

Dear Bill,

2/20/98

Please excuse the paper. I do not feel like unwinding myself to replenish my desk supply. I have to keep the right leg up, as before, but the left is higher than my heart, doctor's orders, and with the typewriter between my legs and stiff as I've become it does mean unwinding.

I thought, as you can see from the letter I forgot to mail this morning, that you had gotten to Dayton before that storm hit. It was, for us, a very considerate storm: it stopped on the other side of the mountain, giving us only a couple of inches.

I used to enjoy using my professional-class snow-blower but that has been a nono for two decades. I gave it to Hood for them to use on the walks.

But the exercise was good for you and Daytona was better because of it.

There was some kind of misunderstanding by Ogilvie. He is working on the Hersh manuscript and I should have it shortly after the end of the month. If he uses Priority, as I did, it will now take a week or more to reach me! So OK to send him Waketh but hold off until he finishes or it may take time from the retyping that I'd like to get done.

On Larry's walking: I think he may do better if he can get a supermarket grocery cart. Al and I do. There is something smaller that is made for such uses but I've seen but not used it.

Thanks for the efforts with the books and for checking for first printings. I doubt that Carroll & Graf did more than one of each.

It is not the grand jury that is doing the leaking. It has to be the office of the special prosecutor, who is an extremist ideologue, so he thinks that what is wrong for others is OK for him.

The Iraq thing is not that simple. I hate the thought of bombing but I hate even more his having weapons for mass destruction and if he did not have them and was keeping them hidden he'd not continue to suffer the restrictions on him that come off when he is proven not to have them. That is the Hitler who did what he did in Kuwait and then, when he was beaten, set all those oil wells afire. He is a very bad one and has to be cut back or the world will suffer.

Brugnoni is a legit. expert.

I knew that St. Martin's had settled the Hickey case but I'm sure it was for less because it was thrown out and was on appeal. But I've not had a word from Lesar about it. I only got him the case and was deposed in it.

Thanks and best to you all,

Heard

Here's a work-family tale that leaves no doubt who's wearing the Black Hats:

When Christopher Bryant, a lawyer for James Beauchamp Solicitors in Birmingham, England, hanged himself, the firm billed his grieving 80-year-old mother \$20,000 for settling his affairs, including \$2,200 for going to his house when he didn't show up for work and \$250 for knocking on her door and telling her he was dead. Though Beauchamp later waived the bill, irate regulators closed the firm and suspended the licenses of its two partners.

The lesson: Never underestimate the destructive power of the work ethic run amok.

To air work-life issues on my weekly radio show, call 800-WSJ-TALK or fax 503-636-6951.