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What Difference At This Point Does it Make?

Those words entered the modern lexicon as a former Secretary of State testified before Congress as she was questioned regarding the facts surrounding the deaths of four Americans in Benghazi, Libya. While her reference was to minimize the misrepresentations made relating to the initial story that a video caused a spontaneous event that led to their deaths, her words struck me as unusually callous and insensitive at the time, and they still linger each time I see her on TV.

But I couldn't put my finger on why until I started compiling this month's newsletter about crime scenes, evidence collection, and the importance of evidence in determining "what happened". Then it hit me. It's about trust!

From the Congressional hearing transcript:

Senator: "Again, again **we were misled** that there were supposedly protests and something then sprang out of that, an assault sprang out of that, and that was easily ascertained that that was not the fact, and the American people could've known that within days and they didn't know that."

Secretary of State: "With all due respect, the fact is we had 4 dead Americans. Was it because of a protest or was it because of guys out for a walk one night who decided they'd go kill some Americans? **What difference at this point does it make?** It is our job to figure out what happened and do everything we can to prevent it from ever happening again Senator."

This newsletter is not about politics, or political parties. And it's not just about Washington, D.C. It's about working to create, and cherish trust.

In my hometown three City Council candidates ran on a platform that they would vote to stop a particular wasteful public works project. They were elected, and shortly thereafter voted exactly opposite to what they ran on. They said they learned new facts. They left trust in the dust.

Friedrich Nietzsche, a scholar in the 1800's said: "I'm not upset that you lied to me, I'm upset that from now on I can't believe you." Unfortunately not enough politicians care that we no longer believe anything they say.

If we are not careful, the world in which all of us live and work will erode into a world Paul Harvey warned about in 1965: His words are prophetic.

"If I were the devil, I wouldn't be happy until I had seized the ripest apple on the tree-Thee. So I'd set about however necessary to take over the United States.

I'd subvert the churches first-I would begin with a campaign of whispers. With the wisdom of a serpent, I would whisper to you as I whispered to Eve: "Do as you please." "Do as you please."

To the young, I would whisper, "The Bible is a myth." I would convince them that man created God instead of the other way around. I would confide that what is bad is good, and what is good is "square". And the old, I would teach to pray. I would teach them to pray after me, 'Our Father, which art in Washington...'

And then I'd get organized.

I'd educate authors on how to lurid literature exciting, so that anything else would appear dull and uninteresting. I'd threaten TV with dirtier movies and vice versa. I'd pedal narcotics to whom I could. I'd sell alcohol to ladies and gentlemen of distinction. I'd tranquilize the rest with pills.

If I were the devil I'd soon have families that war with themselves, churches that war that themselves, and nations that war with themselves; until each in its turn was consumed.

And with promises of higher ratings I'd have mesmerizing media fanning the flame. If I were the devil I would encourage schools to refine young intellects, and neglect to discipline emotions-just let those run wild, until before you knew it, you'd have to have drug sniffing dogs and metal detectors at every schoolhouse door.

Within a decade I'd have prisons overflowing, I'd have judges promoting pornography-soon I could evict God from the courthouse, and then the schoolhouse, and then from the houses of Congress.

And in His own churches I would substitute psychology for religion, and deify science. I would lure priests and pastors into misusing boys and girls, and church money. If I were the devil I'd make the symbols of Easter an egg and the symbol of Christmas a bottle.

If I were the devil I'd take from those, and who have, and give to those wanted until I had killed the incentive of the ambitious. What do you bet I could get whole states to promote gambling as the way to get rich? I would question against extremes and hard work, and Patriotism, and moral conduct.

I would convince the young that marriage is old-fashioned, that swinging more fun, that what you see on the TV is the way to be. And thus I could undress you in public, and I could lure you into bed with diseases for which there is no cure. In other words, if I were to devil I'd keep on doing on what he's doing. Paul Harvey, good day."

May God Bless each of You,
Jim Rechel,
ICJE Newsletter Editor

Link to hear the original radio version of the Paul Harvey from 1965: [Paul Harvey - If I WAS the Devil](#)



Building Trust in Your Workplace

I know trust when I have it, when I see it, and when I experience it. But how do we create trust, and how do we maintain it in our workplaces?

