

A note on Miller's changes:

- At any point in your comments where doubt has been expressed, Miller has made a legal change. He has also changed some of the language in "Notes and Documents" to remove or qualify expressions of doubt
- Miller has made small adjustments throughout, which he insists were necessary for the legal ok. McIntosh (e.g.)
- In those instance where you have written summaries of your brother's letters, I have, in places, re-inserted portions of the originals per Miller's ok.
- Miller paraphrased David's letters where necessary elsewhere in the book for legal ok.

which reflect the informant's lives.

Dr. K. or the investigators in only a few cases. It is possible that Dr. K. or the investigators may decline to confirm some of this information if they are asked. Yet I was careful in recording the information and I am certain that I have accurately reported what I was told.

What really horrified me, though, was the nonsense reported to the media or to the investigators by people who knew me years or decades ago. The investigators have given me written reports of interviews conducted with approximately 150 people.³ Some of the information obtained in these interviews dealt with matters of which I have no knowledge, hence I am unable to give an opinion of its accuracy. Taking into consideration only matters of which I have knowledge and speaking in rough terms, I can say that something like 14% of the informants gave reports the accuracy of which I was unable to judge; 6% gave reports about whose accuracy I was doubtful; 6% gave reports that were inaccurate in detail but provided an overall picture of me that was not far from the truth; 36% gave reports that were fairly accurate; 38% gave reports that were seriously inaccurate; and, of these last, eleven persons gave reports that were so far off that they were mere flights of fancy. More than that: of the reports that were fairly accurate, 72% were brief (one and a half pages or less); while fewer than one in four of the seriously inaccurate reports were brief. So it seems that people who spoke carefully and responsibly usually didn't have much information to give, while most of those who had (or thought they had) a good deal of information didn't know what they were talking about.

To judge from what I have seen of them, statements about me made to journalists by people who knew me, as quoted in the media, were even more inaccurate than what was reported to my investigators.

In some cases I have documentary evidence that shows that reports about me are false, but in the great majority of cases I am relying on memory for the information that disproves the reports. Why do I assume, when my recollections disagree with someone else's, that mine are usually right?

First: In many cases I can be confident that I am right simply because I am in a better position to know about the matter in question than are the persons whose memories disagree with mine. For instance, if someone says that I used to wear a plaid sport-jacket four decades ago, I can safely assume that he has me mixed up with someone else, because I have owned very few sport-jackets in my life and I know that I have never had a plaid one.

Second: I have good evidence of the accuracy of my long-term memory.⁴

(A) Investigators working for my defense team who researched my past told me repeatedly that my long-term memory was remarkably sharp and

2. g's as Director concerning me,

disputed

overall

"everyone" was jealous of me, presumably referring to the people whom we both knew, including Greg Davis† and Russell Mosny, both of whom seemed to become cool toward me at about the time I moved a year ahead of them in school. In Greg Davis's opinion, "Academically and intellectually, Ted was head and shoulders above the rest of the students at Evergreen Park High. His exceptional intelligence set him apart, even from a group of bright young men like the Briefcase Boys." 46 "The Briefcase Boys" was a clique that included, among others, Greg Davis, Russell Mosny, and Roger Podewell. According to Podewell, "It wasn't just Ted's shyness that set him apart from the Briefcase Boys. He was more intelligent than the others, a fact that made Roger a little jealous" 47 [Greg Davis and Mosny both went to the University of Illinois and flunked out. Roger Podewell went to Yale and got a C average his first year. (How he did after that I don't know.)] I did not fail to josh Podewell and Mosny about their academic performance, but they didn't seem to find it amusing.

P6

relatively
disappointing

Greg Davis, Podewell, and Mosny (especially the last) gave my investigators unflattering and inaccurate accounts of me that exaggerated my social isolation. Is this due only to media planting or are dislike, resentment, or jealousy also involved? My guess is that no such factor is involved in Podewell's case but that it is involved in Mosny's. With Greg Davis it could be either way.

"Patrick [McIntosh] was jealous of Ted's prowess in mathematics . . ." 39 Did this influence McIntosh's highly inaccurate and unflattering portrayal of me? There is no proof that it did. But it's a fact that a sense of inferiority can be one of the most powerful impulses to resentment. Especially when the person who appears to be more able is lacking in tact, as I'm afraid has sometimes been the case with me.

(h) *Mass hysteria, Herd instinct.* This is a very vaguely-defined factor that has probably been at work in my case, but it is impossible to separate from media planting or illustrate with specific examples.

(i) *Greed.* Although I know of at least one case of a person receiving payment for an interview, I have no way of proving that people who told stories about me on television allowed themselves to alter their recollections in such a way as to make them more profitable financially. But it is worth noting that one person who appeared on talk shows, Pat McIntosh, gave my investigators accounts of me that were among the most exaggerated and inaccurate.

scriptational

or whether they were paid at all.

