12-29-87

page 4

You might find a couple of the final examination questions of interest. I asked them, in addition to several others, "Who shot President Kennedy?" They all said they didnot know. Also I asked them how would they go about addressing the question of the assassination of a President if they became a President after such a deed. Interesting answers here. So many did an excellent job developing the proper approach and stress on an independent staff, etc., but quite a few emphasized the need to provide the press and tv with a minimum of information, several even advocating censorship! I never realized before how serious the impact of the press had been upon the question of the investigation. Your work (and the rest) really had for the students a subtheme of the failure of the institution of inforamtion. What I think is that they picked up on one of Howard's comments and several of his points. So I shall have to work out a way to handle this subject in a more responsible way next time I teach the course--you would think though that communications and theater people would not resort to this strategy.

Incidentally a curious side light to the course emerged too. These students locked in on your character and abilities and courage in tackling the JFK issue--they seem to have developed you as an exemplar, a model of behavior. This was not maudlin or overt, but a quiet kind of identification with you in pursuit of a principle through scholarship. It is truly interesting to witness this among what I thought were hopeless youth.

I must go now to hit the mail with this. I think the enclosures are self evident. Dave is with his uncle this season. His bachelor uncle Richard took him to Egypt to spend ten days, five of them floating up the Nile in a particularly fine cruise to view the antiquities. Quite a treat for a young man who was 18 last November 9. His sister Liz went to Kenya with her roommate Julie Contable for the season. Julie's mother is the ambassador to Kenya. After a week or so their they will go to Rome to visit her father (who with ambassadorial status is head of the U.S/UN forces in the Sinai) where they will ski. It seems a little extravagant for a kid, but she worked hard at school and youth has its responsibilities I suppose. Anyway she will not like the summer we have planned for her in Stevesn Point painting the house and such. This knocks me out of the new suit I was planning to buy, but I can make do another year or so.

David by the way is wrapped up in debate like you wouldn't believe. He and his teammate are the Wisconsin Valley Champs this year and are in close competition for state finals which is a long drawn out affair that I do not really understand. They study all the time on "their case." The subject matter is Latin America and Dave does fine on all the topics except when it comes to making a defensive argument for "that swine Pinchot," and related subjects which

you can well imagine.

I have a lot more to discuss but must rush.

Regards Daniel

Wrone