

Route 12 - Old Receiver Road
Frederick, Md. 21701

July 17, 1977

Hon. Robert E. Bauman
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Congressman Bauman:

Your letter of the 13th is very welcome. I am pleased that there are such wide areas of agreement between us.

With regard to Senator Russell, I believe he arranged for the deposit of at least some of his records within Georgia.

The present situation, we both agree, is not good for the country. From the present committee I have no hope of "a responsible and comprehensive review of all the facts." From the earlier record of the Senate it is clear that this was never its intention. While there may be factors that enter into this, I think perhaps the most important single one is LBJ's shrewdness in appointing the liberal Chief Justice to head the Commission and then putting enough conservatives on it to assure that neither camp would thereafter criticize the Commission or its Report or its functioning.

From long experience and much thought I am persuaded that, absent this initial willingness, there will be no good from any inquiry and the inquiry itself will be compromised at the outset.

If you recall what has come from the committees of both houses, it is only that the errant executive agencies withheld from the Commission. In general and in the specifics claimed, this is false. The agencies did fail the nation, I regret to say, but they did not invent the wheel or discover sex. If they are held to account for their own failings, they and the nation will be better off for it. If they are blamed unjustly, those deserving of blame will not receive it and the agencies will be hurt unjustly.

I am doing what I can by way of obtaining withheld records and making them available. I regret there was no tangible interest from any Maryland college so I have begun the deposit in an out-of-state university.

In one case under the provisions of FOIA I have asked for a remission of all costs. I am giving the records to the public. If the refusal continues, perhaps I will avail myself of your offer of assistance.

I regret that my medical condition precludes the offer to go to your office should I be able to assist you. Short of that, please ask for any information I may be able to supply if you have the need.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg