end with the events unfolding today. . . . The United States draws near a devastating financial default engineered by Tea Party Republicans, an emerging organized-crime group—which has been cheered on by Fox News, an ongoing criminal enterprise.

* * *

241 brave American servicemen were murdered in 1983 by suicide bombers at the Marine barracks in Beirut while President Ronald Reagan was asleep at the switch—the same guy who later secretly sold arms to our enemy, Iran, and then diverted the profits to his illegal secret war in Nicaragua. And then, when caught, he lied about everything. . .

September 2013

22: CGW, 14 of 14: Final chapter—McMaster and Tony Pro

Excerpt #14 of 14: Chapter 150, “It’s going to be a great day tomorrow.”

Returning to the car with his wife and me, [Don] Wells, [the key informant for the aborted 2006 search for Jimmy Hoffa,] drove down the narrow road alongside the new red barn which loomed large on the right. We pulled into the parking lot at the end of this structure, which was perpendicular to two older red barns where farmhands were attending to several horses.
As we stepped out of the car, we saw a tall man in a cowboy hat and a red shirt. I went up to him, introduced the three of us, and asked, “Where are the railroad tracks that ran along this property?” The man named Doug, who turned out to be the farm’s manager, pointed to the area near a tall fence—the same fence that we had earlier seen from the other side.

As I walked towards the fence, I stepped onto a dirt road. I looked back at Don and Monica, asking, “Is this the path that started on Pontiac Trail, the one on which Monica saw the three fast cars that day?”

Don and Monica came over to where I was standing and looked around the area. Then, for a further perspective, we walked towards the tall fence.

They confirmed that we were on the dirt road that once ran north and south off Pontiac Trail, alongside McMaster’s farmhouse.

About ten yards from our side of the fence was another long path that stretched east and west and was littered with discarded railroad ties.

“Jesus, Don,” I said, now standing where the two paths intersected. “Is this where the railroad tracks were?”

Both Don and Monica came over, along with Doug—and now Ron Lusk who had also joined us.

All four of them agreed that we were standing at the location of the now abandoned railroad tracks, as well as the road that had once run from Pontiac Trail to the back of the farm near the tree line.

Pulling Don and Monica off to the side, I asked privately, “Okay now, where was that pre-dug hole?” . . .

21: CGW, 13 of 14: Digging in Wixom

Excerpt #13 of 14: Chapter 149, “They’re digging at a farm in Wixom”

On May 17, 2006, I received a telephone call from David Ashenfelter at the Detroit Free Press. He asked if I had heard the latest on the Hoffa case.

“What’s happened?” I replied.

“They’re digging at a farm in Wixom.”

Hearing that, I joyfully sprang out of the chair at my desk and did a quadruple fist pump, hoping that it was the farm I thought it was. . . .

By late afternoon, Ashenfelter and I had pieced together what was happening at that 85-acre Wixom farm in Milford Township, about 35 miles northwest of Detroit. FBI agents, armed with a search warrant, were digging at a specific location and actually looking for the body of Jimmy Hoffa. An FBI spokesman told reporters that investigators were pursuing “evidence of criminal activity that may have occurred under previous ownership.”

We were quickly able to confirm that the previous owner was, indeed, Rolland McMaster.

We also discovered that the information upon which the FBI based its search warrant had been supplied by Donovan Wells, who was serving a ten-year stretch in a Lexington, Kentucky, prison in the wake of his conviction for smuggling marijuana. After his recent falling out with McMaster, the 75-year-old Wells had decided to flip and turn state’s evidence.
When I heard that Don Wells was the informant, I was thrilled—especially since I had interviewed him thirty years earlier, writing about him and his associates in *The Hoffa Wars*, saying: “Wells lived with McMaster at his . . . Wixom farm and was a partner of McMaster’s brother-in-law, Stanton Barr, in a trucking company called Spot Leasing. Wells also owned a Time-D.C., Inc., terminal in suburban Detroit, and Jim Shaw worked for him [in April 1975] . . . .

“Soon afterward, Shaw, through McMaster, got a job with the Detroit steel division of Gateway Transportation Company, which was headed by Stanton Barr. Shaw’s former employer says he worked at Gateway ‘for the next several months.’”

Along with Larry McHenry, Jim Shaw was the FBI’s top suspect for the bombing of Dick Fitzsimmons’s union car twenty days before Hoffa disappeared—just as the Hoffex Memo had declared. Stanton Barr and McMaster had driven to Gary, Indiana, early on the morning of Hoffa’s disappearance and returned to Detroit later in the day.

Although McHenry and Shaw were both dead, McMaster, now 92, was alive, living on a farm on Clyde Road in Fenton, Michigan. Stan Barr, who lived on another farm on Clyde Road, was his neighbor, as well as his brother-in-law.

Then, suddenly the entire operation came to a screeching halt after fourteen days.

Completely stunned by this decision, I called my sources in Detroit who simply told me that the revelations about the high cost of the dig had forced its shutdown. In effect, it was a political decision made in Washington, D.C.

Micheline Maynard of the *New York Times* [wrote a] news story—which included an extraordinary admission from . . . . “Judith M. Chilen, an assistant special agent, [who] said she was convinced that Mr. Hoffa’s body had been buried on the farm, and there was ‘no indication that it has been moved.’” . . .

