

Dear Gerry,

10/1/90

I'm glad you found the analyses and comments on the Saddamable mess and the clippings informative. Most were addressed to those with particular interests in that part of the world and I also believe it would be informative to show how easy an accurate intelligence forecast would have been. If there had been any administration interest in preventing what came to pass and was so predictable. There may be more on this but I agree with what you say, nothing will come to pass. The Congress is too cowardly and the "emocrats too concerned about losing votes.

You refer to your associate and Melanson's King book. Please let me know if Dave does not send a copy of what I wrote as I read it and if I can't nudge him into doing I will.

I'm surprised that two weeks after you gave some black students copies of some of the records I got under FOIA you've had no comment or expression of interest. Perhaps their organization takes a position on such things and they wait the formulation of its official line.

You can't use anything in Melanson's book in the course because none of it is factual or really scholarly and because the little that is not incorrect or made up is available in the original source. Where it isn't contorted.

My file on the White fabrications is now too large for easy use but if you are asked to comment on it I can send some clippings and I expect that one coming article may be enough. The Texas Observer is working on one.

Glad all of you are well, as we also are. Pretty good that in the third grade Claire has developed an interest in science!

There now is, I'm sure, an abundance of appropriate literature and there are so many simple experiments that also are safe that she can enjoy and from which she can learn.

Please tell her and Nicholas that we do hope all of you can come up again soon so that we can spend more time with them.

Our best to you all,

Ha wlp

Dear Harold,

Sept. 28, 1990

Thanks so much for your recent letters. I was moved by the letter from the University of Wisconsin professor about his Marine son. As much as I would grudgingly admit the necessity of putting a stop to Saddam Hussein, I could sympathize with the critical comments he made in that letter, particularly his observation that Bush has never shown much commitment to anything other than his political advancement. And the Hoagland article "...And the Tale of a Transcript", you sent in your most recent letter was very depressing. Aside from the articles you have sent, along with some of your analysis, I have heard virtually nothing of this intelligence failure. If true, it certainly makes a mockery of the high and mighty stance we have taken in this crisis. And no matter how this crisis is resolved I have a feeling that this intelligence failure will be ignored, just as some of our most egregious errors in Vietnam seemed to have been forgotten.

On another subject, I read with interest your recollections of your efforts on behalf of Ray to get him a hearing. Regarding the Memphis files, I continue to work at them slowly. My teaching responsibilities take up the bulk of my time now, but I am still hoping to have gotten through all of them before January when I will begin teaching that special course. Another thing that has slowed me up is reading Taylor Branch's Parting the Waters which is beautifully written and very insightful. I am just in awe of the courage of many of those black civil rights workers. A couple of weeks ago I wrote to the black student association at Wofford and sent them a sample of some of the documents students will be studying. The president is a student I have had in a couple of my courses. I haven't heard anything back from them, but I hope my effort has stirred some interest. I have had a few meetings with my history colleague and I believe he is beginning to see the problems with Melanson and what should be the proper focus of this course. Unfortunately, it seems to me he just does not read very much or read very carefully.

Thanks also for keeping me informed on the Ricky White fraud. A former student of mine who is now in the graduate program at the University of Texas in anthropology has sent me some of the articles from the local papers. With the 28th anniversary of the assassination approaching it is possible I may be called on to say something about this.

Hanh-Trang and the kids are well. Claire is a lot busier this year in third grade. She has developed more of an interest in science. Hanh-Trang will be changing jobs soon. She is taking a full-time position with a dialysis clinic in town.

I hope you are well and please give our regards to Lillian.

Yours,

