

Dear Ethel,

4/6/68

When Steinberg's Information Establishment came yesterday I intended to write and thank you for it this ~~week~~ morning. Then I read the cover material and the table of contents and preface after supper and then thought about it further this morning. My day starts early, general about 4, partly from habit and partly because those early hours are the most productive and least intruded upon.

Each Tuesday I have a blood test. After the blood is drawn I have to sit and wait ~~is~~ to be certain that the bleeding has stopped. I live on a high level of anti-coagulant. It is carefully monitored by these tests because I can hemorrhage from it. I get to the lab early to be the first. So before and after I have time to read. Today it will be Steinberg.

His emphasis on the government information establishment, within my experience its disinformation establishment, excites me because I am not aware of any other treatment of this significant area of our present national life.

An aspect of this is one of the things I had in mind when you phoned. I cannot exaggerate the importance I see in this, from my own experiences and the records I have obtained and studied.

With regard to the FBI I have a fairly large collection of copies of its own records, obtained under FOIA, separated into subject files. Together with other records I have filed by other subjects there is, I believe, enough for a doctoral thesis of great significance. I believe such a thesis, well done, could be an important book and a significant contribution to understanding.

It is undiluted Orwell.

It is also political science as well as media material, suitable for your school as well as your journalism school. I am not ~~un~~aware of any political science treatment of this subject, but here, too, I believe exaggeration of the importance is impossible.

If I did not indicate it when we spoke, I believe that the scholarly and literary treasures in my perhaps ~~XXX~~ quarter million pages of once secret government pages are considerable.

You and your people can get an independent opinion from two scholars, Dr. David Wrons, History Dept, Univ. Wisc. Stevens Point and Dr. Gerald McKnight, Hood College, here in Frederick. Wrons will be in charge of the archive of my records, deposit begun, and he has knowledge of the litigation and administrative means by which I've obtained them, include the unique approach I have taken with affidavits. I've given McKnight about two file drawers of Memphis materials related to the King assassination but also separate from it. He is doing a paper and intends to expand it into a book.

I have a duplicate of the records Helmsight has and they are available for study but not for public use, because I want to reserve first use for him. He is a mature person, a fine scholar and he can do with it what no student can.

There is a limit to how much of this material I can use if I live to be a hundred. (I'm 67 today.) But I do want it used because important national interests can be served by its use.

Do you may have a better idea of why I'd like to get out there and be able to spend some time with some of your faculty, yours and the journalism school's. (Do you know that your journalism school was a major factor in the enactment of the Freedom of Information law? I had something to do with its 1974 amending.)

Please excuse the haste. It is about time for going to the lab.

The reason I had trouble getting you last name had nothing to do with the name. My hearing cuts off sharply at less than 1000 cycles. This means that with a woman's voice more than a man's I do not always comprehend what I can hear.

Steinberg's credentials are impressive but it will surprise me if he has a real grasp on the manipulative and control functions of the spook and law-enforcement elements of government.

Many thanks for the book, best wishes and

please excuse the typos

Harold Weisberg