

101 Old Mamaroneck Road  
White Plains, N.Y. 10605  
19 June 1971

Dear Mrs. Meagher,

I received your change of address form today, and I'm glad to hear that you'll be able to "get away from it all" this summer--as the past few months have taught me, there is quite a bit to get away from! I have at last been offered a civil service position as a claims representative with Social Security. It involves interviewing claimants and helping them with their particular cases. Needless to say, this is hardly an ideal job, but things are so bad that I am going to take it if nothing better comes through before the starting date of July 26. My only other likely prospect is a slightly more interesting job within Social Security, so I'm pretty much resigned to working for quite some time at something that I don't expect to stay with. But, in these times, I guess beggars can't be choosers.

Now that the worst of the job-hunting rat-race is over (for now, anyway), I've finally begun to do some other things. Earlier this month I read Charles Reich's The Greening of America, and, while I certainly don't think he has any lasting solutions, I do believe that he has an excellent diagnosis of what's wrong. Much of it sounded awfully familiar--education designed to mold people rather than to make them think, jobs with no inherent meaning pursued by unhappy people for financial remuneration alone, unchecked corporate and governmental power destroying our liberty while few notice--it seemed as though Reich was putting down on paper the thoughts I have been having for the last year or more. I think it is almost pitiful that he concludes his book by saying that the best hope lies with a change of consciousness on the part of individuals. Perhaps I misunderstand him, but this process would seem to take centuries, and I am beginning to doubt if the human race will make it to the year 2000. Anyway, I must say that I think Greening is a book not to be missed--strangely enough, I found it far more illuminating and worthwhile than any of the absurdly dull works that I read for my graduate courses in American history and political science. The more I see what the "real world" is like, the more I realize that most of what is taught in the universities is irrelevant. Although your warnings about the "outside" have most definitely proven true, I do not for a moment regret that I left school--I only wish I had left earlier.

I have not heard or read a thing since I last wrote about that man named Brown in Connecticut who claimed to have new evidence about the JFK assassination. According to the report on WNEW News, the FBI is "still investigating" certain aspects of the case--specifically, that old charge about a similarity in appearance between an early suspect in the King case and one of the men arrested and subsequently released on Nov. 22. I am inclined to dismiss this on the face of it; Brown doesn't seem to have anything that Gary Schoener didn't have two years ago.

One other item on this matter: a friend of mine who is travelling around the country called me from Dallas on Thursday. She said she had gone to the Book Depository to take a look around and found that it was closed to visitors. A year or so ago I would have shouted "conspiracy"; but today I would guess that they just want to prevent the place from being overrun by the public.

I'm about out of space so I'll close here. I hope you have a good vacation.

Sincerely,  
Richard P. Edelman