

April 8, 1971

To: Henry A. Kissinger
From: Winston Lord
Subject: Letter from a Young Man

At Tab B is the letter to you from a fourth grader. On my original draft response you made some suggested revisions and asked me to see you.

At Tab A is a revised letter to the young man, fleshing out the revisions you asked for.

Recommendation:

That you sign the letter at Tab A.

No, see me _____

WL:ms:4/8/71

REWRITE

April 8, 1971

Dear Matthew:

Thank you for your February 21 letter. Your father sounds like a very wise man with his suggestion that you seek the advice of "doers and thinkers." However, there is no way to guarantee that you will not have any regrets -- when you leave high school or at any other milestone in your life.

Thus my advice would be to expect disappointments throughout your life and try to learn from them. If you keep hoping for no regrets at all - or if you become preoccupied with regrets you do have -- you will always play it safe. Great things are only done by those prepared to run risks.

One choice, then, is to lead a cautious life. Along this path you might avoid large disappointments, but you will also miss great achievements. At the end awaits the one big regret of an unfulfilled life.

The other, bolder path is richer both in setbacks and accomplishments. At the end is the one big satisfaction of a full life, one that has surmounted and more than compensated for the lesser regrets along the way.

The qualities for the second course you can start nourishing now. They will be invaluable in any field you choose -- it does not matter whether you are a doer or thinker, famous or not.

Best regards,



Henry A. Kissinger

Mr. Matthew Borden
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