

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 downed trees 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 specrjo and the NAAs on the jfk evidence and the executive ssession of 1/22/64. A year ago i held a pressx conference merely yo give away what i had obtained from th fbi on the King assassination. therok have been others.

what i do not like is what is one of the things wrong with this new committee. lane steals my work, embellishes on it in factual error and becames 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,