

1/7/98

Dear Clay,

Your letter of the 27th, with the retyped manuscript, came yesterday and was, as the critical-care expert who rushed me from the local hospital to Johnson Hopkins told me, the best medicine for me. He was referring to my work in general, ~~It is~~^{is} the fact that yesterday it picked a harsh day up. I was so dizzy when I was up and moving I dared not move. A friend took me to that critical-care expert and he diagnosed some inner ear problem. The whole thing left me weary today but when I read your letter and had the retyped ms. in hand that was a real lift and I thank you for it. That doctor gave me the report to him for me to give the ophthalmologist. I made a copy of the covering page that I enclose and explain.

Your letter is fine and I agree with ^{all} what you said and suggested. And appreciate the thoughts as well as the acts.

I'm sorry you did not return the rough draft because what I do when I read what has been retyped is consult the rough if there are questions or what is not all that uncommon, if my terrible typing and/or writing have been or seem to have been misunderstood. However, I have a copy and when someone comes who can retrieve that for me I'll be able to have it at hand. I generally read what has been retyped when I'm tired and/or need to rest or keep my legs higher or when I'm not writing. Which at the moment I am. And how I wish I had that ready so I could speed it up!! It has the working title, Faking Kennedy: The Dark Side of Sy Hersh. I've a few but the more complicated chapters yet to do and days like yesterday and today I do not trust myself to write. My work has been accurate and I want it to remain that way. For all I've published about the officials involved, I have not had a single letter or call from any of them complaining of any unfairness or inaccuracy on my part.

I've been on borrowed time for many years. I'm ^{not} almost 85 and from the 1989 heart operation my local cardiologist did not expect me to survive, ~~of~~^{of} three times doctors had that belief, I've had to consider that my work might end at any unexpected moment. As a result I've not taken time for editing, as you may have observed. I read and correct and make no major changes. Most of the insertions are made while I'm writing. So what you say about such things as the endless sentences is to my painful knowledge only too correct. Comes partly from the writing of years ago that influenced me when I was young and partly from developing an oral style in so many appearances after the first books were out.

Also, I am aware of a confabulation problem. My eyes see what is not on the page but ~~was~~ was in my head.

This 1968 typewriter had no italics. The underlining was to do that. Thanks.

You are correct, I read chapter by chapter from the first.

While until I read it I do not know ~~what~~ what you say about breaking part of chapter 12 off for an epilogue seems to make good sense. Thanks.

It has been a long time since I read Brown's sick stuff.

Good quote from Bauch. Never heard it that I can remember.

Your suggestion about coalescing would mean more if I had a publisher and if, after giving it some thought after that heart operations, ^{and} I decided that the most useful thing I could do with my time was make as much of a record for our history as is possible for me. I agree that what you suggest would be fine but I put myself in the ~~same~~ position of the one who does the work that makes that possible when there is the prospect of publication of it, of getting it to the people.

All that you mention and much, much more is on paper along with citations of the sources.

(It may interest you to know that I've give Jerry McKnight two begun manuscripts he has just gotten a sabbatical to work on. The one he is more interested in, as was ~~it~~, is ExSess, on the Commission's executive sessions, he will be comparing what was said at them ^{with} the record. The other one is Honorable Men, which is what the staff counsel called themselves in their press conference to respond to Oliver Stone. He was here today copying more files. I expect him as often as his administrative obligations permit during the break, to make ^{copies} of files he can use.

I have placed no restrictions on my executors. Some are on the Internet. They'll be free to do what they decide to do among themselves, as will Hood College, which will own it all.

Carroll & Graf ~~did~~ did little work with manuscripts from my experience, actually refused to. They were interested only in money and one way to make money is not to spend it. I wrote six unanswered letters asking to get- and pay for- copies of Never Again to try to use in promoting it.

If you want a copy of what you retype, feel free.

Many thanks. Have a good year,

sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

Harold