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20: *CGW, 12 of 14: Not a Distinction without a Difference*


Excerpt #12 of 14, Chapter 148: “Not a distinction without a difference”

Eric Shawn of Fox News broke the story about Brandt’s book on Sheeran on May 28. Shawn had interviewed Sheeran shortly before his death. Sheeran had supposedly admitted that he had killed Hoffa—just as the Dateline NBC producer told me the previous year—but, inexplicably, he refused to say so on camera to Fox News. From his hospital bed, he would only say, “I stand by what's written in the book.”

I agreed to appear in the report, repeating with considerable enthusiasm, “I’m convinced without any question that this is the biggest break in the Hoffa case since Hoffa disappeared on July 30, 1975. There’s no doubt in my mind about this.”

However, reporter Shawn added: “Moldea . . . believes Sheeran was involved in Hoffa’s murder, but is skeptical if he actually fired the fatal shots.”

To me, the question of whether Hoffa’s killer was Frank Sheeran or Sal Bruguglio was not a distinction without a difference. It went right to the heart of the issue of who was involved in the murder, as well as the motive behind it.

Fox News had gained entrance to the Beaverland Street home where Hoffa had allegedly been killed, authorizing crime-scene investigators to search for any residue of blood in its foyer. Using Luminol, a chemical spray that illuminates blood, the forensics team discovered what appeared to be traces of blood, both in the foyer and in a hallway that led to the kitchen.
Everyone, including me, hoped that the subsequent DNA analysis would show that this was Hoffa’s blood.

On February 14, 2005, the Bloomfield Police Department issued a press release about the results of the DNA test of the blood residue found in the foyer of the home on Beaverland Street where Sheeran had supposedly killed Jimmy Hoffa. The release stated: “In late December 2004, the FBI contacted our department with an oral report on the findings. We were advised that blood was found in some of the wood floor samples but they did not believe that it matches Hoffa’s. They then indicated that the flooring submitted for examination, as well as a detailed written report would be forthcoming.

“This morning, we received a written report submitted by the FBI that concludes that human blood was found on wood flooring but the blood was not Hoffa’s. As a result, the lead supplied by Fox News in New York has been determined to be unfounded.”

20: CGW, 11 of 14: Frank Sheeran’s conflicting stories
Excerpt #11: Chapter 147, “Frank Sheeran’s conflicting confessions”

In late July 2003, I had another exchange with a different producer at Dateline NBC, who had also been offered Sheeran’s story. When he asked me in a July 23 email what I thought about Sheeran, I replied in writing, “I’ve been hearing about Sheeran’s book for nearly two years. Take him very, very seriously. From what I understand, he has been sick, and this could be tantamount to a death-bed confession.”

During the early evening, the NBC producer wrote back, saying that the network was moving forward with the Sheeran story. He wanted to bring me on as a consultant.

However, internal problems developed at NBC six days later. The producer wrote that his boss was extremely skeptical of Sheeran’s version of events and, simply speaking, believed that he was lying. Meantime, the producer and others were trying to turn their boss around.

In my written reply, I recounted what I had learned from the previous NBC producer.

This new NBC producer corrected me on one very key point: Sheeran was now saying that he, not Sal Briguglio, had committed the murder.

“Tell me,” he continued in his email, “what would sell more books? A book by someone who was there? Or the triggerman himself? I think Sheeran has made his bed with all his lies over the years. If nobody will touch his book he has only himself to blame.”

Shocked, I wrote back: “Sheeran’s claiming that he did the job, personally????!! That’s a new one on me.”

Three weeks later, on August 18, the producer gave me NBC News’s final word on Sheeran: “My bosses decided that Sheeran has made too many claims proven false over the years to be believed now. So we are passing on the story.”

A few days before the end of 2003, I received the news that the 83-year-old Sheeran had died on December 14 at a nursing home in a suburb of Philadelphia. His passing went virtually unnoticed.

18: CGW, 10 of 14: Helping TDU and PROD make peace
Excerpt #10, Chapter 40, “Helping TDU and PROD make peace”
On March 22 [1979], Paddington Press received a letter addressed to me from Frank Sheeran’s attorney, F. Emmett Fitzpatrick, Philadelphia’s former district attorney, who wrote: “Mr. Sheeran has recently become familiar with the book authored by you entitled The Hoffa Wars.

“Mr. Sheeran wishes me to inform you that he emphatically denies the allegations about his involvement in Mr. Hoffa’s alleged death and to state specifically that your allegation that he was present in Detroit on the last day that Mr. Hoffa was seen is false, unfounded and has been specifically contradicted by evidence supplied by Mr. Sheeran to the Federal Government.

“On Mr. Sheeran’s behalf, I demand a retraction and a public apology for all of your many allegations of his activities surrounding and contributing to the alleged disappearance or death of Mr. Hoffa.”

My attorney replied to Sheeran, simply saying: “Mr. Moldea stands by his reporting.”

I never heard from [Sheeran’s] attorney again.

Sheeran later held a press conference at which he told reporters: “The government feels I have information on the Hoffa case, which I don’t.”

17: CGW, 9 of 14: Briguglio and I get whacked
Excerpt #9, Chapter 35, “Briguglio and I get whacked”

When I returned home later that evening, Tina had more bad news for me. Sal Briguglio, whom I had interviewed for a fourth time the previous month, had just been murdered in New York.

Many believed that Briguglio, who was under indictment for the 1961 murder of a union rival, was on the verge of flipping and turning state's evidence about the Hoffa murder.

During my final taped interview with him, Briguglio—worn and tired, showing the strain of the enormous federal pressure he was under—told me, "I've got no regrets, except for getting involved in this mess with the government. If they want you, you're theirs. . . . I have no aspirations any more. I've gone as far as I can go in this union. There's nothing left."

