

Mr. Bruce C. McKinney
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9/12/84

Dear Bruce,

Re the name of your building - perhaps all your profs are too young to know what "sparks" referred to in the early days of radio. It was the radio operator, I believe coming from the first communication being activation of an arcing spark gap. I was a ham in those distant days.

I've heard from Wrone and he does not have the ex. session transcripts. If you do not need them before October, I suggest that you let the copying await your visit.

I meant to ask Dr. Gerald McKnight if he knew of accommodations at Hood for visiting male students when we visited him Saturday but with all that was going on at that party I forgot. I can't phone him now because he has six hours today, lasting into the night. I'll try to remember to feel it out. But if there are no formal arrangements, I still believe it would be a good idea for your advisor to write because something might work out if there are no regular arrangements.

Your intent to spend a week in the middle of October is, I think, wise. It will give you an opportunity to go over the entire FBI-Commission liaison file with more care, I think it would be better scholarship, and it should yield what would interest your univ and the lay reader.

Of course your dissertation must be in accord with the norms. All I meant was to avoid the artificialities of the norm to the degree possible and thus have so much less rewriting to do. It really should make a decent book and I think that because it would, to the best of my knowledge, be unique, it should also have a potential market for college and university libraries and courses.

I'm glad that you read and reread the intro to WW I and from it got some good insights and direction for your study. I think it is important to understand that such bodies as the Commission are entitled to and really need exemption from the legal rules of evidence and practices, otherwise you might be unfair and the value of your study would be undermined. If you have any questions, I'll try to address them when you are here. Abuses are not only possible - they are commonplace, but on balance that is a price we pay for making the system work. Or at least putting it in a position to work. I was with a committee that was scrupulous in avoiding abuse of witnesses, even the most despicable characters, and it did not in any way impair the functioning of that Senate committee. And as editor I gave each and every witness an opportunity to review galley proofs of his testimony, in advance of publication. All those I could reach, that is. It may not have been possible for me to include some of the more miserable Harlan County killer types or all the labor spies and strikebreakers, but I did try.

If I may suggest it, give yourself all the time here you can to get most benefit and to reduce the possibility of having to return. Or, leave as soon as your teaching and the week you leave and return in time to resume it.

If you use your word processor for your notes, I hope it will be possible, when you have finished, to make a printout for the use of others here and after the files go to the university and Wrone.

You may also, if I did not mention it, want to budget time for review of my files on the several FARA cases for the withheld transcripts. That, too, is a hell of a Ford story (and others) and he was out first unelected President. Fit for both

scholarship and popular consumption. In this connection, I have his confirmation testimony, which is undiluted perjury, and the proof of it, Re 1/27 transcript. If you want you are free to use the hook comparison, as I published it or in any other way. Stiles, later on his White House staff, also ghosted a LIFE piece for him.

My Russell file is rudimentary but I believe it is clear that he encouraged me to undermine the Commission's conclusions after he learned that the record he thought he was making for history and his own reputation was nonexistent.

There is a simple Hermes Rocket type writer in the basement for your use but you may prefer your own. And we'll make whatever copies you want. And if you need more light on the side where the subject file is, I have a fluorescent fixture I've not been able to plug in because ladders are not prohibited for me. Won't take you five minutes.

Hood also has a decent library, from what he⁴ might have told me, and you might find eating there an economy.

What you say about the movie "Flashpoint" is interesting, and I'd not have picked that up from the TV promotions.

Best wishes,

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

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College of Liberal Arts
Department of Speech Communication

September 6, 1984

Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, MD 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

Thank you for your last letter. I will try to get my advisor to write the fellow at Hood as it would save me a great deal of money. I do have some friends in the metro DC area that I am also thinking of contacting. I think instead of coming down for just a weekend, I will try to come down for a whole week sometime around the middle of October. There is a break in my teaching then, and I think this would be better for continuity.

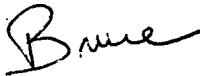
You commented in your letter that I should avoid "scholaresse" in my writing and I intend to do just that. However, my dissertation itself will have to be re-written and adapted somewhat for a mass appeal. First of all it is for a Ph.D. in speech communication and because of this there are certain constraints I have to work under. But I will be writing it on a word processor (my own) so any editing, once completed, will be quite easy. But I will write it with a "non-academic audience" in mind.

I have read your chapter in Whitewash: The Report on the Warren Report entitled "A Word About Investigations" several times, and it has provided some good insights and direction for my study. I will be most interested to go through your files.

I saw a movie last night that was rather amusing. It was called "Flashpoint" and presented an interesting scenario about what really happened on 11/22/63. Some might think it far-fetched, but it was certainly more tenable than what Warren et al. concluded. So much for my abilities as a movie critic!

I will be in touch.

Sincerely,



Bruce C. McKinney

P.S. I wrote Dr. Wrone a few weeks ago about the transcripts but have not heard from him yet. If you speak to him please ask him about them. Thanks.