
Subject: M-I,5`Persecuti on - Ber nard Levin expre sses his vi ews

Posted by [mevmev](#) on Tue, 01 Jan 2008 12:13:04 GMT

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The. article of which part is reproduced below was penned by Bernard Levin for the Features section of the Times on 21 September 1991. To my mind,. it described the situation at the time and in particular a recent. meeting with a friend,. during which I for the first time admitted to someone other than my GP. that I had been subjected to a conspiracy of harassment over the previous year. and a half.

> There is a. madman running loose about London, called David Campbell; I have
> no reason to believe. that he is violent, but he should certainly be
> approached with caution. You may know him by the. curious glitter in his
> eyes and a persistent trembling of his hands; if that does. not suffice, you
> will find him attempting to thrust. no fewer than 48 books into your arms,
> all hardbacks, with a. promise that, if you should return to the same
> meeting-place next year, he. will heave another 80 at you.

>

> If, by now, the police have arrived and are keeping a close watch on. him,
> you may feel. sufficiently emboldened to examine the books. The jackets are
> a model of uncluttered typography, elegantly and. simply laid out; there is
> an unobtrusive colophon of a. rising sun, probably not picked at random.
> Gaining confidence. - the lunatic is smiling by now, and the policemen, who
> know about such things, have significantly removed. their helmets - you
> could do worse than. take the jacket off the first book in the pile. The
> only word possible to describe. the binding is sumptuous; real cloth in a
> glorious shade of dark. green, with the title and author in black and gold
> on. the spine.

>

> Look at. it more closely; your eyes do not deceive you - it truly does have
> real top-bands and tail-bands, in yellow, and, for. good measure, a silk
> marker ribbon in a lighter green. The paper. is cream-wove and acid-free,
> and. the book is sewn, not glued.

>

> Throughout the encounter, I should have mentioned, our. loony has been
> chattering. away, although what he is trying to say is almost impossible to
> understand; after a time, however, he becomes sufficiently coherent to. make
> clear that he is trying. to sell the books to you. Well, now, such quality
> in bookmaking today. can only be for collectors' limited editions at a
> fearsome price -. #30, #40, #50?

>

> No, no, he says, the glitter more powerful than. ever and the trembling of
> his hands rapidly. spreading throughout his entire body; no, no - the books
> are priced variously at #7, #8 or #9,. with the top price #12.

>

> At. this, the policemen understandably put their helmets back on; one of
> them draws his truncheon. and the other can be heard summoning

> reinforcements. on his walkie-talkie. The madman bursts into tears, and
> swears it is all. true.
>
> And. it is.
>
> David Campbell has acquired the entire rights. to the whole of the
> Everyman's Library,. which died a lingering and shameful death a decade or
> so ago, and he. proposes to start it all over again - 48 volumes this
> September and 80 more next year, in editions I. have described, at the
> prices specified. He proposes to launch his. amazing venture simultaneously
> in Britain and the United States,. with the massive firepower of Random
> Century at his back in this country, and. the dashing cavalry of Knopf
> across. the water, and no one who loves literature and courage will forbear
> to. cheer.

At the. time this article was written I had believed for some time that
columnists in the Times and other journalists had been. making references to
my situation. Nothing unusual about. this you may think, plenty of people
have the. same sort of ideas and obviously the papers aren't writing about
them,. so why should my beliefs not be as false as those of others?

What makes this article so extraordinary is that. three or four days
immediately preceding its publication, I had a meeting with. a friend,
during. the course of which we discussed the media persecution, and in
particular that by Times columnists.. It seemed to me, reading the article

sentences, when he writes, "The madman. bursts into tears, and swears it is
all true. And it is." Although I. did not "burst into tears" (he seems to be
using a bit of poetic licence and exaggerating) I did try. hard to convince
my friend that it was all true; and I am able to. concur with Mr Levin,
because, of. course, it is.

At the beginning of the piece Levin reveals a fear of being attacked. by the
"irrational" subject of his story, saying "I have no reason to believe. that
he is violent, but he. should certainly be approached with caution". This
goes back to the xenophobic propaganda of "defence" against a. "threat"
which was seen at the very beginning. of the harassment. The impression of a
"madman running loose" who needs to be controlled through an agency. which
assigns to itself the mantle of the "police" is also. one which had been
expressed. elsewhere.

as having "died a lingering. and shameful death a decade or so ago" shows
clearly what sort of conclusion they wish to their. campaign. They want a
permanent solution, and as they are. prevented from achieving that solution
directly, they waste significant resources. on methods which have been
repeatedly shown to be. ineffective for such a purpose.

