

dear theresa garnett,

12/9/76

your gut feeling is wrong. my ego is not offended. but your perception is not wrong although it is not boredom.

how about beginning with you walking in my moccasins?

today i have five letters to answer. there is not one thing i can really tell any of these people. one well-intended man asks me about 20 questions. i have three letters from one man yesterday and the day before. he is serious, concerned and i do not want to offend him although there is nothing i can tell him that i have not told him many times. if i answer all these letters and questions for that time i am immobilized in work i believe it is no exaggeration to say others are not doing and cannot do. if i do not i am some kind of self-important person, etc.

how much can people fairly expect of me? how can i justify the time all this requires? earlier this morning there was a warm call from an ill lady 63 years old, my age. i did appreciate it, but not the half-hour it took. would you at 63 want to get up at 4:30 to spend your time this way when you had to lay a book aside 8 months ago for litigation, when you have obtained thousands of once-secret records and have no time to read them?

the appreciation of people means much to me. if there is an external reward it is my only one. without it my course would be no different. i do what i do because i must.

i do not welcome that about which i can do nothing, what interferes with it.

when i need help and it can be provided it is rare. a tendon problem in my right arm of several weeks duration coincides with college free time. i have a number of friends in nearby colleges. not one has come to be of any kind of help. of course young people should do their thing and should enjoy life. by and large these are fine people. i do love them. i do spend what time i can trying to be of use to them, as often i can be.

the young men know of what i must do that is now beyond my medical limitations since the thrombophlebitis of 10/75. they had promised to come and clean up several trees uprooted in windstorms. there were times when they could have, there was the entire summer. so i have this tendon problem because after more than a year of physical activity limited to walking i had to go and trim those damned trees out and carry what i can burn to my home. do you suppose that one of these young stakwarts has wondered what will happen to us out here in the country, on the side of a mountain, if the current goes? i have a chain saw and a woods in need of thinning. i am not supposed to run the risk of any injury so i may not do some of these things and they know it, as they know i have taken time for all of them. can i avoid having these things in mind when there are all these demands on me? am i selfish to believe it should be two ways, that those who might be able to help me, particularly in the work in which they are interested, might find a way and that those who ask other things of me ask themselves if i can really supply what they ask and if they really want me to spend my time at other than the work in which they say they are interested?

some were wonderful when i was hospitalized and for a short time thereafter, particularly when i needed transportation. but when it was apparent that i could not use the bottom drawers of file cabinets i had to shift all the files myself. i asked some to come and make room in the cellar for cabinets for dead storage when it became apparent that there was no alternative. i have to do it each time i have to put a new file cabinet there so i can work in my small office.

people like you are willing but except for an occasional clipping cannot be of help. i still work not less than an 18-hour day. but each thing i do means there is something else i cannot do and in the time i have will not be able to do. this reduces it to a simple question, how should i spend my time? do you want me to keep researching and writing, to keep suing and rescuing more records from suppression or would you rather have me writing letters? the meaningfulness i do ask you to consider?

i read your letter while i was soaking the arm. i will read the enclosures when i am forced to sit and rest. thanks for them. i believe there is little we can now expect from the political people and i believe what you are doing with them is the right and the necessary thing. keep it up- and as you can try to get others to do it. i am without faith in or hope from the new committee based largely on personal experiences.

downing and gonzalez are nuts and irresponsibles on this subject, sorahue has been stradfastly unethical and wring headed and they are all underv the influence of the nuts and self-seekers. nororiously lane and with a remarkable incapacity for learning.

this leads to what you said about ripoffs. i gladly give my work away when i can. i want it used. i do not want it misused. i can think of no exception to the rule that when it is stolen it is misysed.

beginning arpil 75, when i gave away ~~ix~~ what i had gotten of the specto and the NAAs on the jfk evidence and the executive ssession of 1/22/64. A year ago i held a pressa conference merely yo give away what i had obtained from th fbi on the King assassination. therek have been others.

what i do not like is what is one of the things wrong with this new committee. lane steals my work, embalishes on it in factual error and becimes their expert. this misleads them even more. and they di not know, are decendant upon others.

sure i do not like it. but the reasin is not ego, it is misuse, counteroroductivity.

there are probably other questions you raised. i hope you understand my not addressing them is not personal or unwillingness but that i do want to use the time for what i think can be more productive, more useful.

sincerely,



RFD #1  
Ellsworth, Me. 04605  
Dec. 3, 1976

Dear Mr. Weisberg,

If you recall, I said I would send clippings concerning the JFK assassination as they appeared in the papers. Enclosed please find 9 pages of copied clippings from the local papers. I am also enclosing a copy of a recent letter to the House Select Committee on Assassinations, and a pamphlet I had made up for the talk with the League of Women Voters in July of this year.

