

319 Dryden Road
Ithaca, New York 14850
19 February 1971

Dear Mrs. Meagher,

Thanks for your letter of the 14th. I was quite certain that no jobs existed for WR researchers, but wanted to make absolutely sure before giving up on the whole thing. I agree that spending too much time on this case can indeed affect one's judgment, and I really feel that talents such as Gary Schoener's could be put to much better use.

I don't recall whether I mentioned this, but, in any case: a friend of mine who is a graduate student at NYU told me that Garrison spoke there last November 23. According to the clipping from the NYU student newspaper that my friend mailed to me, Garrison reiterated his old charge that the CIA was behind the JFK assassination, and (if I remember correctly) strongly hinted that the other assassinations were somehow tied in. About the only thing he did NOT say was that Cley Shaw was involved! (I have read that Shaw is now being tried for perjury. Meanwhile, his \$5 million suit against Garrison and that "Truth and Consequences" organization is, so far as I know, still in progress. It seems incredible that the state of Louisiana has not moved to disbar Garrison — for the Andrews affair as well as his conduct of the Shaw trial.)

I'm still job-hunting, and, although I've had no offers, things are beginning to look somewhat brighter. There's a chance that I may be able to get a position as an assistant to the President of Ithaca College — writing reports, I suppose, and being trained in some kind of administrative work. I'm going for an interview Monday. This does, however, seem to be my last hope in Ithaca — Council has next to nothing, and the local newspaper (although interested) has no openings at present. I don't particularly like the idea of leaving this beautiful area for the noise, pollution, and crime of the cities, but, then, there may not be much choice. I'm going to be interviewed by several government agencies, including the General Service Administration (which controls, among other things, the National Archives!) and, of all things, Internal Revenue. My attitudes toward this system haven't changed much, but, then, Utopia won't be here for quite a while, and I suppose I ought to be sensible and try to take from this system what I can. Martyrdom for matters of conscience may make some sense, but I refuse to crucify myself because of a difference of opinion over economics. I certainly won't be working for the CIA or the FBI (as if I could, even if I wanted to!), and, perhaps by working within the system, I can do my small part to improve it. That's the typical "cop-out" line, but I'm certainly not going to be able to change one thing if I remain in grad school and become a "professional historian." For I was not exaggerating when I wrote to you about the uselessness of ivory tower scholars, and the way they waste their talents and capabilities. Can you imagine a greater waste

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Then a person with an I. Q. of 180 choosing to do extensive research on the "intellectual history" of early 19th century Russia? ~~That~~ It makes me sick to think what could be accomplished if these individuals would only realize what they are doing, and decide instead to work in something like pollution control, public health, or population control programs. (2)

I suppose everything I write these days must sound like a tirade against certain individuals, but, then, I can't help but be a little disillusioned by the utter worthlessness of my work in graduate school, and ^{by} the failure of almost everyone I know to recognize the importance of the one worthwhile thing I have looked into (the JFK case). In and of itself, the investigation may not be very meaningful, but it leads us to the most crucial question of these times: quite simply, what the heck has happened to this country?! How (and why?) could the government lie so blatantly?

To ^{these} ~~the~~ questions, as to so many others, there are certainly no "easy answers."

I'll keep in touch and let you know what develops. I may wind up going to New York for a while next month, but will continue to keep this address for at least another two months.

Sincerely,

Richard F. Edelman