

18 March 1972

Dear Harry,

Your letter, needless to say, was much appreciated, and I hope to justify your faith. It will come as no surprise that when the opportunity arises I want to go overseas again, but in the meantime, if I can come close to matching your legendary energy and enthusiasm, I'll be satisfied.

Of the various assignments you mentioned, the one that appeals to me far and away and would certainly be the most challenging is the last one -- keeping loose. I would like to be able to bring to Washington and environs the same kind of generalists approach and perspective that I think makes being a correspondent so fascinating.

One project I've been thinking about -- for which I could do some spadework here -- is on Washington's Vietnam veterans. The subject isn't new, God knows, but I don't recall it being tackled in full: the drug users, the blacks, the unemployables, the wounded, the small town boys and the anti-wars (more has been written on them, I suspect, than all the others combined). A couple of years ago when I was in Sussex, Virginia, a returning black marine energized a group of listless southern shufflers just by telling them of his experiences -- that's the kind of detail I mean. Let me know what you think, by cable if that's desirable.

On scheduling: Lippman is due here in mid-May. For his sake, I think overlap is essential (with me not Braestrup). What with vacation -- sorely needed -- and travel time, I'd like to be back in Washington about July 4. I hope that's acceptable.

As Foisie would say, we have a lot to talk about.

Best regards,

Peter Osnos

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