

101 Old Mamaroneck Road
White Plains, N.Y. 10605
2 April 1971

Dear Mrs. Meagher,

Thanks for the information about Accessories. I had a feeling that it was extremely hard to obtain - when I bought my copy in '69, Barnes and Noble told me it was the last one they had. Before finally locating this store, I had tried about seven or eight others. I've told my cousin to check at Macbards in Washington.

Nothing is new on the job-hunting scene. I've been getting a real "run-around" from some of these personnel agencies, and, although a few of them are really competent, the ~~the~~ backs are much more common. One of them told me over the phone to come down to New York in order to arrange an interview with a magazine; after I arrived there, I was told that the job was "backed up" with interviews, and that I would be contacted later. I made a formal complaint to the appropriate city government office, but, considering the real tape I'd have to go through to have them pay me back for the train fare, it's not worth the trouble. All I can say is that if you know anyone else who is looking for work, you would be doing that person a favor by telling him to avoid the Eastmore Personnel Agency.

I heard from Kathleen Connors yesterday. I believe you met her, along with Paul Hoch, some time last year. It was Kathleen who set up my lecture ~~at~~ on the assassination at the University of California. She noted that the world seems to be ~~so~~ "sadder now" than it was then, and I couldn't agree with her more. Every place I go, I am told that my qualifications are "excellent," but that there are just no jobs for a person with my background. I'm thinking of sending a letter to Nixon, enclosing a resume, and asking him, "what is this country coming to when a person with my background can't get anything better than a clerk's job?" But, judging from past experience, I'd probably wind up getting a letter

(over)

from some secretary, saying that "the President thanks you for taking the time to communicate your thoughts." Indeed, Sen. Dominick of Colorado sent me just such a letter when I criticized a stand he took last year. (2)

To return to Paul Hoch for a minute: have there been any further developments insofar as his pro-WR research is concerned? I have not heard a word from him in over a year, nor have I read or heard anything about him since you told me about his switching sides.

This non-correspondence from critics seems to be rather common. Gary still has not contacted me, and I've given up on him. I seem to have been taken off Fensterwald's mailing list, as I have received nothing in months. If I were of the paranoid mentality of the Garrison supporters, I might think that my anti-Garrison paper had been circulated among them by some spy. However, I think there is a much simpler explanation: as you wrote to me last year, many of these people are mean, selfish, vicious, and/or mentally ill. I hesitate to throw Gary and Paul into that category, but, given the events of the past year or so, I can no longer respect them as I once did.

Speaking of that paper - in the next few weeks I may be applying for several jobs in the field of writing. I've decided to stop hiding myself about business management, insurance underwriting, and all the ridiculous jobs I've been investigating simply because they (like Mt. Everest) "are there." If my lack of formal ^{journalistic} training prevents me from getting such a job, then there's nothing much I can do, but at least I'll know I've tried to find something in the area that I really want to work in.

I have brought this topic up for a specific purpose, and I won't beat around the bush. Is it all right if I list your name as a reference for these jobs? You are every bit as familiar with my writing as any of my professors; besides, my withdrawal from Cornell appears to have left me only one

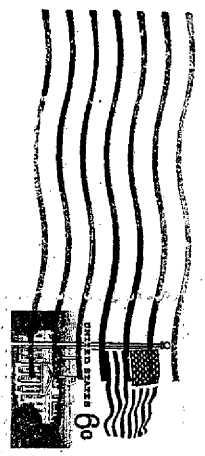
friend on the faculty. It's been more than two weeks since I wrote ⁽²⁾ to the members of my committee, and, despite the extremely respected quality of the letters, I have as of now received only one reply. Not that I care all that much — the only professor whose friendship means anything to me is the one who has responded — but one would think that the others would at least have the courtesy to send some answer, even if it's an angry one. So much for the fabled closeness of student — professor relationships!

To get back to the main point: I doubt that any of these places would do anything more than ask you to fill out a standard ~~form~~ form; I've never heard of a publishing house or magazine doing an FBI security check, complete with interviews with the applicant's acquaintances. If, for some reason, anyone wants to know what groups I belong to, let me state right now that my only formal memberships are in the Democratic Party and the ~~State~~ American Automobile Association (I never joined Fensterwald's "Committee"). If, however, you don't feel that you ~~can~~ know enough about me to write a recommendation, I'll understand. I also don't want to take up your free time — although I don't think any of the requests from these firms will be very time consuming.

~~Thank~~
Thank you very much. I'm going to close here, as it's time to make some calls to those agencies. I hope those difficulties you mentioned in your last letter have cleared up, and that the "camel's back," as you put it, has a lighter load!

Sincerely,
Richard P. Edelman

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Replied by
Hand
4/19/71

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