

5/2/93

Dear Dean Hetrick,

Helen Wilson, who is graduating, has been helping me parttime for two years.

She does not know any student who might like that work.

Jerry McNight knows of a non-<sup>Frederick</sup>resident student who might be interested. He will speak to her.

If there is one, I would prefer a local student who would be available part of the summer, if you know one.

If there is one, and if she is interested in gardening, my wife can offer additional work. If one had no knowledge of gardening, she could learn much about it from my wife.

I enclose a copy of my today's letter to the Washington Post and a clipping from the local paper because I believe that each subject could lead to excellent papers that could make worthwhile articles or books.

Charles "Mac" Mathias, with whom I was then friendly, began the successful campaign to get the civil-war debt wiped out when he was a Congressman. He was in the Senate when it succeeded.

The story is a bit deceptive. General Early did not "ransom" Frederick. He held it for ransom. I believe that what he threatened is also understated but I'm not certain.

I know of a successful documentary on Harlan County but of no use of those hearings other than in some contemporaneous news accounts. I believe they hold what is without equal in barbarities, all attested to under oath and in public. These murderous coal operators even threatened witness in the Senate Office Building!

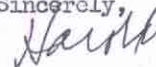
When President Church was here to examine what I am giving Hood, with a number of her assistants, of whom I remember Jerry and Charles Kuhn, at one point she exclaimed, "We must do oral histories with this man!" Only nobody has ever had the time.

On Harlan, and what is not recorded in any way that I know of, this could include the unsuccessful federal prosecution of some 65 corporate and deputized gun-thug defendants in the case of U.S.v Mary Helen et al, for which the Justice Department borrowed me from the Senate. I worked with it in Kentucky for about four months in I think 1938. Mary Helen is the name of the mine referred to first in the indictment.

If anyone were interested I would gladly take the time for an oral history that I believe could be of considerable interest.

At the time I was in Kentucky as an advisor in that prosecution I was 25 years old.

Sincerely,



Harold Weisberg