(After my initial face-to-face interview with Sal Briguglio and his alleged coconspirators on October 25, 1976, I spoke with Briguglio three more times on the telephone. The dates of those interviews were October 13, 1977; January 11, 1978; and February 20, 1978. I also did a second interview with Stephen Andretta on February 12, 1978.)

Devastated from everything that had happened that day, I called one of my sources in the FBI’s Washington Field Office who was actively involved in the Hoffa case. He gave me the known details about Briguglio's murder. In short, two unidentified men had walked up to him in New York's Little Italy and knocked him to the sidewalk. Then, they pulled out guns and shot him four times in the head and once in the chest. . . .

On March 28 [1978], one week after Briguglio’s murder, I called Frank Sheeran and tape-recorded the conversation, trying to get him to discuss anything—just as long as I got him talking. As it turned out, I caught him on the run. But he said that he was going to be in Washington the following Monday.

During our brief conversation, I brought up the testimonial dinner that his Teamsters local in Wilmington, Delaware, had thrown for him in 1974—at which Hoffa was the keynote speaker. Sheeran told me, “The only thing I can say about [Hoffa] is all good. . . . Now, the thing is that you just want to talk about Jimmy and his personality, per se? You're not talking about any other bullshit!”

“Not unless you want to get into it,” I replied.
“No,” he laughed, “I don’t want to get into that shit, my friend. I don’t know anything to get into. As far as he goes, I could tell you my feelings towards the guy, and my relationship, and the kind of man I thought he was. That I can tell you. Anything else, I don’t know.”

Sheeran said that he was going to check me out and call at the end of the following week.

We never spoke again.

As I had already learned, Hoffa and Sheeran were, indeed, very close friends. In fact, I believed that Sheeran could have been in the car that picked up Hoffa on the day of his disappearance. To be sure, Hoffa would have gotten in a car with him.

But that was nothing but pure speculation. I had absolutely no evidence to justify placing Sheeran in that car for publication in my upcoming book—even though I now had enough evidence to implicate him in the overall murder conspiracy.

16: CGW, 8 of 14: Who is Frank Sheeran?

Excerpt #8, Chapter 28: “Who is Frank Sheeran?”

Brill informed me that he had obtained a secret FBI report, the Hoffex Memo, as he called it. According to Brill, this document detailed what the FBI knew about the events surrounding July 30, 1975, the day Hoffa vanished, including a likely scenario of his murder.

Now truly impressed, I asked Brill to tell me more. He alleged that a Teamsters official named Frank Sheeran had been involved in the murder, and that everyone had missed him at the December 4, 1975, federal grand-jury hearing in Detroit. Like McMaster, the Briguglios, and the Andrettas, Sheeran had also taken the Fifth.

Completely deflated by all of this, I returned to my office and called one of my FBI sources.

"What the hell is the Hoffex Memo? I asked.

"I don't know," he replied. "What is it?"

"I just had breakfast with a guy named Steve Brill who's writing a book about the Teamsters, and he says he has a copy of the Hoffex Memo, which tells everything about what happened to Hoffa on the day of the murder!"

"Dan, Hoffex is the code name for our entire Hoffa investigation. We've had a lot of reports..." I interrupted—clearly not knowing what I was talking about—"What about the one that spells everything out?"

"We don't know what really happened, so we couldn't write a definitive document about what did happen."

"Well, who, then, is Frank Sheeran?"

My FBI source fell speechless.

Hearing his screaming silence, I asked with dread, "[Okay]! What have I missed?"

"I can't talk about him, Dan."

"Wait a minute! What about confirm and deny? What about keeping me on track?"
Pausing for a moment, he replied, "Okay, yes, we're interested in Sheeran. This is the first time you've asked me about him. So, I'm telling you now, stay on that track. We can't prove anything, but he could be important."

15: CGW, 7 of 14: My lunch with Hoffa’s alleged killers

Excerpt #7, Chapter 24: “My lunch with Hoffa’s alleged killers”

With some trepidation but total surrender, I stepped into the back seat of [Salvatore] Briguglio's late model Buick. As I squirmed momentarily, Briguglio pressed a button that opened the garage door. Within seconds, we were across the street in front of the restaurant.

Inside, as the maître d' led us down an aisle to a back room, I saw two other men seated at our table. No introductions necessary, I already knew who they were.

The first was Briguglio's brother, 31-year-old Gabriel, the vice president of the Provenzano-controlled Local 84 in Fort Lee and one of Sally Bug's alleged coconspirators in the Hoffa murder. The second man was 40-year-old Steve Andretta, a former Local 560 business agent and the brother of Tom Andretta, another alleged witness to the killing.

Thrilled by what I was in the midst of and simultaneously wolfing down my portion of the antipasto and a plate of linguini in clam sauce, I kept asking for permission to turn on the tape recorder in my pocket. [William] Bufalino refused each time, saying, "Later, Danny, later."

After a 90-minute lunch, Bufalino and I left the restaurant and returned to Local 560. This time we walked while Briguglio and Andretta drove over in Briguglio's car.

Because of another appointment, Gabe Briguglio had to leave. During the lunch, he insisted that he had nothing to do with the Hoffa murder. Tom Andretta, whom I talked to on the telephone that afternoon, also denied any role in the killing.

Led into the local union president's office by Bufalino, I finally pulled out my tape recorder and laid it on the table in full view of the others who soon walked in. Salvatore Provenzano—Tony's brother and the president of the local who had not been present for the lunch—joined us, as did Sal Briguglio and Steve Andretta.