LET US CONCLUDE with a few more examples that show the inaccu-

remembering a joking comment about women that I made in a letter to her husband, Bill, during the mid-1980s.

I did not say that the early Greek philosophers had "been proven wrong." I did say that their methods of reasoning were naive by modern standards, hence they were worth reading today only for esthetic reasons or because of their historical interest, not as a source of rational understanding.

I did not become "nervous" or "fidgety," and I did not leave the room at any time until all of the guests had left. I did repeatedly get up to take pieces of snack food from a bowl that was on a table five or six feet from where I was sitting. It is probably some garbled memory of this that leads Sally to say that I kept getting up and walking out.

Dirk West's statement that I "never made eye contact" with him is literally true, but it was he, not I, who avoided eye contact. I looked at Dirk West's face a number of times during the evening, but he never looked back at me. I'm more than willing to put the matter to a test. I invite Mr. West to come and visit me in the presence of witnesses. Let the witnesses judge which of us has difficulty maintaining eye contact with the other.

Besides his evasion of eye contact, Dirk West seemed unable to deal with any challenge to his opinions. Twice during the evening I made so bold as to disagree with him. In each case, instead of answering my argument, he just shut his mouth, elevated his nose, and looked away without saying anything.

Bill Wadham didn't give the investigators any account of my behavior at the colloquium, or at least none is mentioned in the report that I have. He did have much else to say about me, however, and it is mostly fantasy. Unfortunately, no documents are available that confirm or refute his statements except in one case. According to the investigators' report of their interview with Bill Wadham and his wife Sally, "[Bill] and [Sally] compared Ted to [Sally's] brother [Richard†] who was severely mentally ill and killed himself in 1984. In fact, Dave [Kaczynski] also knew [Richard] and saw a clear parallel between [Richard] and Ted. [Richard] had extremely rigid opinions and was often intolerant and impatient of divergent views. . . . Dave, in fact, found [Richard] and Ted so similar that when [Richard] finally killed himself in 1984, he began to worry that Ted might do the same."⁵¹

But here is what my brother wrote to me in 1984, shortly after Richard's suicide:

"I've been feeling kind of depressed the last couple of weeks since learning that [Sally's] brother [Richard] committed suicide. As he lived with [Bill] and [Sally], and didn't have a regular job, I spent quite a bit of time with him during my two visits in Rockport. We . . . often talked about philosophy. . .

check

✓

*See attached
paraphrase*

*CHECK
see attached
changes*

(*)

From orig

But what my brother actually thought was quite different, as evidenced by a letter he wrote to me in 1984 shortly after [Richard's] suicide.

RUN IN

In that letter, David speaks of his own feelings of depression, and wonders if Richard's suicide had not been, in part, ^{been the} result of Bill's and David's failure to grasp the message behind Richard's philosophy.

While David notes that Richard's family "prefers" for "obvious reasons" to attribute the suicide to "mental disease," David's own thoughts ran on the "sometimes" dismal gulfs that isolate human beings from one another. ^{ADD "Further David"} States that Richard's fate reminds ^{ADD "him"} David "just a tad" of himself, and confesses that he feels

OMIT

"^{SOME} ^{WHAT} somewhat guilty," for his "unresponsiveness."

[in file = "sometimes"]

C

| 19

of snack food from a bowl that was on a table five or six feet from where I was sitting. It is probably some garbled memory of this that leads Sally to say that I kept getting up and walking out.

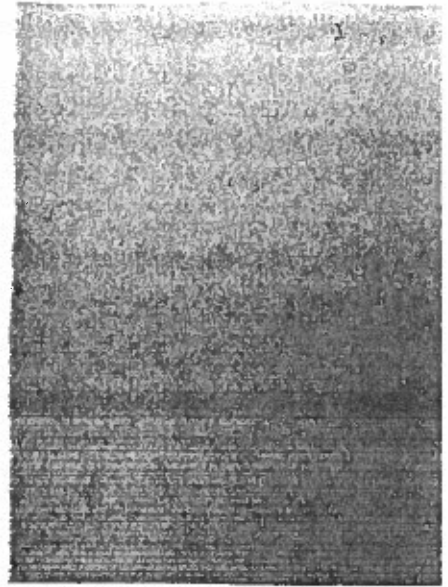
Dirk West's statement that I "never made eye contact" with him is literally true, but it was he, not I, who avoided eye contact. I looked at Dirk West's face a number of times during the evening, but he never looked back at me. I'm more than willing to put the matter to a test. I invite Mr. West to come and visit me in the presence of witnesses. Let the witnesses judge which of us has difficulty maintaining eye contact with the other.

Besides his evasion of eye contact, Dirk West seemed unable to deal with any challenge to his opinions. Twice during the evening I made so bold as to disagree with him. In each case, instead of answering my argument, he just shut his mouth, elevated his nose, and looked away without saying anything.

