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Dear Sylvia,

Thanks for your letter of Sept. 19---sorry to take so long responding. Since that time I have heard from Jerry that you do not want any further involvement in the case of any type.

I can understand your position, although I suspect that the case has meant more to you than to me if our relative contributions are any measure. I can nonetheless share some of your frustration with how things have gone, both recently and back a ways.

It is important, however, I think, not to forget that you contributed a great deal and are certainly the only consistent critic of the commission--a phenomenal intellectual as well as emotional achievement given the ~~#####~~ record set by the rest of us, myself included of course. Your book is honestly the only one I can recommend without reservation and also the only one which does not seem to disappoint people. We were lucky for your concern, interest, and hard work. At the very least you helped educate a hell of a lot of people and played a significant role in helping many younger people like myself develop critical thinking. Perhaps people like Jerry and I are more sensitive to this since we sort of grew up during the case. I'm afraid that this is just one more area where valiant individual efforts have fallen short of the intended goal. At this point it seems like public apathy, disinterest in all serious concerns, and tolerance for dishonesty are the greatest enemies of those who would like to make a better world.

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I have found that relationships with people based on the case have died or ended in less pleasant ways (i.e. with Harold). Some, like my friendship with Jerry and with Paul Hoch and Hal Verb, have become based on things other than the case and I expect them to continue.

Perhaps if I make it to New York I'll get a chance to meet you sometime and discuss things other than the case.

By the way, my month in Europe did me a world of good. It's the first real vacation I've taken, perhaps in my life. If you can manage the time I strongly recommend it. I think that Jerry can speak well to that point also.

I hope that your depression has lifted or that you have worked it through. There are certainly a number of possible ~~biologies~~ in your case. From both my own depressions and those of my patients' I have learned that some are simple situational reactions, some are pretty complicated but still explicable based on environmental events, and some seem almost organic or chemical in origin.

Best wishes in the coming months. If you're ever out here (I don't recommend it in winter) please look me up.

  
Gary Schoener