

The following is the text of a letter from Clarence W. Weiant, D.C., Ph.D. to Russell Gibbons on December 10, 1975

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December 10, 1975

Dear Mr. Gibbons:

I believe something is stirring. I hope you have heard from Al Werner. After I had written to him he called me and gave me some very interesting information. The late Dr. Clarence Flick set up a foundation called the Foundation for Health Research. For 22 months the Foundation had the services of a lawyer, Cyrus Lerner, who at one time was in the service of the late Joseph Kennedy, then our Ambassador to Britain. As an employee of the Foundation he received a salary of \$1,000 per month, in those days no small figure.

Lerner did a very thorough job. He had access to just about everything in the archives of the Palmer School (as it was then called). He relied upon the local Davenport public library for old writings of D.D. Palmer and made photocopies. He examined court records. He collected old newspapers dating back to the 1850's, with accounts of a running feud between D.D. Palmer and Andrew Still. He located as many people as possible who had had personal dealings with D.D. Palmer and conducted taped interviews with them. A number of these people were in Oklahoma; others were on the West Coast. Most of them are now dead. Let's hope the tapes have not deteriorated. He correlated developments in chiropractic with contemporaneous goings on in American medicine, politics, and popular thought.

Albert Werner, son of the older Werner who headed the American Bureau of Chiropractic, Dr. Lyndon Lee (now in his 80's and still practicing in Mt. Vernon, N.Y.), and a third man whose last name is Thomas (a Long Island resident who had been the real framer and manager of the American Bureau) were chosen to be the trustees of the Foundation. For a long time the trustees did nothing. They felt that the next phase should be directed by a chiropractic college. They did not trust the Palmer School to bring out an uncensored history of chiropractic. Meanwhile the New York State law licensing chiropractors came into existence (1963), but the New York State Board of Regents was not prepared to approve any school of chiropractic in the state. Eventually the National College was approved, but the trustees did not want to surrender their obligations to people that far away. So what they did was to resign their trusteeships and turn everything over to Columbia Institute, after the Chiropractic Institute of New York had merged with National College.

As I understand it, however, the bulk of the material accumulated is in the physical custody of Mr. Thomas, awaiting further developments.

The financial resources of the Foundation have shrunk to the mere pittance of about \$150.

I am urging that Columbia Institute begin as soon as possible to embark on the utilization and proper presentation of the data accumulated. Werner said he would talk to Dr. Napolitano and would tell him that I would be willing to serve as an occasional consultant. Of course I shall insist that you, if satisfactory terms can be reached, be named as director of the project (or any other appropriate title).

I have also suggested that FCER be solicited for funds to go ahead. Given some such provocative title as THE LONG SUPPRESSED STORY OF CHIROPRACTIC ORIGINS, the resulting book should really be at least a good (if not best) seller.

Have a happy holiday season,

Sincerely,
Clarence Weiant

