

26 December 1967

Mr. Tom Bethell  
238 Royal Street  
New Orleans

Dear Tom,

First, I must apologize for failing to return your call last week. Just afterwards, I was summoned back to Miami Beach, from where I returned only yesterday, but to which I may be summoned back again at almost any time. I am, of course, under a considerable burden of anxiety and responsibility, where my father is concerned—I am the only member of our family who is left to whom he can turn, little help though I can give. Also, being a compulsive worker, I am distressed by the pile-up of work resulting from my two absences, and the failure to meet various commitments. One such failure is the rapid review and return I had intended of the A-G's correspondence file, which I found very interesting, taken as a whole, although without any bombshells on specific items of evidence.

I would have liked to xerox the whole file, with a view to someday writing an article analyzing the aborted Texas Court of Inquiry and the other insights provided by the correspondence. However, I do not have access to our xerox machine for anything so elaborate. I have therefore typed excerpts from some of the letters and documents in the file, hoping eventually to utilize them, as you authorized me to do, for the public knowledge. I have also slip-sheeted (as I did previously) some remarks on specific pages of the file. I would mail the file, and this letter, to New Orleans tomorrow, but for the fact that Ed Epstein called today and reminded me that you expected to be in New York about this time. I will therefore hold up the mailing for a few days, after which—if I have not heard from you here—I will send them on to New Orleans.

The newscasts tonight are full of Garrison. I will withhold comment on his latest pronouncements until I have read a full account of his actual remarks. However, I would be less than honest if I did not mention my impression that his <sup>more</sup> announcements over the last weeks or months have been progressively ludicrous, irresponsible, unscrupulous, and disgusting.

Since you appear to be the only sane person in the DA's office, as well as my valued friend and colleague, I do wish you a very happy and successful new year. With warm regards,

Sincerely,

Sylvia Meagher