

John Wheeler

HQ USARV (MIDS)  
APO SF 96375  
14 Jan 1970

Dr. Matthew Meselson  
Biological Laboratories  
Harvard University  
Cambridge, Mass 02138

Dear Sir,

I got a note from Han in which he said you had already expressed a willingness to support me in my competition for a White House Fellowship. I am very grateful for this.

Enclosed is a copy of my application. The learning involved in summarizing myself on that piece of paper justifies the effort, progress in the competition aside.

As you have, I have discovered that fulfillment and happiness lie in giving of self; that they are byproducts of our efforts for others and not goals that can be pursued directly. I express this as best I can in q. 32. Incidentally, it was Prof By Barnes over in the B School who introduced me to Synanon, which I mention in q. 32. I am doing my doctoral work under By.

I have begged the Army to put me in an assignment in which I will be able to give to my country and at the same time be challenged to the limits of my abilities. Such jobs exist; I sought out, interviewed for on my own, then begged Army permission for that summer in OSD with Han. I'm sick of the fight. The Army Office of Personnel Operations (Adjutant General's Branch) is adamant in asserting the need for me to learn to be a postmaster (!) and administrator (I'm an MBA!). I know the Army of the 80's will need me badly; the Army of 1970 does not know it. I have asked branch for a government staff position. Down in the Army General Staff is no place for a captain bent on bringing objective reason to bear on problems. I have been singularly frustrated.

The White House Fellowship seems to be my only chance to pull myself up and out of the Army morass for a while and learn and grow.

Again, I thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

Jack Wheeler