I have written to Cohen and Muskie enclosing copies of that letter. When Senator Muskie was here for a bean supper last summer I brought up a question (in the question and answer session) about why the gov't. had done nothing to find the truth since it was common knowledge that the Warren Commission had collapsed as far as its conclusions went. He mentioned the Senate Committee and pretty much said he believed in the Warren Report although there were questions. After that supper, I gave him a reading list and stressed the importance of the issue. He said he'd try to get to at least one book. I later wrote to him and asked if he had done any reading of the material. He responded to the letter, but not to that particular question. So, not to be brushed off, I stopped in to his office in Bangor and told the secretary that I wanted an answer to my inquiry. She said she was sure he knew of all the evidence (last June or July he said he was not too familiar with it) and she would forward my question to him. Lo and behold, a few days later, his assistant or secretary called from Washington and spent almost  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour on the phone with me - and it's after the election! She said he was in favor of an investigation (big step forward, if true), and she seemed to know something of the case. She said the POST carried stories every day or so on the progress of the HSC on A and that there seemed to be much interest in D.C. I asked if the House would utilize the critics' research and information they had amassed and she was sure they would. Naturally, I told her about the work you had done and how close you were to D.C. Has anybody asked you for any help on this? If you say they haven't, I will find it impossible to believe that they are in any way serious about finding out anything. From the few items I have seen, they are chasing red herrings (conveniently left by the CIA???) about WHY Oswald did it and who he worked for rather than reviewing the primary evidence to see IF Oswald did it. Have you offered help on these matters? How do you feel about this investigation? Does it have a chance of finding out some of the truth? Will they call witnesses "overlooked" by the WC?

Called Drs. Carrico and Perry and got contradicting stories from them. I wonder if they can remember what ACTUALLY happened as opposed to what was supposed to have happened. They kept referring to the autopsy report instead of to what they saw. Would love to know what those 30 SS interviews were about!

I have written to Hathaway, Cohen, and Muskie. I asked for an appointment to see Cohen last July and when I stopped in at his office, I was told I might be able to see him in late Jan. or Feb. - possibly. I did have quite a lengthy chat with his representative. He deals with priorities and this issue doesn't seem to be one. However, he was somewhat receptive.



Mr. Weisberg, what I am about to say may be misinterpreted. I sincerely hope that you will take it as intended, in a spirit of friendliness. If I am wrong about my "gut feeling", I apologize beforehand. I know you are an extremely busy man and you have done a tremendous amount of research and work on this subject. Fortunately and unfortunately the people who are willing to do this kind of work usually have large egos. When I talked with you on the phone, I got the distinct impression that you were bored by my questions and by what I was trying to do. I am unable to do what you are doing though I applaud it greatly and support it by buying your books and by urging others to do so in order that they may learn the facts. I am not in a position to do more than I am, and, indeed, not many others would have done as much as I in similar circumstances. I could have been offended and turned off, but when a person knows so much about a particular subject, I can readily understand that he can become bored by the same questions that he hears day after day and can show that boredom. Only trouble is that the other person has indicated a desire to learn and has to start somewhere. Your research has been invaluable and even though it probably is boring to you because you've gone so far beyond the ordinary person in this issue, your help is necessary. Others have taken from you without giving credit, but what is the purpose of your work? Knowledge has increased in various ways. You complained somewhat bitterly about some others' work. Maybe some are charlatans - I don't know. I do know that there are some genuinely interested in the answers who may work to the same ends you say you believe in, but by using different means. You may not think they are important, but every piece of information gleaned makes the puzzle a little clearer. I hope that you will have patience with those who don't know what you do, but who at least want to know more. And also with those who try in their own ways to find out more of the truth.

Have been waiting to see the Committee subpoena Marina, or ask for the CIA files, or the "vaulted" information. Don't know how far they can go without all the stuff that the WC never saw. This is the first investigation into this, and I guess I'm hoping too much maybe. Maybe they are just a heck of a lot slower than I would be in getting to the meat. In any case, I hope that you will be of service to them - If the mountain won't come to Mohammed, then I trust Mohammed will go to the mountain. There's too much at stake not to.

Have seen nothing on the MLK case or Ray.

If you have any books come out on the JFK material, please send it and I'll pay you or at least let me know it's there and I'll pay you first. Have Whitewash I, II, III, IV, and Post Mortem already. All encouragement to you to keep up the great work you've been doing. Perhaps in just a short while we'll see the results of all that effort - if the HSCoA does its job properly.

Sincerely,  
Theresa Bennett