"Trust me. When's the last time you actually believed those words on the job? If your answer is a long time ago, you're not alone. In fact, many people instinctively recoil from those two words--especially when uttered by business leaders or professional colleagues." - Fast Company Magazine

Tips for Creating Trust: [Trust in the Workplace](#)

Electronic Crime Scene Investigation - A Guide for First Responders

The collection and preservation of digital evidence is of paramount importance to both private and public sector personnel. The following information from the "NIJ Report - Electronic Crime Scene Investigation: A Guide for First Responders" provides practical and insightful information in dealing with the many digital issues in the workplace and crime scenes.

Every organization should identify personnel before they are needed—who have advanced skills, training, experience, and qualifications in handling electronic devices and digital evidence. These experts should be available for situations that exceed the technical expertise of the first responder or agency.

This preparation and use is similar to the provisions in place for biohazard and critical incident responses. It is recommended that protocols for how to handle electronic crime scenes and digital evidence be developed in compliance with policies and prevailing Federal, State, and local laws and regulations. In particular, under the Privacy Protection Act of 1980, with certain exceptions, law enforcement is prohibited from seizing material from a person who has a legal right to disseminate it to the public.

For example, seizure of first amendment material such as drafts of newsletters or Web pages may violate the Privacy Protection Act of 1980.

The guide was developed to assist law enforcement and other first responders when they encounter electronic crime scenes. These guidelines will help first responders-

- Ensure that officer safety and the safety of others remain the highest priority.
- Recognize the investigative value of digital evidence.
- Assess available resources.
- Identify the equipment and supplies that should be taken to electronic crime scenes.
- Assess the crime scene and the digital evidence present.
- Designate the assignments, roles, and responsibilities of personnel involved in the investigation.

Access the Entire Guide: [Guide to Preserving Electronic Evidence](#)

Spoofing Cell Towers by Police Challenged

Transparency and trust collide?



A current case winding its way through the courts seeks to challenge the use of devices known as "Stingray", which is a device that allows law enforcement personnel to intercept cell call metadata. Some argue it is nothing more than a modern "pen register" while others

argue there is an expectation of privacy. The clash continues.

To read more about it: [Cell Phone Tracking Stingray Device and Court Challenge](#)

[Comprehensive Article in the Wall Street Journal with Links to More Info](#)

Who Built the ID Theft Service SSNDOB.ru ?

Intriguing Insight into the New World of Electronic ID Theft and the Global Crooks

Previous stories in Krebs on Security have highlighted the damage wrought by an identity theft service marketed in the underground called ssndob[dot]ru, which sold Social Security numbers, credit reports, drivers licenses and other sensitive information on more than four million Americans.

The following post by Krebs looks at a real-life identity behind the man likely responsible for building the service.

Link to Krebs on Security: [Understanding ID Theft in A Digital World](#)

Investigative Detentions/Terry Stops and Recent Court Decisions?

A recent court ruling dealt with issues surrounding an investigative detention provides more information and is highlighted in an article by attorney Brian Batterton.

For more information: [Investigative Detentions](#)



Consent to Search and Co-Occupants

Hot Topic

Recent US Supreme Court Case - Feb 2014: [Consent to Search and Co-Occupants](#)
[Wife's Ability to Consent to Search Husband's Laptop](#)

ICJE / AUM Training Opportunities

Other training opportunities are provided monthly:

Link to: [Link to ICJE Training Schedule](#)





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Law Enforcement Training & Support

The Institute for Criminal Justice Education is a nonprofit Alabama corporation that provides law enforcement training, develops courses and distributes research material relating to investigation, management and technology in the criminal justice arena.

Our services are furnished to governmental, corporate and security agencies who have a primary law enforcement function or a need for security protection. We also provide training for select companies, students and individuals demonstrating a valid need for law enforcement information. Because the funding for ICJE comes from a combination of tax-deductible gifts and grants, there is little or no cost to recipients. Training is conducted by POST certified instructors recognized as experts in their fields. Training provided by ICJE is conducted at times and locations convenient to law enforcement officers and their departments.

ICJE Website

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