

2 January 1977

Dear Harold,

I hope that you had an enjoyable Christmas and New Years. As you requested in your last letter, I am enclosing copies of all the clippings that I've seen relating to the new House committee on assassinations. I have the feeling that we both depend on more or less the same news sources- but just in case you might miss anything, I'll continue to send you copies of everything that I save for myself.

As I may have told you in my last letter, my dissertation has been informally approved as proposed. Some time in January I'm supposed to meet with my three major advisors and talk ab-out it further. Its a bit frustrating waiting for them to get together-but then I guess all PhD students either go through something equivalent or have their advisors steal their work. Since I don't have to worry about the latter, I guess I shouldn't complain too much.

By the time I rendezvous with The Three Fates, I hope to have some sort of theoretical, introductory essay-chapter done to allay any lingering fears of non-academic, journalistic approach to the JFK assassination. One of the books I've been rereading lately is Graham Allison's study of the Cuban Missile crisis, which examines the event from three differing perspectives. One of these perspectives is organizational. Allison shows that in a crisis situation, an organization's response is often determined by predetermined patterns and internal organizational perceptions rather than in response to the specific situation itself. That would seem to describe the actions of the FBI and its relationship with the Warren

Commission.

I'm glad your weekend conference at Wisconsin went well. I had mentioned to several people at BC that you were available as lecturer+speaker-hoping maybe to drum up some enthusiasm over my dissertation as well as business for you. But the man who controls the department purse strings was too busy trying to balance the department's budget to give the matter serious consideration. I was told to mention the matter again at a later date.

I had hoped to be able to be in the Washington area during my Christmas vacation and look over some of the materials which you had mentioned to me. But my Mother's sickness dampened that-her physical recovery is complicated now with mental problems and no one knows how things are going to work out.

I'll send you a copy of the theoretical chapter, which hopefully will be completed soon-any criticism or ideas will be muchly appreciated.

sincerely,

Nancy

1/6/76

Dear Nancy,

It may be cold comfort but was not a mental or emotional reaction by your mother expectable? I'm sorry about it but I have learned that there are some problems some people, even the toughest, cannot cope with any other way. I do hope for both of you that it clears up.

Your mother may not be as old as I (64 in April) and my mother beginning several years ago developed the most serious medical problems. She had cataracts and a heart condition before them, has been using a walker for two years, but still makes out. Aside from whatever there may be in heritage I think she was more or less prepared by a life that was not an easy one.

In the clippings, for which I do thank you, there was but a single duplication. There was a NYTimes story I had but it is a different story from a different edition. I have skimmed them and they appear to hold valuable information. I lay such things aside to read when I rest and what I'm now starting, while I use the exercycle. I must exercise my legs and I've been doing it to the (ugh) TV news. I find I can also read while pumping away. So unless it gets to be a problem for you clips from there, which involve publications I do not see and the regional wire of the news services that are not identical with those of this area (generally also not used by the WxPost, the paper I get besides the local) are helpful.

I hope you have not misunderstood when I suggested that your thesis could make an important book. I was not suggesting a journalistic approach, which is really what ~~Epstein~~ Epstein took. Aside from more official documents than you'll want to read that I have now and more that I am getting there is a large literature I suppose the profs go for. The more the transcripts of the executive sessions are considered with the Commission's other files, its report and records of other agencies the more important the work. You will find that I have not exaggerated the potential or the significance. Now on other files, I have I suppose about a file cabinet now the the CIA and I am going after more, much more.

One of the works I had to lay aside deals with the crisis I call Cuba rather than urban. I have not seen Graham Allison's. If you see a remaindered or paperback copy please get it for me and let me know the cost. I will return to this when I can. His premise that you cite is generally correct. In this case I think not because one of the parties saw to it. No time for more. I also do not think it accounts for the actions of the FBI or any other agency. You'll decide this kind of thing for yourself.

There is no time for full explanations. As of now I regard the new committee as a bummer. If you have not spotted the built-in conclusions before any investigation I'm ashamed of you. I have tried to apply some pressure, directly and indirectly, but I cannot say whether either will make any difference. I know one with whom I tangled has left. And the stories about Ray having offered to walk in and tell all are false. They are a deliberate misreading of his queer sense of humor.

hope things go well for you.

Sincerely,