For the next three and a half hours, I recorded the first and only taped interview with the man suspected to have murdered Jimmy Hoffa. . . .

Additional comments by DEM

During this October 25, 1976, interview, Bill Bufalino told me that he and Russell Bufalino were cousins. I added in that chapter:

In response to my question about who was paying Bufalino's legal bills for his representation of Hoffa's alleged killers, the attorney replied, "If someday they have some money, they can pay me. If Hoffa were here right now, he'd say, 'Continue to defend these people. They weren't the ones who did it.'"

Also, I asked Bufalino whether his family relationship with mob boss Russell Bufalino of eastern Pennsylvania was the reason he had been selected as counsel for them. Bufalino shot back, "If you want to charge me with something regarding Russell Bufalino, charge me with the fact that I selected him as my number one friend! I would rather be accused of being his friend and brother
by choice, not by an accident of birth!"

Throughout the interview, William Bufalino appeared to suggest that the government suspected Russell Bufalino as the man responsible for ordering the hit on Hoffa. And that was news to me.

At the time, Russell Bufalino was reportedly the interim head of the Vito Genovese crime family. Tony Provenzano was a Genovese caporegime.

14: CGW, 6 of 14: Day after December 4, 1975, grand jury

Excerpt #6, Chapter 18 (continued): “A surprise witness at the grand jury”

On Friday, December 5, the day after the grand-jury hearing, the Free Press reported that Hoffa might have been killed, stuffed into a 55-gallon drum, loaded onto a Gateway Transportation Company truck, and shipped to some unknown destination. Many people speculated that Hoffa’s body might have been buried at [the garbage dump in Hackensack]—the site of a recent FBI search.

The FBI agent did tell me that officials of Gateway’s steel division in Detroit had been subpoenaed to testify before the federal grand jury, along with their records of dispatch from July 30 to August 10.

"When I talked to McMaster," I said to the FBI agent, "he told me that he didn't remember where he was. He told me to ask the FBI."

The agent replied, "McMaster was with Teamsters Local 142 secretary treasurer Donald Sawochka in Gary, Indiana, for two or three hours on the day Hoffa disappeared. That's what Sawochka told us."

"What was the purpose of the meeting?"

"They were meeting with representatives of Gateway's steel division."

Laughing at that response because of Gateway’s alleged link to Hoffa’s murder, I asked, "Did McMaster go to the meeting alone or with another union official?"

"No, he went with Stanton Barr."

"Who is Stanton Barr?"

"He's McMaster's brother-in-law. He married the sister of McMaster's wife."

"Why would he go with McMaster to a union meeting with Gateway executives?"

Then the FBI agent started laughing, too. "Because," he replied, "Stanton Barr is the head of Gateway's steel division in Detroit. He was among the Gateway people who testified at the grand-jury hearing on December 4... All of you guys in the press completely missed that."

14: CGW: “So tell me about David Vitter”

Excerpt from Chapter 142: “So tell me about David Vitter”

(For nearly a week—as part of my lame effort to promote my new book while trying not to be too annoying—I have posted one brief excerpt per day, all of which dealing with my investigation of the 1975 murder of Jimmy Hoffa. Today, because of Senator David Vitter’s recent actions, as reported in Politico, I also post a portion of the untold story about how I discovered Senator Vitter’s connection to D.C. Madam
Jeane Palfrey—with whom I was considering writing a book about her life and times prior to her trial conviction and tragic suicide in 2008.)

*****

A little after 6:00 P.M. on Friday, July 6 [2007]—while I was in the midst of going through the D.C. Madam’s phone records during the Clinton-Bush transition period—I was trying to figure out where to finish. Seeing that I was in February 2001, I decided to stop looking on February 27, which was my 51st birthday, a totally random date.

On that day at the logged-in time of 3:06 P.M., I came across a telephone number for Washington, D.C. that I had not seen before. When I ran it through the directory, the name, “David Vitter,” appeared.

Stunned, I ran the number again—and received the same result: David Vitter, then the U.S. congressman from Louisiana who, ironically, had succeeded [U.S. House Speaker-designate] Bob Livingston in 1999.

Now, in 2007, Vitter was a powerful conservative United States Senator, elected in 2004. I also subscribed to two other reverse-phone databases, and I ran the number through both, receiving confirmations from each. In addition, I ran a cursory background check on him.

I took a deep breath and called Jeane Palfrey. When she answered, I said, “So tell me about David Vitter.”

“Who?” She replied.

“David Vitter.”

“Who’s that?”

“He’s the junior Senator from Louisiana. I just found his number in your telephone records.” Palfrey took a moment and then told me, “I knew a Dave on C Street. But I never knew his real name. In fact, I really didn’t want to know. I never wanted to know.”

I instructed Palfrey to sit tight and not to speak with anybody about anything—especially about this.

Then, I called Flynt, saying, “Larry, I got one.”

“Who’d you get?”

“United States Senator David Vitter of Louisiana. He was the guy who won Livingston’s congressional seat after we forced his resignation on the day of Clinton’s impeachment. He has since been elected to the U.S. Senate.”

“That’s great!” Flynt replied. “Is he a hypocrite?”

“Just wait until you see this guy, Larry.”

