

Batzel goes on to tell her what to think and say.

Det. B: "Well I guess my question Jane is ah I guess my belief now or something is you're unsatisfied with your daughter being power of attorney, over your affairs is that right?"

Mrs. D: "Right."

Det. B: "And you don't want that?"

Mrs. D: "No. Not if there's someone else will do it but I didn't know that this."

I have a distinct impression that there had been intense preparatory talks with the patient about the power of attorney and related matters such as the distorted paranoid caricature of her daughter presented by the investigators and the Krauses. The sudden materialization of Roger as a person "working" for her and the extinguishing of Mary Jane as working for her would have required strong assertion that such was the case. Mrs. Duchene speaks as if such was a very recent discovery. In a real sense she was right. Roger had shown little interest in her for decades if ever. He had not "worked" for Mrs. Duchene or been helpful to her in the past. It had to be a new experience and could come about I think only by dint of heavy assertions and indoctrination by Roger and probably others.

She was brought to Mr. Reichstadt's office by Bessie and Roger with whom she had spent the past hour, arriving at 7:10 p.m. on March 20. She was with Reischadt and the Krauses pending Detective Batzel's arrival there at 8:25 p.m., to conduct his interview with her.

I have no information as to what went on in the hour with the Krauses. The social worker is hardly informative as to what actually transpired during the hour and a quarter that he, Bessie and Roger Krause was closeted with Mrs. Duchene prior to the interview that night. It is highly probably that some preparation for the police interview took place. She appears to have acquired the crude concept that no one had been helping her but Roger, who had been "worrying" and "working" for her. The fact that Mary Jane had left her life and her interests in Europe, returned home and had been devoting her life, round the clock, to caring for her mother, her mother's interests and their mutual interests, had been obliterated. The care involved multiple activities, e.g. buying wigs, shoes and other clothing, investigating and visiting residential possibilities for Mrs. Duchene, discussing these possibilities with her, discussing the financial arrangements together--all these and other ways of "working" for her and with her mother occurred as part of a full time commitment to her mother's care made by Mary Jane. In the time Mary Jane was at home doing all these things for her mother, the Krauses did little or nothing of value for the patient. Their relevant activities were confined largely to developing a dossier of absurd, slanderous, venomous lies with Reichstadt and presumably Ms. Massman, R.N., who at this writing is refusing to produce her records, in defiance of Judge Lacy's order.

It is only as a product of mental deterioration that Jane Duchene could obliterate that reality and turn her mental representation of her daughter into an irritable, thieving tyrant who did nothing for her. Memory, reality testing, judgment and

normal decent sentiments had to be damaged or destroyed for that to occur and for Roger to be perceived as savior of sorts. The Krauses lent themselves wholeheartedly to facilitating the wholesale destruction of the daughter in the sick woman's mind. They actively promoted the notion of Roger as a good, concerned brother who was willing to take on more "working" for his sister.

It is probably, from Jane Duchene's responses in the Hatzel interview, that efforts to implant such pictures of Roger had been made just prior to the interview and were fresh in Jane Duchene's mind. Her spontaneous reference to her brother and a power of attorney made early in the interview are suggestive of such recent indoctrination and a recognition that Roger wanted to have power of attorney.

She is responding to questions about Mary Jane's alleged imprisonment of her in the house and allegedly prevention of Jane from visiting with people.

Mrs. D: "Well like I was going to go out Monday with Ruth and Lorraine for lunch and that and she was okay as long as it is nobody in the family. She's a little afraid of you." (looking at her brother).

Det. B: "You're looking at your brother right? O.K.?"

Mrs. D: "That's because he's a, he's a I suppose in her mind she knows that he could probably try to get power of attorney."

Det. B: "Okay."

Mrs. D: "And but yet she don't dare talk to me about it either you know."

Det. B: "Okay." (Cutting off the patient's spontaneous utterances in order to pursue his detailed questioning about Mrs. Duchene's bank accounts.)

This fragment is interesting in that she introduces her awareness of Roger contending with Mary Jane for power of attorney. She has no real concept of a power of attorney but she has grasped that it is something Roger wants. This is accompanied by representation of Mary Jane not as a powerful tyrannical dominant figure but as someone afraid of her uncle. She goes on to relate the fear to Roger's taking the power of attorney away from Mary Jane.

