

26 September 1976

Dear Harold-

Just a short note to let you know that I have not abandoned writing my dissertation on the Executive Sessions of the Warren Commission. Shortly after our last correspondence, my Mother became critically ill with heart trouble. Needless to say, my Mom took precedence over my PhD, and most of my energy and thought during the past few months have centered around her. Fortunately, the story has a happy ending, in that last August I took her (with her having less than <sup>a predicted</sup> two weeks to live) out to Stanford University Medical Center, where she had a successful heart operation. After being assured that she was out of the woods and that her sister could stay with her until she was strong enough to come back east, I returned to Cambridge and started to pick up things again.

Since school is starting this month, I thought now was a good time to get my PhD proposal formally approved. My faculty advisor suggested that I form a preliminary proposal and get it in as fast as possible to the Graduate Committee for approval. He did not have time to tell me exactly what my proposal should contain or how to go about it. So, I am proceeding on my own to whip something up, and submit it as soon as possible. I'm sure I'll have to rewrite it a number of times but I want the Committee to have something in their hands soon. My advisor's disinterest at the moment is due (I think) to a faculty feud over something unrelated to me. But rather than depend on someone whose total interest is not in what I'm doing, I am shopping around for one or possibly even a second co-director for my thesis in addition to my faculty advisor.

I fully expect to have my first preliminary proposal in by the end of the week and will send you a copy of it as well. Any suggestions or criticism of it will be very welcome as I'm still not really sure how I want to handle the subject.

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I really do hope that the time gap between our correspondence has not affected your interest in helping me select a dissertation subject-I'm really quite embarrassed that I didn't get a letter off to you sooner explaining what was going on on my end of the correspondence.

I am looking forward to hearing from you in the future and hope that you have licked your phlebitis.

Sincerely

*Nancy*

Nancy-Stephanie Stone.

JL, HR- I think this young woman is at Harvard. I'd almost forgotten. I've been offering her the material for her doctoral dissertation for a long time. Her silence was because she had to drop out to care for her mother. By and large her letters impress me favorably. That there is a family connection with Chayes does not trouble me.

Miss Nancy-Stephanie Stone  
9 Shepard St.  
Cambridge, Mass. 02138

Rt. 12, Frederick, Md. 21701  
10/9/76

Dear Nancy,

Glad to hear from you and to learn that ~~the~~ your mother's health problem seems to be past.

I had thought you had lost interest in a doctorate on the Warren Commission executive sessions.

Since you wrote last the post office has renumbered the routes. Please try to remember that without moving we are now Rt. 12/ Your letter of the 28th almost did not get here. Took until today. Oh, I see you put that inside another envelope. My wife opened the mail today.

I wish I knew more about what faculties require for doctorate theses. I do believe that what I'm offering is close to if not unprecedented. With what I'm done with these executive session transcripts you can be sure that no coming presidential commission will ever have any. This this provides the first and only opportunity for scholarly exploration from the inside, in the actual words it was ~~never~~ expected would be secret forever except from a favored few inside the bureaucracy. You can tell your faculty people that I have all of them except two and 10 pages of a third. I'm suing for these. It is C.A. 75-1996. The judge has one transcript for in camera inspection. We'll be moving for a summary judgment on it next week. Also for ~~the~~ the partial one. I know pretty much what is in the last from other records I have obtained.

There are two professional historians your faculty Graduate Committee can consult if they doubt your dissertation could become tremendously important in political science. One is Dr. Gerald McNight, at Hood College, here in Frederick. The other is Dr. David Wrono, Univ. Wisconsin, Stevens Point. Wrono is also a recognized bibliographer on the subject. I'll be there the week of 11/8, speaking and conducting seminars. He probably has a better knowledge of the subject than any academician. I go into this because if you have some flexibility in your proposal I can discuss options with him. He understand what is wanted in dissertations. I do not.

Two historians who are about the best on the subject ~~will~~ after having turned to the law are Jim Leser, 1231 4 St., SW, Wash., D.C. 20024, my lawyer in these cases, 202/484-6023; and Howard Roffman, 1111 SW 16 Ave, #156, Gainesville, Fla. 32601. Howard is in his last semester of law school. In March he becomes clerk to a federal appeals court judge. While all four are overly busy they'll take time not only for a friend of mine but because of their interest.

I would encourage you to seek flexibility in your proposal and to understand enough to persuade your Committee how important this can be. I have countless files that can be relevant and I'm getting more all the time. As two examples, these sessions deal with the FBI, the CIA, how they work and the problems both present. Well, aside from those FBI records I have and have read I have several thousand I've not been able to and that much more now being copied for me. I also have a full file cabinet of CIA records, partly censored, and formerly TOP SECRET Warren Commission staff papers, some over a hundred pages long, dealing with them. Do you understand the riches I'm offering access to?

Nobody else has forced any of these sessions out. You can also have access to all the records of the litigation. All the other records relating to my efforts to get them and official resistance. The first of these suits is the first time anyone ever defeated the government when it invoked "national security."

While some of my files are in chaos, more so since the thrombophlebitis, I have pretty much all the raw material I think you'll ~~be~~ need for a really definitive dissertation that I am without doubt can make a successful book. (Check your library to see if this has ever been done before. I've never heard of anything like it.)

Hope your mother continues to improve and that your committee likes your proposal. If your advisor is not keen, try to get him to speak to Wrono.

Sincerely,