

[interview with Thos H Hyland, Greenwich, Conn., Jun23, 1969]
in 1940

1. Hyland one of WC's closest friends: he met him when he ~~was~~ hired from Harvard as as Time CBOB -- was assigned to book section as first writing assignment, then to religion; WC his editor in both of these

2. Hyland says WC didn't have a real heart attack in 1942-3 -- it was hust a physical collapse from overwork, from the way he had been driving himself, etc.

3. Hyland one of WEC's best friends at Time: they would lunch almost every day at Del Pezzo's at 47th Street, with Winthrop Sargent and occasionally Agee and one or two others, but Sargent, WC and Hyland were present at lunches almost daily.

4. [WAR to make point that Hyland a perfect instance of the kind of person WC could become friendly with: Hyland was seventeen years younger than WC -- i.e., Hyland 51 years old in 1969 -- Hyland a practicing Catholic; and fresh out of Harvard and perfectly naive about politics, etc (i.e., is ready in 1969 to say categorically that John Hersey was a card-carrying CPer in 1945, ditto Theodore White, ditto Wertebaker -- was fresh out of Harvard, Time his first job, comes from wealthy family - ????)

5. Hyland insists that WC not a real farmer -- i.e., a farmer who has a goinf, profitable property; Hyland says they always lost money on farm and Esther was not a good manager, nor was WC -- they paid too much at auctions, etc.

6. Hyland insists that WC not a real Quaker: he soon lost all enthousiasm for Quakerism, and never really ~~took~~ took it at all seriously.

7. Hyland says that WC referred to his own mother as ~~XV~~ "That old bag" -- was sort of ashamed of her: with her heavily rouged face and her wig that most of the time was sitting on her head crookedly, etc.

8. Hyland insists that one of reasons ~~Y~~ for living in Maryland was in order for children to be unaware of their Jewish background, and that Esther had agreed to ~~K~~ break off all relations with her own family in order that children wouldn't know that they were half--Jewish.

9. Hyland says that lead article in Time every week was the lead-off piece in National Affairs; this was used as sort of an editorial in magazine; and Cantwell, Agee and Chambers would often write it -- an indication that they the three best writers on the staff -- and that oftentimes in so doing they would be in touch with Luce over coffee or lunch, etc, to discuss the handling of this important piece in the mag.

10. Hyland says that Esther was a out-and-out feminist: Hyland says Esther ruined Ellen's marriage by insisting she go back to college [after she married and the mother of three kids, no less!!!!!!], ~~and~~ and that this was a big factor in break-up of Ellen's marriage: that she went back to college and that then the marriage broke up; also that the only reason for having Dr Wilkinson take care of Whit was -- and this Esther's decision -- ~~the female doctor in all of Carroll County.~~

11. Hyland says that after WC made so much money on royalties from Wit, etc he splurged and bought a big Buick sedan -- the first really ostentatious display they ever saw him engage in

12. WC invested heavily in stock market, upon Hyland's advice, and he did this after making all the money with his book and with the royalties from it, etc.

13. Hyland says that Buckley never really understood WC: that WC took subtle and knowledgeable for Buckley ever really to fathom.

14. Hyland said that all the time he knew WC he really always in fear of being assassinated: he always ~~insux~~ insisted in sitting at a corner table at the restaurant, with his back to the wall, so that he could see everybody in the room; he kept loaded shotguns at farm in Westminster; he had family living in Maryland because of his fears of assassination; he was secretive with his colleagues at Time as to where he lived during the week [didn't tell anybody he lived at home with his mother] out of this same fear of assassination.

a. Both Hyland and his wife -- parents of five children, all of whom raised and (at least some of them) educated in same schools in Carroll County, Md. as Chambers children -- said that Esther would always follow the school bus to school and sit in car while children were at school, out of fear that they might be kidnapped or assassinated; this done on WC's directions and insistence.

b. [QUERY: IF HE SO AFRAID OF ASSASSINATION, HOW COME HE LIVED AT HOME IN LYNBROOK, FIRST PLACE THAT ANYONE WHO KNEW HIM FROM CP DAYS WOULD PROBABLY GO LOOKING FOR HIM?????????????]

15. Hyland makes point that there were very few whom WC could trust at Time: in pre-WW II atmosphere, it was "poison" for WC to have quit CP: Hyallnand says that, in that Popular Front atmosphere, WC was looked upon like a pariah for having quit the CP

16. When WC joined CP, acc to Hyland, not too many people originally knew that he had quit CP -- although they w/ very quickly found out.

17. One reason for WC overwork at Time, and his collapse, both in '42 and '45: "He thought of his job on Time as much more than a job. It is true, of course, that he was getting a very handsome salary, but it was much more than that; he thought of it as a mission he had -- to make sure that Time stayed on the right course, editorially, and also to make sure that the Foreign News section wouldn't come to be controlled by the Herseys, Wertenbakers, et al."

a. "Whit made no secret of the fact that everything he received from Hersey or White went right into his waste basket; half the time he wouldn't even bother to read their dispatches."