In this sequence there is displayed a contradictory concept of Mary Jane who is seen elsewhere as not wanting to have power of attorney, of complaining about it and allegedly threatening to divest herself of it and concerns about their joint finances. Mary Jane doesn't want it. But here Mary Jane wants it and is afraid Roger will take it from her. The recognition of Roger as making an effort to acquire the power of attorney is there. Jane would not think of his wanting a power of attorney unless it had been actively brought to her attention, probably repeatedly. She had become inattentive and disinterested in others' needs and wishes. It would require direct and vigorous effort to convey Roger's wishes to her. It becomes certain Roger wants power of attorney in a few minutes, when Batzel told her flatly "we" had fixed things to have a lawyer present whom she was to hire and have draw up a new contract for power of attorney for Roger "hopefully ah we get that done tonight your brother's going to be ah have that power. Is that right?"

Mrs. D: "Yes, I hope so."

This is the revelation of a plot or premeditated plan involving the collusion of her brother, and sister-in-law, the police investigator, and the social worker investigator, and an attorney, to wrest the power of attorney sworn that very day in her own lawyer's offices to her daughter, from her daughter. It is to take control of their money and their house and give that control to a brother who has shown no interest in her and who has never helped her or taken care of her before. His interest in her financial or other affairs has appeared recently after he learned she was dying, never before.

It is evidence of mental impairment of a serious crippling degree that Mrs. Duchene was gullible enough to see Roger's activity as a kind desire to help her. That she was oblivious of his greedy self-interest, that she displayed no evidence of surprise, caution or thoughtfulness in response to Batzel's revealing his scheme shows how vulnerable an adult she really was.

That Batzel was revealing a plot to gain access to money and house belonging jointly to her and Mary Jane and to plunder and rob them was made abundantly clear the following day. Roger dragged this woman from bank to bank on the 21st to get joint accounts altered to have him replace Mary Jane. He succeeded in some banks. That is, he swindled his niece to the extent he could, out of thousands of dollars of her money, held jointly with her mother, money that would become hers exclusively when her mother died, as she did that November in 1986.

This befuddled acquiescence in the brazen grab for her money was possible only if she were so damaged she could not grasp what these people were using her for and it is clear that she didn't. Her being putty in their hands was facilitated by playing on the paranoid and depressive delusions she verbalized so freely in the interview and which were so studiously ignored by the "investigators" and the concerned brother and sister-in-law. Mrs. Duchene simply had to have, essentially, lost her mind to swallow her brother's sudden interest in the money as "working" for her, and to seemingly disregard her enduring strong antagonism and aversion to Bessie. It is a rather cruel irony that this woman, Bessie Krause, now seen as a sort of benefactor, had accused Jane Duchene a year previously of neglecting and maltreating her mother when she was dying. Bessie disseminated this nasty canard and it led to some ostracism of Jane Duchene. These women did not like each other and the normal Jane Duchene would not have overlooked her destitution of the malicious sister-in-law and meekly surrendered control of her and her daughter's money and home to this couple.

So it is apparent I believe that the picture of Roger as caring about her and working in her interests, was planted in the soil of delusions and impaired intelligence.

Gross impairment of intellectual functions like comprehension, memory and judgment had to be present to render her so defective in reality testing that she would allow herself to be blatantly exploited by these predatory people and helped to swallow the scenario imposed on her. Her unquestioning acceptance of directions proved she was vulnerable to an exploitative

plot to take control and possession of all her and her daughter's money and their house.

Roger's "working" began the next day, i.e., working for himself. It was not in Jane Duchene's interest that he make immediate efforts to get his hands on her money with undignified, obscene haste. His eagerness to take his niece's money from her would have alerted a normal, decent person to the reality of his conduct being selfish and criminal.

This contemptible scheme, a real exploitation of a vulnerable adult, succeeded as far as it did succeed only because this patient developed persecutory delusions focussed in the person closest to her, her daughter. Delusions of total loss of funds, of having no money, no place to live, enabled the damaged mind to accept the cruel indoctrination that Mary Jane was stealing all her resources, leaving her with nothing. She accepted Batzel's accusations and his dictatorial way of dealing with her only because her mind had lost its foothold in reality. As a healthy woman Mrs. Duchene would have seen the absurdity and dishonesty of the attempts to degrade and dehumanize her daughter and to take control of their money.

