

18 September 1972

Mr Fred Newcomb  
4640 Noble Avenue  
Sherman Oaks 91403

Dear Fred,

Shortly after our telephone conversation early in August, I had a relapse and had to return to the hospital, where I remained for four weeks. I was discharged on the 9th of September. I had been experiencing a severe involuntional depression, which is now inhibited by chemotherapy. I have lost a whole summer, in effect, and have a three-month backlog of work, to say nothing of a somewhat impaired memory of events and experiences.

You may remember that I was reading your manuscript after my July hospitalization and before the August/September hospital stay. My recollection of the contents is now only vague. Nor is it possible for me to re-read the manuscript, partly because of time factor and partly because "the case" with all its frustrations, fratricide, and complexity seems to be a strong element in producing my recurrent depression.

I am returning your manuscript under separate cover, with my sincere apologies for letting you down. I cannot give you any detailed commentary but I can say, as I believe I said during our telephone conversation, that if one accepts your basic premise, the ms. is effectively argued, beautifully written, and well documented. However, as I also mentioned on the phone, I do not find it possible to accept your underlying premise.

I have a thick bunch of unanswered letters of recrimination in the wake of Cyril Wecht's examination of the autopsy photos and X-rays. That took place during my second hospitalization, while I was just too sick to be interested in his findings or in the bitter reaction of most critics. I guess these letters will remain unanswered--not because I intend any discourtesy but because I seem to have exhausted my reserves of energy where the assassination is concerned.

With warmest good wishes,

Yours very sincerely,

Sylvia Meagher  
302 West 12 Street  
New York 10014