

Notes 97N, Copy 2

Maj. Gen. Charles T. Lanham

Washington, D.C.

December 11, 1962

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Off the record parts of interview with Maj Gen Charles T. Lanham, Dec 11, 1962, Army and Navy Club, Washington, by F C Pogue

I want to tell you about "Honest John" Wedemeyer. He is a complete phony. Do you know how Gen Marshall got on to him? Wedemeyer's father-in-law, Embick, got him one of the first appointments to the Kriegsakademie in Germany. Al fell for the German philosophy--the officer is a big shot--he ate that stuff with a spoon. He came back full of it. While he was over there he found a translation of the Truppenfuehrer made by another American officer (think the name is Hazard), proceeded to have it bound in fine shape and presented it to Gen Marshall. I was sitting at the next desk to him. He gave me a copy and I took it home and compared it with what the other man had done. He didn't change a comma, but took credit. Marshall hadn't seen the other thing and thought Honest John had done it. Started him on the way up. Wedemeyer in OPD had the choice of the best brains in the Army; put his name on other people's work and gave them no credit. He cut the balls off of everybody he worked for.

Pinky Dorn told me that Marshall in China sent Wedemeyer a telegram, saying I don't want to have anything to do with you ever again.

Says Wedemeyer devious. Promised everything by the Republicans. Has become complete and extreme rightist. Thinks only man in Army ever court-martialed on alcoholic charge who made general officer.

Told me how Dewitt Emery and his Small Business Gp had attacked him while head of I and E; charged him with being Jewish, Communist, fat-assed soldier who never went into the field. Marshall had brought Lanham in to head I and E. Says that old fellow who was head of Unamerican Activities Comm--no pockets on suits--had the DAR lined up to see a field day. Lanham let him drag out of him the fact that his family had lived in Maryland since the Revolution; said the fellow said you don't sound like a West Point man--"said I wear the ring"(class of 1924); said did you have him field service. Later the man put his big arms around me and said come and have lunch with me.

Got Joe Collins to let him call up Emery. Suggested he see him. Emery said will meet you any time; anywhere. Said he went alone--wore uniform with all the chicken salad and chicken guts. Emery a big SOB--one of biggest men I ever saw. Fellows looked at my ribbons. Had some drinks; began checking my war record. Emery ended up by saying he would back a million dollar increase for me. (Had raised hell because a text we used in USAFFE courses favored a sliding income tax scale).

Louis Johnson a big know-nothing. Big tummy now--can get a drink by sticking a pin in him. Sent a third party to me in 1956 to ask if I would be his public relations man for the presidency. Mike DiSalle did the same and so did Eric Johnston. Louis Johnson brought Steve Early down to do this for him when he was Secy of Defense. Steve told me later he was a damn fool for coming.

Says Pearson used Sumner Welles and then Loy Henderson as State Dept pipe lines. Says he would invite a group out--Chief Justice, one or two from State, and a military man or two. I said

one night to one fellow--that's pretty hot stuff you are handing him. Pearson said "oh at dinner I am not working." Just the same it was background. He used that and what he read off his thumb for his inside stuff.

I don't know whether this is on tape, but he got to talking about being 60. Said Hemingway couldn't stand the idea of getting old. Said he argued with him about it.

Said Teddy White had been to see him to do article for LOOK on McNamara. Said he was having trouble; could only find one anecdote on McNamara. Says he realizes why I need background material.