

8 February 1971

Mr Richard P Edelman  
319 Dryden Road  
Ithaca 14850

Dear Mr Edelman,

I am in some difficulty to provide the opinion you asked in your letter of the 3rd. Actually, I have very little knowledge of the academic world or of the profession of journalism. As I wrote you when I read your seminar paper, I thought it was exceedingly well-written and well-organized compared to the usual quality of writing in the field of WR criticism, or in any field, for that matter.

Had your paper been poorly written and poorly organized, it might on its face seemed to disqualify you for a journalistic career; but I am not sure that the converse is true. I know so little about the work of a newspaperman or a reporter of any kind that I can only surmise that skillful expository and/or analytical writing is surely required; but other skills or training may be prerequisite, on which I have no basis for forming any judgment.

I can understand your impatience with graduate school but I can assure you that the "outside world" and even the more desirable jobs (such as my own, in the UN World Health Organization) more often than not present the very same problems of unreality, frustration, and futility. I suspect that the ominous and dreary condition of this country in general finds its reflection in every within-Establishment activity or occupation. On the other hand, my work on the case with those on the left has been disheartening and even embittering at times, not only by reason of the irrationality you touch on in your letter but also because of plain and simple venality and corruptability of some. It has left me feeling ideologically rather homeless and orphaned, as well as thoroughly discouraged about ever getting anywhere for the pains we have all taken over the years to expose the sordid official fraud.

Whatever you decide about your future, I hope you will succeed in finding greater satisfaction than your present circumstances provide. From the little I knew you, I do think that you have a lot on the ball. I only wish that I could give you more competent (and less negative) advice but I think we have entered some kind of Dark Age where there are no easy answers and no happy endings.

All the best, and let me know what you decide to do,

Sincerely,