I spent about forty-five minutes putting together a more-detailed dossier about the 46-year-old Vitter, a married Harvard graduate and Rhodes Scholar with four children who had built his reputation as a “family values” Roman Catholic. During his 2004 run for the U.S. Senate, he campaigned to protect the sanctity of traditional marriage and to stop same-sex marriage. He was also a co-author of the “Federal Marriage Act.” Pro-war, anti-choice, and pro-gun, he was a classic right-wing politician.

Among other things, I found a specific quote from Vitter during his Senate campaign on the subject of “Protecting the Sanctity of Marriage.” Vitter remarked, “The Hollywood left is redefining the most basic institution in human history. . . . We need a U.S. Senator who will stand up for Louisiana values, not Massachusetts values.”
During a conference call with Flynt and [his assistant], we tried to figure out how to proceed. Flynt asked me if I wanted to make the call and confront Senator Vitter.

“Can you imagine Vitter’s reaction if he gets a call from us?” I asked. “We could get accused of blackmail—just like the last time. We could wind up with an indictment hanging over our heads again. . . .

“We need to feed this material to someone in the mainstream media. We should give him everything we have and let him publish whatever he wants—with the proviso that he credits us for the discovery. Then, Larry, you can go out, call a press conference, and do your thing.”

After a few minutes of conversation, we agreed to this approach. But the question remained: Who would we give the story to? . . .

13: CGW, 5 of 14: A surprise witness at the grand jury (McMaster)

Excerpt #5, Chapter 18: “A surprise witness at the grand jury”

On December 3, [1975], one of Thomas's sources telephoned, telling her that the U.S. Strike Force Against Organized Crime in Detroit had called several key witnesses in the Hoffa case to appear before a federal grand jury the following day. As all of us jumped on telephones to call our sources, word quickly spread that the witnesses were the suspects actually thought to have murdered Hoffa. This appeared to be the big break in the case everyone had been waiting for.

Filtering out the bad rumors from the good, we learned that the witnesses were several union officials from New Jersey. All of them were associated with Tony Provenzano, whom Hoffa was scheduled to meet on the day he disappeared.

Also, the FBI had conducted searches of at least three locations in New Jersey: a file cabinet used by Salvatore Briguglio, a business agent in Local 560; a safety deposit box leased by his brother, Gabriel Briguglio, the vice president of Local 84 in Fort Lee, at a bank in Union City; and a garbage dump in Hackensack.

After hearing Salvatore Briguglio's name, I called Don Vestal, a one-time Hoffa aide who later became an enemy of the union's power structure and then a leader of the Teamsters United Rank and File (TURF), a rank and file reform organization. I asked him whether he had ever heard of Briguglio—without telling him why I was interested or even mentioning McMaster’s name.

Vestal's response was contained in my December 3 memorandum to Orr and Thomas: “Don Vestal said that Briguglio . . . was generally considered to be McMaster’s bodyguard. He said Briguglio was close to both Tony and Sal Provenzano [who was Tony's brother]. . . . McMaster and Briguglio traveled together; their association goes back to the late ‘50s or early ‘60s.”

Neither Orr nor Thomas had anything to say about my memorandum. Instead, they continued their own work, digging out the names of those who were going to appear at the grand jury: the Briguglio brothers and another set of brothers, Stephen and Thomas Andretta, who were also associated with Provenzano.

A fifth witness could not be identified.

All five of these men were represented by William Bufalino, who was related to Russell Bufalino, the Mafia boss of northeastern Pennsylvania.

On Thursday, December 4, while Ralph Orr and I worked in the newsroom, Jo Thomas covered the chaotic scene outside the grand-jury room at the federal courthouse, across the street from the Free Press building. Periodically, she phoned in reports to our boss, John Oppedahl, who relayed the messages to Orr and me.
After a few hours of this, Oppedahl, laughing almost uncontrollably, walked up to my desk and asked, "Guess who the unidentified fifth man at the grand jury is?"

Without saying anything, I jumped out of my seat and left the newsroom. Passing by the elevators, I ran down the steps, out the building, across the street, and into the federal courthouse.

When I arrived, I saw Rolland McMaster, standing alone by the elevator, waiting for his turn to testify.

Wearing a trench coat, sports shirt, and a hat with a wide brim, the 62 year old union organizer epitomized the classic stereotype of the term "Teamster." Although he and I were both the same height—six feet four inches—he weighed 245, seventy pounds more than me. His hands were as big as shovels. His face was highlighted by a thick, protruding upper lip.

He wore a pair of designer eyeglasses. Behind them, his right eye was penetrating. His left eye, which was made of glass, simply stared straight ahead and into the distance.

I walked up to McMaster and introduced myself. McMaster simply said, "I thought that was you." Tastelessly jubilant and even a little sarcastic, I asked him, "Gee, Mister McMaster, why have you been called before the grand jury investigating Hoffa's disappearance?"

Allowing me to get away with my bad attitude, he simply replied, "I don't know. You're welcome to call me after it's over, and I'll tell you what happened."

Another reporter walked up to us and began to question McMaster. I excused myself and walked away.

As I looked for Jo Thomas, I heard someone behind me say, "Hey, Moldea!" McMaster had left the other reporter and followed me. "Do you think you got me?" McMaster asked in a good-natured tone.

Surprised by his reaction, I timidly replied, "Probably not, sir."

12: *CGW, 4 of 14: Back to Detroit*


Excerpt #4 from *Confessions of a Guerrilla Writer: Adventures in the Jungles of Crime, Politics, and Journalism* by Dan E. Moldea (Chapter 16: “Back to Detroit”)

I went to Local 299 where I met again with Hoffa's uncle, Steve Riddle, asking him to arrange an interview for me with James P. Hoffa, Jimmy Hoffa's attorney-son. Riddle picked up the telephone, called young Hoffa, and set up a meeting for the following day.

