

3/27/78

Dear Nancy,

We'd wondered about your long silence. Glad you have recovered. We've been fortunate - no virus, no flu - not even a cold between us. (We rarely have them.)

On the tapes: we liked and kept all but the Menuhin, although we like him in classical music. Our taste is more to old jazz and big-band and combo swing. Neither of us likes pop. Consistent with the old jazz and New Orleans style we both like old folk music. Sorry my collection was lost during World War II. We also liked the classical Goodman. Bechet was a favorite of ours when Dinah Shore was a girl and very good on a radio program, I think NBC. The band then was either Bechet's or Henry "Hot Lips" Levine's. Those albums also disappeared, via my sisters.

On the blank tapes: Dave Wrono was here for some oral histories. He replaced some of the recorded cassettes I'd given the university, but with 90s, all they had on hand. They use and get in wholesale quantities a repairable cassette made by International Audio, Chicago, Ill. Labelled low noise, high output, extended range. This is from their Educational Products Division, 2934 Maimon Drive, Arlington Heights, Ill. 60005. Made in U.S. He has not been able to buy any from the school and I've not been able to do the same locally, where they use a brand I'm not familiar with. These tapes are guaranteed. I bought two dozen Columbia's a couple of weeks ago and came across a bad one, as I also did with a Sony 120 I'd had (new) for a couple of years. But none of my cheap ones have been bad!

I need some 60s now and had best get them locally but if you can see from your local dealers if they can provide a good price on the ~~Audio~~ International Audio, these "heritage" and of "Educator Program," I can use 100 or more, depending on the price. (I'm trying to tape the WAMU jazz programs at 5:30 a.m. and have improved the tapes by learning how to use the deck with no audible volume in the house not to disturb sleeping Lil.)

The PBS jazz bash was aired earlier here. We caught almost all of it and for the first time experimented taping with 8-track and using the pause. Got about 90 minutes but have not listened to it yet. Enjoyed the vitality of Helen Forrest in particular. She has aged in a way that keeps her young. But we enjoyed all of it, even the kinds of music we do not like. The latter, by the way, is going big on the Washington and Baltimore public stations.

I'll make further local inquiries about quantity purchases of cassettes before I ask you to go to any trouble and I'll see if I can find anyone in Washington who uses them and also has the time.

On Epstein, I concur in your observations. I'm most of the way through the book. I'm annotating it as I go because it may figure in an FOIA case or two. If you see any signs of intelligence-agency connection, please let me know. Raikin is one of the many illustrations of intended dishonesty. It can't be accidental. Even with what he uses the omissions stink. Near Raikin is Meller, for example. Factual error or commonplace and always when other than the error interferes with his theorizing. Like when LHO left England. There are words added to direct quotes, too. On almost no occasion if any at all have I found a note that cites a source one can check. Where I am familiar with them the use is not faithful to the source. That bad.

I had planned to dictate long notes on the book and actually began but I have come to the conclusion that it will take more time than I can justify. I am keeping a file on this and will welcome any contribution to it. You also will be welcome to go over it and other relevant files, like Raikin. You can check him on Delgado via Oswald in New Orleans.

I believe it is, for all practical purposes, a "black book," via Readers Digest, which has rendered the same services in the past. ... I filed an FOIA with State for the records not given to W.C. and received a refusal, not a denial of existence, in today's mail. If you can make any suggestions, specifics, without naming names, please do. Best to you both and Congratulations to Liz.

4 March 1978

Dear Harold-

I'm glad that the tapes arrived intact and that we seemed to have chosen the right music to tape. Actually, at one point, I wondered whether I was ever going to get the tapes off to you both as I taped them on my fancy-dancy Advent deck only to find on replaying the last of the ten that something was wrong with the recorder; and occasionally the tapes slipped during the recording process resulting in a warped sound. So, I ended up recording all ten again on an old Sony recorder.

The tapes that I used for your jazz recordings are a medium priced tape - roughly selling for under one dollar a piece. They are assembled in Malaysia rather than Mexico (as are most cheap tapes) and I have never had any problems with them. Possibly their best feature is that the plastic casing is held together by screws - so that should the tape jam, you merely unscrew the casing and unjam the tape rather than throw away the cassette. The first cassettes sold in the States used screws but then when cassettes became popular, they switched to plastic ~~nuts~~ rivets, making it impossible to open the cassette housing. Should you be interested in getting a bunch of blank tapes, I could probably get them for you and mail them. I don't know if I can get them for ^{much} under \$1 a piece as the situation here is just the opposite from that existing in Frederick - the stores sell so many cassettes that they can hardly keep stocked and

don't really need quantity low price sales.

I saw a very favorable review of Epstein's new book in the New York Times Book Review by a correspondent named Kevin Buckley. I've never before heard of him. As soon as I'm able to get it copied, I'll send you a copy of the review. For the past ten days I've been knocked out by some sort of virus and continually sleeping. Consequently, I haven't had a chance to really examine the material on Warren Olney which you sent me.

20 March 1978

Several weeks have passed since I started this letter - I got a relapse of whatever I had been sick with, and have been continually sleeping and coughing. Finally, today I felt well enough to venture out. While I was sick, Liz got me copy of Epstein's new book. I read it through once quickly - almost like reading for plot not substance. I plan to start carefully rereading it tonight. ^{But} I was disturbed by the real lack of footnotes - ^{or disagreed} whether I agreed with what he said in Inquest was not all that important to me but what I found important was the footnotes in that book - so I could go back myself to his sources as much as possible and try and see how he formed his judgments, etc. But in this new book, Legend, I was surprised at the lack of footnotes and source notes. With a PhD from Harvard and Inquest behind him, he should have known the importance

of footnotes + source notes. Actually, its not that there arent notes but there arent notes that really say anything. It seems that what are passed off as notes are paragraphs cut from the manuscript text by his editors.

Also, it seemed peculiar to me that while Epstein went into great detail about some people, he dismissed Spas T. Raikin in a few sentences. Unless I'm mistaken, didnt he go on to bigger + better things than greeting boats + was appointed by Gerald Ford to some sort of CIA or general intelligence 3 man control board.

Did you see the 3 hour big band special on public television last Saturday nite? I was going to call you to tell you to watch it but Liz said it probably was on at a different time in Maryland. I tried to tape it but had to use an open mike and the dog was fascinated with the mike. Played back, a dog smelling a mike sounds like artillery fire.

Tell Lil that the cutting she gave me survived the plane ride back to Boston, rooted and is doing well.

Do write and tell me if the other tapes besides the Bechet one were okay and send suggestions of things you might like taped.

Oh, Liz just got accepted into MIT ~~to~~ today in the PhD program with what initially seemed like a lucrative fellowship. On closer inspection, however, it seems her \$6500 will just cover tuition and a cup of coffee. Hope you are feeling better. Sincerely, Nancy