

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

Dear Mrs. Meagher,

Thank you very much for offering your name as a reference. I certainly realize that any letter you might be asked to write must of necessity be limited in scope, due to the factors you mentioned; however, I have very few acquaintances who are as qualified to write about my writing ability as you are--excepting, of course, former colleagues from Cornell, who are mostly of my own age group and certainly not the kind of people from whom an employer would want a letter of reference. Actually, so far as I'm concerned, this business of references is a ridiculous sham--the most crooked or incompetent applicant can always find a friend who will write a letter for him. If an employer is seriously interested in learning about an applicant's qualifications, he's going to get a very biased and distorted picture if he attaches much weight to such recommendations. But that, I suppose, is the employer's problem, and I'm not going to do his worrying for him.

Kathleen Connors called me last night, and said she will be in New York on the 13th. She said she would like to see you again, and I suspect she will be getting in touch with you either this weekend or on Monday. I'm tempted to ask her if there are any jobs in Montreal (where she's doing research for her PhD thesis)--I'm getting more than a little fed up with the situation here in the New York area. I reached the limit in absurdity a few days ago when I allowed an employment agency to set up an interview for me with the Hershey Candy Company, for a position that involves travelling around the Bronx to take orders from stores, set up displays, etc. This morning I somehow got up the courage to cancel the appointment. The openings in writing are few indeed--I ~~was~~ interviewed for two yesterday and today and got the "we'll call you" line--and it may not be possible to break into that field at this time. But before I'd be a travelling salesman for the Hershey Company, I think I'd check with the Australian Consulate!

Few people notice the irony, but I think it's really quite something that the two leading figures in the current dispute ~~or~~ over J. Edgar Hoover are Hale Boggs and Gerald Ford--two former Warren Commission members. I've always felt that Boggs never believed the WR--his comments on that "Self-Portrait in Red" record put out by the Information Council of the Americas seem to indicate that he believed there was a conspiracy (albeit a leftist one). But past experience with hopes to "crack the case" lead me to doubt very much whether Boggs will even mention the WR during the course of what may turn out to be a bitter struggle with the FBI.

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*I have just driven to New Jersey to see a friend who called as I was  
by typing the above. I hope to hear from you soon.*

Sincerely,  
Richard F. Edelman