

Diablo Western Press
P.O. Box 5, Alamo, CA 94507

June 19, 2000

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Ref: June 8, 2000 letter, just received

To Mr. Collins:

Your letter surprised us. We never accused Steve Gratzer of anything. We looked at the text and it definitely does not state what you allege: "In that book, on page 439, Mr. Stich makes certain accusations against my client. Essentially, Mr. Stich has accused my client of killing his ex-wife and that the murder was covered up." The plain language on that page never accused Steve Gratzer of anything or even implied it. Here is what is said on page 439 where Gratzer's name is briefly mentioned, as Dr. Cserna is referring to retaliation against him by federal officials:

Imprisoning A Doctor On Perjured Testimony

In 1997 I started receiving information from a physician who had been targeted in a similar gun-charge. Dr. Jed Cserna was an MD with a private practice in Ely, Nevada, and a Lt. Colonel in the Idaho National Guard, with 16 years of military service behind him. His problems started in Ely, Nevada, where he was a physician. Cserna told me how it appeared to start. While he was treating a patient, Doris Gratzer, she told him, "If I'm ever shot, Steve [her husband] did it." Dr. Cserna told this to the hospital staff and they said that she always had problems, and this occasion was no different than others. A week later, she was found dead, killed by a bullet wound to the head.

Cserna said her husband, Steve Gratzer, was influential in the town, especially with the sheriff, who was responsible for conducting an investigation into his wife's killing. Cserna was now a danger to Gratzler. According to Cserna, false statements were made by a government informant, seeking to justify his position and pay, that resulted in a raid by ATF agent Doreen on his doctor's office. His home was broken into and possessions disappeared. Participating in the ATF raid was the sheriff who he referred to as Burnie (Ronero), who would soon participate in sham charges filed against the doctor.

Government agents arrested Cserna a short time later and charged him with possession of a machine gun and a short-barreled rifle. The guns in question were an AR-15 that was not an automatic, and a Uzi 9 mm that had been sold to him with a folding stock and various barrels. He had used both guns two and three times a week at the local police firing range and was never questioned about their legality.

DOJ Retaliation Because of Refusing Ruby Ridge Participation?

Cserna told me about an event that happened in Idaho while he was the physician assigned to the

Idaho National Guard air wing. During the Ruby Ridge attack that killed Mrs. Weaver and her son, ATF agents had gone to the Idaho National Guard base and told the Commander of the helicopter division, “We are ordering you to activate your choppers to go north and strafe Ruby Ridge.” The colonel refused, stating, “This is against the law, the constitution, and finally, Randy Weaver is an Idaho Citizen. Either you get out or I’ll have you thrown out.”

Nowhere in that short section where Gratzner’s name is mentioned do we make the statement that “Mr. Stich has accused [your] client of killing his ex-wife ...” Mr. Stich simply quoted Dr. Cserna, and even he did not accuse Gratzner of any killing.

It appears that your charge is arriving at a strange time, and it is possible that your motives are quite different, especially since the charge you make is totally unsupported by the statements in the book.

You have an obligation to make Mr. Gratzner aware of the consequences of any sham lawsuit, and how the lawyer immunity can be easily pierced and both of you sued.

Our publishing house is a non-profit operation dedicated to making the public aware of government corruption, and therefore there would be no funds for any damages you might dream up. However, we do have the capability of suing you and your client if you engage in any conspiracy or fabricated lawsuit to possibly divert our public-spirited activities.

Sincerely,

Frank Carter