On October 29, [1975], I met the 34-year-old Hoffa in his law office on the 33rd floor of Detroit's Guardian Building, overlooking the Detroit River. . . . With Hoffa's law partner, Murray Chodak in the room, Hoffa vehemently defended his dad, saying, "There was a mutual love between my father and the Teamsters' rank and file. They knew that he sincerely cared about them and their welfare. He was a real leader."

Making it respectfully clear that I didn't agree at all with his appraisal of his dad, I quickly changed the subject and explained my theory about the Local 299 violence and his father's murder, along with Rolland McMaster’s possible role.

Excited by this news, Hoffa asked, "Does the FBI know what you know?"

Not knowing how to handle that question, I simply replied, "I don't know what the FBI knows."

Immediately, Hoffa picked up his telephone and dialed a number. "I've got a man here I want you to meet," Hoffa said. "Can you come over now? He's here."
When he hung up the receiver, he said, "The FBI is coming over here. Is that okay? I know these guys. You can trust them."

I shrugged, saying nothing but fearing that I had just been bullied into an awkward situation. Hoffa, Chodak, and I continued to talk for the next half hour until his secretary buzzed and told him that the FBI agents had arrived.

Within seconds, three special agents walked into Hoffa's office while I was looking out the window on the other side of the room. I immediately recognized one of them as the FBI agent who had visited me in Ohio two weeks earlier. I didn't say a word, waiting to see how he wanted to handle the situation.

Shaking hands with Hoffa first, the FBI agent I knew turned and saw me by the window. He paused momentarily. But other than "hello," he didn't say a word as Hoffa introduced us. "Nice to meet you," I simply replied.

For the next forty five minutes, Hoffa and the three FBI agents listened as I did my song and dance routine. When I completed the performance, Hoffa and the FBI agents asked me several questions. Then, still in my presence, Hoffa asked the FBI agents what they thought.

"We can't confirm everything he's saying," one of the other FBI agents responded. "But you can trust what he's saying—if that makes any sense."

When Hoffa asked what that meant, the agent added, "You can trust Dan and his information."

A few minutes later, the three FBI agents left, leaving Hoffa, Chodak, and me behind.

Hoffa asked me if I needed any money. I replied that I did, and that I was looking for a newspaper to finance my research. When Hoffa asked me if I had talked to the Detroit Free Press, I recounted that I had spoken with Jo Thomas the previous day, adding that she said her newspaper didn't hire freelancers.

Once again, Hoffa picked up the telephone. This time, he called the Free Press's labor editor, Ralph Orr. Hoffa arranged a meeting for the following day.

Excerpt from Confessions of a Guerrilla Writer: Adventures in the Jungles of Crime, Politics, and Journalism by Dan E. Moldea (Chapter 13: A guerrilla writer in New York)

On Thursday, August 14, [1975], I flew to New York where I went to work in the Special Projects Division of NBC News under executive producer Gordon Manning, who had just joined the network after a long and distinguished career at CBS News where he served as executive producer of its evening news program with anchorman Walter Cronkite.

I went to the office of the 58-year-old Manning to introduce myself and to plead with him to allow me to continue my work with the Master Task Force source.

"Dan, is this the guy who gave us Manitoulin Island?" Asked Manning with justifiable sarcasm.

"Sir," I said, smiling but reeling on the defensive, "I know what you're thinking, but everything he said he knew for sure was confirmed. Regarding Manitoulin Island, he said a guy named McMaster had a farm on the eastern portion of the island, and that people were meeting there. Bob Vito confirmed all of that."

"What about Hoffa's body?" Manning continued, refusing to let me off the hook. "Didn't he say something about Hoffa being up there, too?"
"That was nothing but speculation on his part, sir. He labeled it that way. Bob Toombs just played his hunch."

Relenting, Manning allowed me to continue working on the McMaster Task Force, as long as it didn't interfere with what I had been brought to New York to do.

"Thank you, sir," I replied respectfully, "because my source wants to meet with me this Sunday."

Manning laughed and instructed me to work it out with Bob Reid.

That same day, I met another legendary news producer who had just come to NBC, Stanhope Gould, also a veteran of CBS News. Gould had heard about my work from Manning and tagged me as “a guerrilla writer”—an advocacy journalist, an investigative reporter who embraces a particular cause and openly takes sides.

Inasmuch as Gould was the new head of NBC’s investigative unit and had come from the school of objective journalism, I didn’t really accept his depiction of me as a compliment. But—considering the nature of my work and my alliances with, among others, the rank-and-file reform movement within the Teamsters—I did consider it a fair description.

In fact, I had become an advocate, and I had taken sides.

10: CGW, 2 of 14: The goon squad (DEM at NBC in Detroit)

On Tuesday, August 5, [1975], the day after I was hired by NBC News, I was given a desk in the newsroom of WWJ-TV, an NBC affiliate in downtown Detroit. For my first assignment, Bob Toombs gave me a long list of questions he needed answered and people he wanted contacted.

At 10:45 A.M., with my work nearly completed, I received a call from a very nervous man who refused to identify himself. He said that he had received my name from someone in the Teamsters rank and file reform movement, adding that he had important information about the Hoffa case. . . . Believing that this guy might be for real, I grabbed my tape recorder. Then, I attached a common wiretapping device with a suction cup to the telephone. Because I did not want to inhibit what he had called to tell me, I didn't tell him when I switched on the recorder.

