

Mr. John Barbour
4254 Forman Ave.,
Poluca Lake, CA 91602

7/20/91

Dear John,

The expected visit of the Wrones on their way back to Wisconsin is close enough not to give me time for any work so I was sitting and thinking and my mind went back to your yesterday's call. Of course the kind things you said made me feel good. We all appreciate appreciation. But ~~on~~ ⁱⁿ one respect your call was different: it was the second like it yesterday and both of you are professionals. The other one was from a ~~stranger~~ ⁺ in England. He is coming in two months.

You have no way of knowing the kind of life we've led because of what I've done. I include my wife for several reasons. Without her what I've done would have been impossible and the sacrifices she made are greater. Through it all what made us both feel good was the outpouring of letters and calls from strangers expressing their thanks.

Some years ago we had the need to estimate the number of such letters we've gotten, probably in a FOIA lawsuit. It then was about 15,000. Now it must be at least 20,000. It was never easy for people to get our address and six months after we left Hyattsown (almost 24 years ago) the post office automatically stopped forwarding, so there may have been many more.

Now I regret that ~~+~~ never gave any thought to segregating some of these letters. They are filed by the letters of the alphabet. Moreover, only a very small percentage of them were from professional people or those who so identified themselves.

Initially I thought only that these unsolicited expressions could have sociological interest in the future because most express personal ^{and feelings} beliefs about the assassination and its consequences and the government. That was after I began filing them as I did.

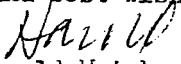
I never gave any thought to the possible interest of those who in the future will be going over the archive I leave in knowing what people thought of it contemporaneously. I did think of this a few minutes ago and ~~thus~~ ^{my} I write.

If you would not mind, I'd appreciate it if when you have time you would write not to me but to Dr. Gerald McKnight, history department, Hood College, Frederick, Md. 21701 whatever you'd like of what you said to me. He will be in¹charge of the archive there. You also may want to remember this for the future. (It will be in the library. The librarian is Charles Kuhn, a fine fellow.)

and now I'll ~~strat~~ ^{my} an appropriate file.

When I asked you where you expect to go with your proposed documentary my purpose was so that I could think about it. I made no suggestions because I believe I should not. However, if the time ^{my} comes when you might be interested in some, perhaps I can be of help.

Thanks and best wishes,


Harold Weisberg