

11/10/93

Dear both Daves,

You both misunderstood me. I said I'd not take the time to write an autob. but I did agree to taped interviews,

I think Dave K. is optimistic in believing the taping will require only two sessions each of 2-3 hours.

Early pictures do not recall. 'til may have some.

Either or both of two sisters may also.

As I've suggested in the past to Dave W, the reason I've included some of this in the book I laid aside can be another value: to teach the young that all of life is a learning experience and that the learning experiences when I was younger are what helped prepare me for the work I've done.

Best to both,

David

Dave - see over to second related page

868 Chelsea Lane
Westerville, Ohio 43081-2716
November 6, 1993

Mr. Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, Maryland 21702

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

After talking with you on the telephone yesterday, due to my 8-year-old's error in identification on someone calling me earlier, I called Dr. Wrone in Wisconsin and discussed with him the possibility of convincing you to allow, or cooperate with, a biography of yourself. He was in enthusiastic agreement.

Let me suggest to you why I think you may find this idea agreeable:

1. Since someone other than yourself would be writing it, it would not detract from your own writing. Dr. Wrone, or someone of your choosing could do the primary writing. I would be willing to help in any way asked. This should also absolve you of any feelings of ego or self-serving appearances that you have a concern about.
2. The primary value of this would be to place your activities over your adult life in the proper context. In book form, this would be an accessible record of not only what you did, but why you did it in its accurate context. If we only have your papers at Hood to do that, they would be accurate, but not accessible to the public at large.
3. As a history teacher, I believe that your life is an excellent vehicle to teach about the various eras that your adult life has spanned, among them the depression, World War II, the post-World War II Red Scare and genesis of the Cold War, your farming accomplishments, and those of your wife, and your battles with the government and others over the JFK research and publication. If it was true for the Durrs (this same value) it would certainly be true for you.
4. Your time commitment would be limited to what you choose to give; what would be required is described below.

The book would be based on the following:

1. Papers and books that you have written that you would direct us to, or that we would find on our own; likely a combination of these:
2. At most, two 2-3 hour oral tapings from interviews done with you at your convenience in the near future, hopefully on a weekend. You would be asked prepared questions, an spontaneous questions, and be allowed to answer freely. This could be done in two sittings at your home or other site of your choosing. With your wife's permission, should could be included in the taping at the same time, or at a different time on the same or different days.
3. Inclusion of comments written by those who have worked with you and knew you, e. g. Jim Lesar, David Wrone, Dr. Gnocchio, and others;
4. Interviews with others as is needed, and referral to other written sources for frame of reference in time periods.
5. Governmental records for births, deaths, etc., and family background;
6. Use of any family or personal photographs as you might choose to share them, plus contemporary photographs taken for this book at the time of the tapings, or at your convenience.

If you would be agreeable to this, please let me and/or Dr. Wrone know as as soon as possible. We can start when you are ready. Between the two (or more) of us, I am certain we will find a publisher. You will not have to concern yourself with those details, except to approve or veto any choices made. Please consider this. We'd like to do it, and think it will be helpful to thousands, and a valuable addition to American literature and history.

I am finishing Salmond's book on Clifford Durr. It is very readable, and fills in some gaps and complements Mrs. Durr's book nicely.

Clif Marks from California has sent me some comments on Posner that I will forward under separate cover to use as you wish. I have also enclosed some stamps to cover past and future mailings to me at your expense.

I hope that you will press forward to get your two newest books in print. I think it is important to get what you have said out to the public before any more "Case Closed's" hit the book stands.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,


David Keck