"Okay, let me understand this," I said, trying to get him to repeat what he had just said off tape.

"You're saying that you know who bombed Dick Fitzsimmons's car last month."

"Yeah, but, like I said, I can't prove it," he said. "I just know they did it."

"And you say it was a ruse?"

"Yeah . . . most of the bombings and shootings in Local 299 were against pro Hoffa people. Then, just before Jimmy disappeared, Dick Fitzsimmons's car was bombed. . . . It had been too one way. They wanted something to happen to a Fitzsimmons person to make it look like both sides were involved in the violence."

"You're telling me that some pro Fitzsimmons people blew up Dick Fitzsimmons' car?"

"Yeah, that's it."
"Does Dick Fitzsimmons know about this?"

"I don't think so. He didn't need to. He was someplace else when it happened. . . . Nobody got hurt, and it wasn't even Fitzsimmons's own car. The union gave him that car to use."

"Okay, who are the guys who did the bombing?"

With no equivocation, the source gave me the names of two men I had never heard of before: Larry McHenry and Jim Shaw, alleging that they had actually bombed the car.

"I'm sorry, sir, I don't know those names. Who are these guys?"

"They used to work for Rolland McMaster, and they might be still working for him."

"Okay, I'm sorry again," I said with some frustration. "I'm not familiar with him either. What's his name?"

Remaining patient with me, the source repeated McMaster's name and spelled it for me, adding that he was a "general organizer" for the Teamsters who worked directly for Fitzsimmons.

A few minutes later, I asked, "Okay, so what kind of work did these two guys do for McMaster?"

"They were part of an 'organizing unit' McMaster ran for Fitzsimmons and the Teamsters. . . ."

"You mean, like a goon squad?"

"Yeah," he laughed, "it was a goon squad." . . .

9: CGW, 1 of 14: Prologue—Ted Stall fiasco


Excerpt from Confessions of a Guerrilla Writer: Adventures in the Jungles of Crime, Politics, and Journalism by Dan E. Moldea (Prologue):

The man promised to deliver Jimmy Hoffa’s dead body to me, gift-wrapped in a 55-gallon drum.

Yet, while sitting alone in my black 2007 Jeep Liberty at our prearranged meeting place in the rear parking lot of a Mobil station just off an empty country road in Hartland Township about an hour northwest of Detroit, all that went through my mind was how many federal, state, and local laws I was about to violate if this actually happened. However, regardless of the consequences, if Hoffa’s remains were really offered to me, I was going to accept them.

It was the hot and sunny late afternoon of August 20, 2009—thirty-four years after the ex-Teamsters boss disappeared on July 30, 1975. A young freelance writer back then, I had started my investigations of Hoffa and Teamsters eight months before he vanished. Hoffa’s still-unsolved murder had been my obsession ever since, even after the 1978 publication of my book, The Hoffa Wars.

Knowing the Hoffa case as well as any journalist, I recognized the good leads from the bad and had received dozens over the years. But the stunning detail that a Michigan man—“AH,” as I called him—provided in the summer of 2009 had really grabbed me. Inasmuch as AH, a convicted scam artist, was simultaneously cooperating with the FBI and had nothing to gain by coming me, I decided to play out this drama, primarily because he had once worked for former Detroit Teamster leader Rolland McMaster, a top suspect in Hoffa’s disappearance. Aside from Hoffa, McMaster, who had died in October 2007, was the principal character of my 1978 book. I had spent years investigating him and openly alleged that he had played a role in the disposal of Hoffa’s body.
In May 2006, the FBI had launched a well-publicized search for Hoffa’s body at a farm in Wixom, Michigan, excavating a portion of the property, destroying and then rebuilding a large barn in the process. In July 1975, that farm was owned by McMaster.

Although the FBI did not find Hoffa, the New York Times quoted an FBI spokesperson who “was convinced that Mr. Hoffa’s body had been buried on the farm, and there was ‘no indication that it has been moved.’” . . .

Additional comments by DEM

As I told you before, Steve, I have great respect for Charles Brandt and his one-source book about Frank Sheeran, who was involved in the murder conspiracy—just as I had claimed in my 1978 book. I believe that Brandt rightly placed Sheeran in the car that picked up Hoffa—who knew and trusted Sheeran. But, contrary to his famous deathbed confession, Sheeran, a notorious and provable liar, was not the man who murdered Jimmy Hoffa. I certainly do not own absolute truth in this matter—but I continue to insist from my hundreds of interviews and my years of work on this caper that Tony Provenzano’s top lieutenant, Salvatore Briguglio, whom I interviewed extensively and exclusively, was the actual killer. . . . So, yes, I report on all of this and much more in my new book.

8: DEM on NFL opening day, on Pat Sajack


Please allow me to celebrate the first Sunday of regular-season NFL games in 2013 by offering to my FB friends a 1989 interview I did on CBS-TV—with Pat Sajack, no less—about corruption and game fixing in professional football. In fact, I still view The League as a money-laundering operation.

Additional comments by DEM

Actually, Bob, I was begging for a fight with The League. I had going after NFL team owners who had ties to the Mafia down to a science. It was like shooting fish in a barrel. The NFL did not even put up a legitimate challenge to my revelations.

