

December 7, 1976

Dear Harold-

Only wish the Symposium could have run longer so that you and Jimmie could have also worked with small classes of students, e.g. those who are interested in investigatory work or investigative reporting. And, of course, giving the students greater exposure to Howard on both a formal and informal basis would have been nice. The total impact though was positive and impressive and certainly gives Dreyfus something very "respectable" both intellectually and academically to push before Madison and the Board of Regents in pursuing budget items for the Library and then later before the public for Foundation moneys. (Unfortunately, these outlying universities seldom have anything worthy enough in the eyes of Madison Central Administration for such projects.)

Did Dave tell you that you and the assassination investigation have become so "respectable" that the minister of the Presbyterian Church in Stevens Point (where mostly the upwardly mobile attend) preached in two sermons about the immorality of the coverup -- he had attended the Symposium.

Thank you and Jim for the Crock-pot. It arrived in mint condition and we immediately experimented with all-day stew which was very successful as was some old-fashioned baked beans. I don't know why I didn't go out and get one because I'm finding that I use it three or four times a week now -- fits beautifully into my schedule of usually being away from 9-4 at the Library etc. It was very thoughtful of you and David and I both thank you very much (and also Elizabeth and Dave enjoy the products of it.)

Dave took that letter you posted yesterday, shoved in his briefcase, and walked out the door before I got to read it. He called Dreyfus' secy for appointment to go over the necessity to move with urgency -- and I guess planned on showing it to him.

I hope sometime you and Lil get out here and just lounge around and talk -- if that is ever possible. Both of you take care. Hope we see you again very soon. And thank you for the crockpot.

*As ever,
Elaine*

Dear Elaine and,

12/13/76

May and Jim will be as pleased as we that you are all enjoying the slow-cooker.

I'll be seeing Jim Friday and I'll give him a copy of your letter.

More and more lately, as what I can do compared with what I want to do becomes a smaller fraction, I think in terms of efficiency. It was really for that reason I got Lil her/s, to make her more ~~fine~~ efficient or to reduce the amount of time she has to spend in the kitchen. There are the obvious side benefits.

I respond in haste before returning to exciting and productive work because we have just returned from another such purchase that I would have considered an extravagance a couple of years ago, a wireless intercom so Lil will not have to holler to me. Our offices are at opposite ends of the house.

I am working over the records on the King assassination we are getting from the FBI. Inefficiently, although there have been no consequences of my starting to use the right hand again in typing. I actually went over most of them and typed notes with one hand, four times a day while soaking the other!

Lil has too much to do for her to do this typing. If I can ever get funding I will be looking for a research assistant-typist- file clerk so I can dictate the notes into a tape recorder. It would take half the time or less. If I never told you and if so you can know how much of my work she has done she typed about a third of a million words of notes on the Report before I began the writing and then retyped the book three times, once for the original manuscript, once to reconstruct it when the original publisher did not return it and then for the offset reproduction. She has been the equivalent of typesetter on all the books, too.

Tell Dave that what I am finding is incredible and that these records are really of the most historic importance, small a percentage as I have of all of them. I have asked Jim to use a certain means of extending the request to obtain still more records. He was worried about the cost when I proposed this to him Saturday. I told him simply to go ahead and that if necessary I would go into debt again. The mechanism of the covering up is become more and more apparent to me as is that of the framing of a case. It is important to say nothing about this but I've actually discovered that the FBI was going to use as a witness in the framing a police fink whose real identity they hide from Washington. I happen to know it and his record. He was part of Cointelpro. There is more like this.

Before the FBI had a chance to tell Ramsey Clark that there was no conspiracy they were working on the assumption that there was.

This kind of detective work with documents is as sickening as it is exciting.

I wish it were possible for me to spend more time with students who are attracted not only to journalism and investigative reporting but also to what is rarely thought of but is important, the law. There is no training in investigating. Few lawyers ever learn how to seek evidence. Those who do learn it on the job. This is important in civil and business law as it is in criminal law. So I also am sorry we could not have more time for contact with individual students. And that there appear to be none of these interests in the local college, almost all-girl (and sorry about admitting men).

If I could get an invitation to speak at Madison, particularly if I had tapes of the gangbang of the mind by the crazies a year ago, I think I might be of some help to Dreyfus and the project, especially if we could get some of the same people, like the police chief and the mayor in addition to the academicians.

Hope you all have a good holiday. Look forward to when it can happen again,

sincerely,