

HW

(AUG 26 1971)

This is the Max Frankel piece on the Pentagon Papers in which you expressed interest.

Please return when convenient.

Returned with thanks. Skimmed after guests left when too tired to edit. Perhaps the most disturbing part of all this to me ~~six~~ is that the truth seems never to have been understood by anyone when it had to have been obvious. I have old files on all these basic things, not the secret copies of the secret papers but the indications of all the miserable things that could not avoid getting some publication. It required no genius to understand what was going on, just the leaving of the blinders in the editorial stables. If I could understand, as my contemporaneous notes show, what meant what, as with the Gulf of Tonkin, is there any real reason every major newspaper could not and should not? Nothing is going to change with publication of the PP save that perhaps gov't will be more careful, the think tanks may fade away (gov't can be tighter with security and inflict more severe penalties ~~at~~ for violation. Even JFK's liquidation plans were well reported. If the Times did not say anything about the Honolulu conf., it appeared in the local papers and I had them and gave them to a young scholar, a house-painter having the perspicacity to understand

jdw18aug71