Bill Wadham didn't give the investigators any account of my behavior at the colloquium, or at least none is mentioned in the report that I have. He did have much else to say about me, however, and it is mostly fantasy. Unfortunately, no documents are available that confirm or refute his statements except in one case. According to the investigators' report of their interview with Bill Wadham and his wife Sally, "[Bill] and [Sally] compared Ted to [Sally's] brother [Richard†] who was severely mentally ill and killed himself in 1984. In fact, Dave [Kaczynski] also knew [Richard] and saw a clear parallel between [Richard] and Ted. [Richard] had extremely rigid opinions and was often intolerant and impatient of divergent views. . . . Dave, in fact, found [Richard] and Ted so similar that when [Richard] finally killed himself in 1984, he began to worry that Ted might do the same."⁵¹

But what my brother actually thought was quite different, as evidenced by a letter he wrote to me in 1984, shortly after Richard's suicide. In that letter, David speaks of his own feelings of depression, and wonders if Richard's suicide had not, in part, been the result of Bill's and David's failure to grasp the message behind Richard's philosophizing. While David notes that Richard's family "prefers" for "obvious reasons" to attribute the suicide to "mental disease," David's own thoughts ran on "the sometimes dismal gulfs that isolate human beings from one another." Further, David states that Richard's fate reminds him "just a tad" of himself, and confesses that he feels "sometimes guilty" for his "unresponsiveness."⁵²

In his interview Bill goes on and on about my supposed "intolerance" of other people's ideas (making, at the same time, many false statements about my behavior).⁵³ As a matter of fact, I never had more than a very little philosophical or intellectual discussion with Bill, but (though I was not



20 | TRUTH VERSUS LIES

"[I]t was hard getting through to [Richard]. On the other hand, he seemed to have a message he was trying to get across, and which he didn't feel that I, [Bill], or anyone had yet appreciated adequately. So he must have felt a similar frustration with us, in answer to which, according to [Bill], he seemed to be withdrawing from everyone more and more during the last couple of years. [Bill] seemed to think that [Richard's] suicide was a 'rational act'—i.e., that it was a consequence of his ideas. The arresting thing for would-be intellectuals, such as [Bill] and me, assuming this were true, is the facility and resolution with which [Richard's] 'idea' translated itself into an act. [Bill] . . . is even worse than me, living a beourgeois [sic] life-style in almost all respects except his reading.

" . . . When I spoke to [Bill] on the phone, he still sounded unusually distraught. If [Richard] had intended at all to make a permanent, life-long impression on [Bill]—to break through the barrier of mere philosophizing at last—then I think he might have succeeded. The rest of the family prefers—I suppose for obvious reasons—to interpret [Richard's] later years and his suicide as symptoms of a mental disease. . . . [Richard's death] reminded me of the sometimes dismal gulfs which isolate human beings from one another. It reminded me just a tad of myself, having ideas and affections, but often feeling at a loss for the proper means to share them. More acutely, I felt somewhat guilty, as if I were being called to account for my unresponsiveness to similar claims made on me by others."⁵²

In his interview Bill goes on and on about my supposed "intolerance" of other people's ideas (making, at the same time, many false statements about my behavior).⁵³ As a matter of fact, I never had more than a very little philosophical or intellectual discussion with Bill, but (though I was not knowingly tactless) that little apparently was enough to show him that I did not respect him or his ideas, which presumably is why he thought I was "intolerant." If the reader were to make Bill's acquaintance and familiarize himself with his ideas, he would be able to make his own judgment as to whether my lack of respect for them was due to intolerance or to the quality of the ideas.

Bill used to read children's comic books and claimed that he found philosophical messages in them.⁵⁴ I once asked him whether he believed the messages were put there intentionally or whether he created them himself out of the comic-book material. He answered that he preferred not to discuss the question at that time.

AMONG MANY other inaccuracies that appear in Professor Peter Duren's interview with the investigators, there is the following:

*Please
General*

*Mostly
omitted*

22 | TRUTH VERSUS LIES

Lois Skillen, guidance counselor at the school, described my brother during his high school years as follows:

"David was outgoing, friendly and sociable. . . . David had friends and played sports. . . . David was outgoing and happy. . . . David . . . sat down in the living room with all the women and immediately started to chat with them. David was laughing and having a good time. He was sweet, friendly and social."⁵⁹

The admirable consistency between Dirk West's description of my brother and Miss Skillen's should help the reader to estimate the value of these reports.— *accounts.*

Much of the information that Skillen gave my investigators is inaccurate, but on this particular point she is right and Dirk West is wrong. My brother is occasionally a little shy, and he wasn't socially polished, but he never had any trouble making friends. In high school, if anything, he was more outgoing than he was later. I don't have Dave's medical records, but they would probably show that he was at least average height for his age. Anyone who thinks Dave is physically awkward will soon change his mind if he plays tennis or ping-pong with him. The Morton Arboretum incident may well have occurred, since my brother occasionally behaves a little oddly. But it does not fairly represent his usual social behavior.

IT IS INTERESTING that there seems to be little relation between the intelligence of an informant and the accuracy of the reports that he gives about decades-old events. We've seen that an adequate university professor like Dr. Duren and an outstanding one like Dr. Eickelman⁶⁰ were among those who gave seriously inaccurate accounts of my early years. Yet some people of modest intellectual attainments have given accounts that are fairly accurate. I suppose it's a matter of character. Some people refrain from speaking when they aren't sure, whereas others seem to let their imaginations run away with them.

I've shown that several factors have operated in producing false reports about me, but I have little doubt that media planting is the most important one. The fact that so many people's memories of me have been warped as badly as they have been shows the awesome power of propaganda.

Scientific American recently published an interesting article on memory-planting.⁶¹ The phenomenon is not hypothetical; its existence has been proved.

32 | TRUTH VERSUS LIES

THE PASSAGE FROM the Baby Book that describes my "hospital experience" provides an example of ~~the way the media lie~~. In an article in the *Washington Post*, journalists Serge F. Kovalski and Lorraine Adams quoted the Baby Book as follows:

*the distortion that
is typical of the
media*

"Feb. 27, 1943. Mother went to visit baby. . . . Mother felt very sad about baby. She says he is quite subdued, has lost his verve and aggressiveness and has developed an institutionalized look.

*the distortions
that are typical of the
media.*

"March 12, 1943. Baby home from hospital and is healthy but quite unresponsive after his experience. Hope his sudden removal to hospital and consequent unhappiness will not harm him."³²

Compare this with the accurate transcription of the passage given a few pages back. Kovalski and Adams have made important changes. On February 27 I was still at home. I was not hospitalized until March 1, and the entry that Kovalski and Adams dated "Feb. 27" actually refers to March 3. Kovalski and Adams assign the date March 12 to an entry that was obviously written earlier, and they completely omit the entry that shows that on or before March 12 I had already recovered completely from "that hospital experience."

Kovalski and Adams altered not only the dates but also the wording of the passage. The most important change was that, where the Baby Book states that I was "quiet and unresponsive," Kovalski and Adams wrote that I was "quite unresponsive."³³

The effect of these changes is to give the impression that the "hospital experience" and its consequences were much more long-lasting and severe than they really were. The reader can judge for himself whether the changes were intentional or merely the result of careless errors.

36 | TRUTH VERSUS LIES

when I was perhaps eight or nine years old,¹⁵ and it very likely resulted from the fact that our family was different from its neighbors. My father worked with his hands all his life; my mother, apart from teaching high school English for two years during her fifties, never did anything more demanding than lower-level secretarial work; and our family always lived among working-class and lower-middle class people. Yet my parents always regarded themselves as a cut above their neighbors. They had intellectual pretensions, and though their own intellectual attainments were extremely modest, to say the least, they—especially my mother—looked down on their neighbors as “ignorant.” (But they were usually careful not to reveal their snobbish attitudes outside the family.)¹⁶

Our block of Carpenter Street was part of a working-class neighborhood that was just one step above the slums. As my playmates grew older some of them began engaging in behavior that approached or crossed the line dividing acceptable childhood mischief from delinquency.¹⁷ For example, two of them got into trouble for trying to set fire to someone’s garage.¹⁵ I had been trained to a much more exacting standard of behavior and wouldn’t participate in the other kids’ mischief.¹⁸ Once, for instance, I was with a bunch of neighborhood kids who waited in ambush for an old rag-picker, pelted him with garbage when he came past, and then ran away. I stood back in the rear and refused to participate, and immediately afterward I went home and told my mother what had happened, because I was shocked at such disrespect being shown to an adult—even if he was only a rag-picker.¹⁹

So it may be that the reason why I ceased to be fully accepted by my Carpenter-Street playmates at around the age of eight or nine was that they saw me as too much of a “good boy.” In any case they did seem to lose interest in my companionship—I was no longer one of the bunch.²⁰ I continued to get along well with the kids in school.²¹ Unlike the kids on my block they showed no tendency to serious mischief, either because they were better-behaved kids or because the supervised environment of school left few opportunities for misbehavior.

My parents noticed the fact that I was becoming isolated from my Carpenter-Street friends, and they repeatedly expressed to me their concern that there might be something wrong with me because I was not social enough.¹⁵ To me it was acutely humiliating to be pushed out to the fringe by these kids with whom I had formerly associated on an equal basis, and I was too ashamed to tell my parents what was really happening, or even to admit it to myself until many years later. My mother invented an explanation for my isolation that was consistent with her intellectual pretensions: I

some of