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## UFO UpDates Mailing List

### Corso and the Senator, or Waiting for Trudeau (To

From: [Ktperehwon@aol.com](mailto:Ktperehwon@aol.com) [Karl Pflock]  
Date: Thu, 24 Jul 1997 18:00:09 -0400 (EDT)  
Fwd Date: Thu, 24 Jul 1997 21:05:42 -0400  
Subject: Corso and the Senator, or Waiting for Trudeau (To

Greetings to The List -- Yesterday, I was bcc'd on the following message (have no idea who the addressee[s] was/were, or who "zenpride@well.com" is):

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BCC from zenpride@well.com:

Sounds like Karl Pflock didn't do his homework, and needs to be debunked, at least regarding the last point.

Below is an excerpt from an interview by Michael Lindemann with Philip Corso. It appeared in CNI News, one of the best sources of up-to-date info on UFOs. (Subscriptions are available from 1-800-898-0284 or CNINews1@aol.com, and no I'm not on the staff.)

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Michael Lindemann: What about the problem with Senator Strom Thurmond's foreword to your book? Simon and Schuster has issued a bland apology, saying they're going to pull Thurmond's foreword out of future printings of the book. What was your understanding with the Senator?

Philip Corso: I've known Strom Thurmond for almost a lifetime. He's a very honest, sincere and courageous individual. We've always been close. I found out recently that his staff did it. I don't think the old man knew it, and I think the old man will eventually call me. We were too close for a signed release. Then [the Senator's staff] came back and said, "As a matter of courtesy, if we say that the Senator really wasn't clear on the nature of the book..." and Simon and Schuster said, "Well, if it's a matter of courtesy, then we can certainly understand that in the heat of material passing back and forth, misunderstandings can happen." So, that was the basic agreement.

ML: So, once they got the niceties of language straightened out, the agreement was that the foreword would be pulled from future printings of the book?

BB [presumably, William Birnes, Corso's coauthor. -- KTP]: Yes, exactly. But it will remain as it is, with this cover, for this printing.

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In truth, it's Corso who needs debunking.

An aside: I assume "Zen" is using "debunking" in a positive rather than pejorative sense--that is, to mean remove the bunk. Don't know about others here on UpDates, but I've always found it curious and unfortunate that the words "debunk" ("to expose the sham or falseness of"--WEBSTER'S NEW COLLEGIATE DICTIONARY, 1977),

"debunker," "debunking," and "debunked" have long since come to mean something negative in UFOdumb. After all, isn't removing/exposing the bunk essential to getting at the facts about UFOs and the truths they embody? Then there's "skeptic"--thanks, CSICOP, grumble, gripe...

As I was saying, it's Corso who needs debunking. On the specific matter of Sen. Thurmond's foreword, the simple truth is, Corso pulled a bait and switch on the senator, who trusted him as an officer and a gentleman.

My "homework" clearly and unequivocally established this. In preparation for writing my MUFON UFO JOURNAL (July '97) feature on the book, I called the senator's press secretary to inquire about the whys and wherefores of the foreword. Much to my delight and surprise, I discovered this was Chris Cimko, with whom I'd worked in the Pentagon (conspiratorialists, please hold your orgasms until after the family hour). Needless to say, this facilitated matters.

Yes, it's true the foreword was drafted by one of the senator's staff. That's the way it usually is done. It was done at the senator's direction on the understanding he had FROM CORSO that it was to be for Corso's memoirs, for which he and his staff were supplied an outline, a document which made NO mention of UFOs.

I know of my own certain knowledge the senator was and is mad as hell about the cheap trick Corso pulled on him, compounded by the story breaking during a week of celebrations honoring Thurmond's record service in the U.S. Senate. He quite rightly feels cynically betrayed by a former aide whom he thought to be a man of honor. It would be very interesting to be a fly on the wall (not to say a bug on the line) when and if the senator ever calls Corso.

As for the "niceties of language" or the "matter of courtesy" nonsense, anyone who doubts what the senator wanted done should read his June 11 letter to Simon & Schuster (Pocket Books parent company) Deputy General Counsel Eric Raymond: recall all copies of the first printing--failing that, remove all dust jackets with the senator's name on them; stop using any reference to the foreword or the senator in promoting the book; do not use the foreword in any subsequent printings of the book; issue a statement acknowledging the truth, "to establish for the public record" that the senator "had no intention or desire to write the foreword to THE DAY AFTER ROSWELL," a "project I completely disavow."

Well, the senator didn't get the first printing recalled (which he acknowledged in his letter to Raymond was "a logistical and financial impossibility"), nor did he get the dust jackets replaced (same problem), but he DID get the foreword dropped from future printings and current promotional material, and he did get the statement he asked for. Some excerpts from same, with emphasis added:

"Following publication, Senator Thurmond advised Simon & Schuster that he wrote the foreword for an ALTOGETHER DIFFERENT BOOK PROJECT THAT MR. CORSO HAD DESCRIBED TO THE SENATOR AS PERSONAL MEMOIRS of his career in military intelligence. Senator Thurmond informed Simon & Schuster that he did NOT know the subject matter or the actual contents of 'The Day After Roswell' until they were described to him by reporters [i.e., Yours Truly].

"Simon & Schuster and Philip J. Corso [sic] regret any impression created by this foreword's inclusion in The Day after Roswell that Senator Thurmond was aware or approved the book's subject matter or contents.... No future printing of The Day After Roswell will include this foreword."

I wouldn't characterize this as "a bland apology." It doesn't take a lot of reading between the lines to see that S&S's general counsel told his management they were had by the short ones and, if Thurmond wanted to make a legal issue of it, he damn' well likely could make it stick. Undoubtedly, he also told them it was highly likely Thurmond, as a politician, was much more interested in putting the matter to rest than keeping it high profile, so an apology which implicitly acknowledged the truth of the senator's claim to have been euchred by the author and pulling the foreword from future printings (if any) would probably do the trick. Besides, the dust up has helped to sell books which likely would have been remaindered, so what the heck...

It's worth noting the Thurmond staffer who drafted the fateful foreword not only is still on the senator's staff, but has been

given a more responsible position since the late difficulties, not exactly what one would expect with a screw-up responsible for a severe embarrassment to the senator. No, that responsibility lies squarely on the shoulders of Corso the Betrayer.

Which reminds me, there's another prominent man who's name and reputation Corso is exploiting, the conveniently late Lt. Gen. Arthur Trudeau. As Dennis Stacy has put it, the book really should be called WAITING FOR TRUDEAU (TO DIE). Maybe that's what the foreword-less paperback edition or the movie will be called.

Finally, anyone interested in reading Senator Thurmond's official statement on this whole matter should be able to obtain a copy of his June 5 press release, "Right Foreword, Wrong Book," from his Washington office. I imagine the same would be true of his June 11 letter to S&S lawyer Eric Raymond.

-- KARL deBUNKER

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