

Dear Bill,

1/12/94

It's been so long I was beginning to get worried. Glad you are both OK. And that according to TV it is so much warmer there than here.

I've had a chest infection, no name given, since Xmas. Signs are that it is going away. Anti-biotic did no good so I was put on what to me is a new medicine. Its has to work. Those oblets are \$2.63 each! Took the last of the 10 days of them yesterday.

A student I've been helping on an honors paper volunteered to drive me to and from the lab for the blood tests and she has. So, feeling better as I do this early morning and with medications and groceries to get, I'll drive lil for her shopping later this a.m. Be the first time I've driven in two weeks. But all but one day I was able to keep churning it out.

Look forward to getting the will. Thanks very much! How much do + owe you for it?

That WSJ story on the book publisher tell^{ink} the Univ, where to go reminds me that we have been forced to do that with one of the biggest chains, Walden. Aside from their excessive and complicated, for us, forms, they damage books and then return them, I'd send them insured and they get them in what they say is damaged condition and they do not show the carrier, so they don't pay ^{and} I'm stuck. Even for the insurance fees. And ~~now~~ they return through a central place, for the whole damned chain. We have no way of knowing which store they are from and whether or not they've been paid for. We wrote a dozen times, without a single response. Not one! So I told ^{ink} Bill to ignore their orders. She did tell the first couple why, still without response. In short, as we spent most of our national life learning ^{it} only to have Reagan turn it all back, to where big is bad. God knows how many businesses and industries he put out of business that way.

One of the comedians and JFK, in the 60s Mort Sahl was going some of that, too.

National habits and preferences on poultry are and have been as that Times story says. When I was a boy stores had a separate ^{attached} store for live chickens. Some, not by any means all. What surprises me about that story is that the chickens for soup seem to cost more. They are usually those that bring least when they stop laying, and for good soup you need an old bird. The cocks get too tough and only the breeders have them anyway. One of my customers, Trujillo's military attache in Washington, wanted me to get him old cocks. I asked why. ~~He~~ ^{He} said the way he cooks them anything else would come ~~apart~~ apart and be mush. The French military attache even asked me if I could save the blood for him! The story has to be wrong in saying that the chicken is held in one hand and has its throat slit by the other ^{hand} because the chicken ~~does not~~ ^{is} stay there in silence and immobile. The funnels the story ^{are} says for ^{are} ^{in them} ~~be~~ ^{is} that is where their throats we cut, ^{temp} after immobile in the funnels. The one in the picture is a barred Plymouth Rock, one of the better breeds for eating and they lay brown eggs.

I am only too conscious that there will be no central clearance ^{house}, as you call it, for other than story-book writers. That is why I've been concentrating in getting

as much as I can on paper. By now it is quite a bit, too. Right now I'm adding to Inside, ¹/₁ night's suggestion and he was correct. Dozen chapters and working on two more, one in unread rough draft. Lesar, if he continues, will continue to be the theory proponent, as are most of the others. Almost all. Increasingly I'm getting letters thanking me for eschewing that. He is not dishonest. He just cannot keep up and he cannot function other than ^{as} ¹/₁ most people considered a disorganized way. Because he has always been that way. In college he was known as ¹/₁ "Junky Jim." Not with reference to any dope. I have friends in New Zealand and Denmark who sent him \$400 each more than a year ago and he's still not sent what they ordered. He's got stuff of mine he was to have returned more than two decades ago and says he cannot find! Then from his diabetes he lost the sight of one ~~eye~~ ^{eye}, restored to a degree by surgery, and the better one is to be worried about. He is a fine person but this is the way he is and I'm sure will continue to be. It wastes much of his time for him. For example, he types all his files, Does not have a typist do it. So he does not have one. And now probably could not afford one. Your check is probably in a stack somewhere in the AARC, which he also runs with no help. The marvel is that he finds ways to pay its rent. I introduced him at Hood if he decides if and when they fold to offer what he has to them. But if there is a rich nut, he'll probably get it for paying for it.

Betsy is both perceptive and correct about Finck. I have two chapters on him in NEVER AGAIN! and mention him in the Afterword. It seems to have been Humes' idea to involve the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology and if I remember correctly the general in charge of that sent Finck. I would say that he was called in because he was believed to be an expert in forensic medicine but in fact he was not. Humes may have believed that AFIP would send an expert but he's never indicated. He did give a reason for calling AFIP but I do not recall it.

She is in part absolutely right on his precision. Remember, I referred to his incourt spelling bee. I think that was to give him time to figure out how to be evasive. He also had an enormously inflated opinion of himself and of his authority. When you see NEVER AGAIN! if that also is not butchered out you'll see more on that.

I'm told the HSCA records say he said he saw more pictures than they have but those I've asked have not responded.

Back to work! Best to you both,

When I ask d'Castillo why he wanted so old a rooster he said "Ahrol", everything in life has a purpose and a best use. For some things a young woman, For my cooking an old cock.

He meant for that particular dish he liked. He also got small birds only 5 weeks old, one of my specialties, individual servings. Trujillo loved them so when he was expected in Washington, Nando loaded up.

Nando