What killed that 1989 book—which I am still very proud of—was the New York Times review, which was filled with provably false facts and written by a sportswriter with major conflicts of interest. After the Times refused to retract that defamatory review, I asked for corrections, which they also refused to make. Then, after they refused my simple request to publish my letter to the editor, I sued the newspaper for libel in a case—Moldea v. New York Times—that lasted longer than World War II. (In the midst of the lawsuit, we filed papers claiming, among other things, that we could prove a close personal relationship between Arthur Sulzberger, the owner of the Times, and Edward J. DeBartolo, the owner of the San Francisco Forty-Niners—who had been identified as an organized-crime associate by federal and state law-enforcement agencies.)

Also, as I recall, you and I had an argument over my decision to sue. In hindsight, you might have been right, but I still stubbornly refuse to concede the point. As you know, after my attorneys and I took the clear advantage in the legal case in February 1994, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit—in an unprecedented moment in American jurisprudence—took our victory away from us ten weeks later in a shocking reversal by that same court. During the interim, we saw raw power come at us like a rifle shot.

Notably, for my next book about the murder of Robert Kennedy in the spring of 1995, the Times gave me not one but two fabulous reviews—in a daily and a Sunday by Christopher Lehmann-Haupt and Gerald Posner, respectively.

For that, at least in my mind, I will always view the Times as a class act. After all, it was the New York Times that had created me as an author with a fabulous article by Herbert Mitgang on June
29, 1978 just before the publication of my first book about the rise and fall of Jimmy Hoffa. Mitgang’s story detailed a blatant attempt to suppress my Hoffa book from publication.

The entire story of my investigation of the NFL, as well as the exciting legal battle that followed the publication of my book, Interference—along with all of my other shenanigans dealing with crime, politics, and journalism—are detailed in my new book, Confessions of a Guerrilla Writer, which Amazon just released over the weekend.

* * *

We sued in August 1990. . . . As that response also showed, the New York Times created, destroyed, and then resurrected me. Frankly, if I had to choose for an upcoming book between favorable reviews in every newspaper in America and just one great review in the New York Times, I might choose the latter. . . . If I didn't have total and complete respect the Times, I never would have sued. I might be crazy, but I'm not stupid. I wasn't looking for a way to self-destruct with that lawsuit.

* * *

Yes, I survived the New York Times case—even after that hard loss in 1994 which cost me nearly everything I had. But then I published three books during the next four years, 1995-1998, including a big national bestseller. . . . Still, many of my friends and colleagues don't believe that I survived my work for Larry Flynt. As you recall, I ran his campaign against GOP hypocrisy to save President Clinton during the impeachment battle in late 1998 and early 1999. I was the investigator who nailed, among many others, Rep. Bob Livingston, the U.S. Speaker of the House-designate—who resigned from Congress after I linked him to a woman with whom he had a recent affair while he was trying to remove Clinton from office for his relationship with Monica Lewinsky. . . . I am a sinner, and I admit it. But guys, like Livingston, who had conflicting standards of private behavior for political leaders—one for them and another for everyone else—deserved exposure, especially while taking the moral high ground against Clinton. . . That whole sordid story is in my new book, too.

* * *

Elliott: I lost my enthusiasm for investigating professional sports after the Interference experience—and then got busy with other things. . . . But, as long as there are sporting events, there is going to be gambling. As long as there are gamblers, there are going to be bookmakers. As long as there are bookmakers, there are going to be syndicate arbitragers who will accept the bookmakers’ second and third level layoff bets—which is when one bookmaker bets with another bookmaker to balance his books. And, as long as there is a national syndicate which controls the big layoff, there will be an occasional need to influence the outcomes of some sporting events. . . . As I said during the CBS interview, NFL Security—the internal police force within The League—is nothing more than a damage-control operation, created solely to protect the investments of the NFL team owners. History shows that these investigations—more often than not—stop right there. When they are exposed, they are limited to players and coaches, who are nothing more than deductions on the NFL owners’ income-tax returns.

* * *

In recognition of the billions of dollars that will be wagered today and tomorrow before the Super Bowl—while the illegal gambling economy becomes an adjunct to the First Amendment as the sports media promotes the betting line—I repeat my 1989 admonition about the corruption of professional football . . . which I continue to stand by twenty-five years later in 2014.

Actually, Bob, I was begging for a fight with The League. I had going after NFL team owners who had ties to the Mafia down to a science. It was like shooting fish in a barrel. The NFL did not even
put up a legitimate challenge to my revelations.

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* * *

Greg, my old friend: Mafia guys are no longer viewed as knuckle-dragging 8th-grade dropouts. Many are Harvard MBAs and Wharton grads. . . . I remember that while doing my book between 1983-1989, I visited a bookmaking joint in Chicago where the most sophisticated piece of machinery was a hand-cranked adding machine. Now, these guys have gone high-tech. . . . Yes, illegal gambling is even more prevalent now than it was when I published *Interference* in 1989.

3: Michel Petrucciani: “In a Sentimental Mood”

Just for good luck as this long-anticipated month begins, here is an homage to the late Michel Petrucciani—who was a man of great talent and raw courage.
24: **DEM 1983 picture on the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington**

Only a 13-year old kid in Akron during the August 28, 1963, March on Washington, I covered its 20th anniversary where I took this picture thirty years ago. . . . God bless MLK, especially this week for the 50th anniversary celebration here in D.C. of a wonderful landmark moment in the civil-rights movement, as well as one of the greatest speeches in American history.

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**July 2013**

18: **On Don Bolles**

July 10 was the 85th birthday of murdered journalist Don Bolles. For details of his brutal killing in 1976, see this 2006 feature in his newspaper, the *Arizona Republic*.

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