It is not possible to establish with certainty the genetics and dynamics of her symptom formation. Even in the most profound "microscopic" examination of psycho-pathology, i.e. in a lengthy classical psychoanalysis, a high degree of probability is attainable at best, not absolute certainty. What follows is speculative but may be a valid partial understanding.

There were delusions Mary Jane was there with her, it

seemed, for unexplained reasons of her own. The patient saw her daughter as, or was alleged to have complained that Mary Jane was, a sort of tyrant, insisting that Jane do what she demanded. Mary Jane was keeping her prisoner and controlling her life and people's access to her. The delusion that Mary Jane, in considering investing some of their money in Europe, was, in doing so, stealing, became related to delusions that Jane had no money, and no place to live. I think the delusional ideas stem from the reality that the patient was in an advanced stage of metastatic dissemination of a primary lung cancer. There had been blood stream spread of the cancer to other organs including her brain, weight loss, weakness, fatigability, and other signs of terminal illness affected her. How clear her realization was that she was dying is uncertain. At times she appeared to be unaware she was dying, at others she appeared to know she was terminally ill. By March 20 she retained the capacity to conceive, intellectually, of dying as something that happened. There seemed to be little emotional accompaniment to the brief reference she made to having wanted to die. Thoughts about death did not seem to preoccupy her and in March she spoke as if dying was a distant possibility instead of an imminent certainty. (Parenthetically I should state that Mrs. Duchene could not have thoughts of her actual death, no one can because live people have not experienced their death. What we do experience are our fantasies about our death and dying. Mrs. Duchene is said to have had a dread of dying. She had lost an infant son who died and she had been very distressed by her uncle Otto's and father's deaths.)

Mary Jane came home because her mother was dying and needed



her care. Mary Jane being there was a constant reminder of approaching death. Much of their activity had to do with Jane's terminal illness and increasing disability. Mary Jane's presence there represented sickness and death.

The association with death may have been instigated feelings of fear and dread focused on Mary Jane the tyrannical and inexorable nature of her cancer and inevitability of death, displaced onto her images of her daughter, could give rise to some of the delusional imagery Jane developed in relation to her daughter.

The young woman, healthy, intelligent, energetic, capable, very much so was in vivid contrast to the stooped, weakening, fatigued woman who was losing her intellectual and emotional capacities parallel with losing her physical health. Mrs. Duchene was aware of her increasing helplessness, ineffectuality and impairment of thinking, memory, attention-span. The contrast, growing more extreme, may have caused the mother pain and irrational resentment or other forms of hostility directed to her internalized images of the daughter to the extent the contrasts between them caused her pain. Death and her daughter becoming linked, led to irrational fear of Mary Jane. The recognition that she was losing her mental and physical self as disease advanced would have been dreadful. As the mind fails such insight may assume symptomatic forms. The delusions of poverty and homelessness suggest the patient's indirect awareness that she was losing everything, her body and her life. Mary Jane being there, her activities and communications being so much involved with aspects of sickness and death, brain damage present and

increasing could augment the blending of daughter and death. Losing abilities both mental and physical becomes more confused with losing possessions or money, or having them stolen. Death steals everything, equals Mary Jane is a thief.

Delusions formation especially in a brain damaged person grows from such processes. Mrs. Duchene was aware early in her illness of failing abilities. She became disoriented in St. Paul, no recognizing streets she'd known well. She marvelled that her daughter could remember them. As memory failed and abilities waned she showed two defensive processes. For a time she became uncharacteristically bossy, telling people how they should do quite simple and trivial things. This appeared to be an overcompensation for her losses, an inappropriate demonstration of authority and pseudo-competence. She would cover loss of memory with confabulations at times, being embarrassed by the loss of her powers. Sensitivity to others slipped away however and a loss of interest in others was evident. Before deterioration Mrs. Duchene was a quiet, retiring, sensitive, pleasant woman, reserved and reticent yet able to enjoy herself and be pleasant company. Mary Jane enjoyed the vacations with her mother and they had good times together. Jane had friends and was liked. She was not liked by her sister-in-law. Bessie Krause angered Jane who resented Bessie's assertion of superiority and her malice. She thought Mrs. Krause had a great ability to upset and anger people in family functions, on the telephone, whenever they were together. The mutual dislike is alleged to have led to Bessie being insistent that her husband keep contacts with his sister at a minimum--rare phone calls, rare visits, rare