

Dear Clay,

2/5/98

Your 1/27 and the retyped ms. with it were astounding and the ~~best~~ ^{very} best news!

I do have the first one you retyped with the corrections indicated, as the letter that had not reached you indicates, but with the priorities forced on me what is more important is getting what I've written about the Hersh atrocity retyped. Here it is! And I do look forward to reading and correcting it!

Before getting into these priorities and the reasons for them, you asked about getting Waketh and of course you can have that. Of those to whom I have given copies, of whom you know only McKnight, I think and I hope that getting a copy of the disk for you will be less burdensome for my dear friend William ~~Walter~~ Neichter, a lawyer, 1313 Lyndon Lane, #115, Louisville, KY 40222, who will know by a copy of this letter. McKnight has ~~at~~ ^{at} this moment at least three real problems in getting a disk made, one being that the people at Hood can take forever to do it, and have. Another is that as head of the department he is now tied up in their obtaining a replacement for that faculty. Also, his excellent The Last Crusade, by Westview, is now getting into the store.

If Bill can't do it, he'll let me know and we'll find, hopefully, the one for whom it will mean less of a problem than for others.

McKnight may be the best for the second epilogue of Waketh because he retyped it. The first epilogue, long lost, has been read and corrected and I hope that before too long I'll have it. The son of the friend who is doing that took about a half year to do the retyping! *I'll send you the disk when it is done.*

I do not recall that I intended including in what I sent you what we'd gotten from the critical-care specialist who rushed me from the local hospital to Johns Hopkins almost two years ago. Maybe I did and do not remember now. My once photographic memory started slipping with the first of the circulatory difficulties more than 20 years ago and they've been slipping ever since. I know I intended sending copies to those who knew of that hospitalization. Had to get that (hopefully that!) for Medicare, which says it does not ordinarily pay for ~~my~~ balancing from one hospital to another and because the ambulance service did not provide Medicare with what it should have. But while I did not intend to frighten you, those medical problems do dominate my priorities. (And while they include most, they do not include all my medical problems, alas!!) Right now I'm concerned about the need for doing the prostate surgery over. I've gotten more than two years more than the doctors hope from that rotorooter job and I'm very much aware of the indications of the need for a repeat. So, it is age and ~~my~~ health that dominate what, as best I can figure it out, I do and do not do, do first rather than by personal preference.

All the editing suggestions you make are good and appreciated but editing is not a priority for me compared with getting it on paper as a record for the future and then reading and correcting it for content, for accuracy, because in the future some who may read it may not be in a position to know if there is an ~~an~~ error. And they can creep in! Especially from haste. You'll see a few when I return the manuscript I'd read and corrected.

Reminds me please use a highlighter wherever you have a question or can't make something out or make a change, on the rough draft. I turn the ~~pages~~ ^{pages} of while I read it retyped.

I did not expect what came just before my early hour for retiring yesterday, from what you'd said until the middle of this month, but you finished it the end of last month! Fantastic! But instead of editing it or an earlier ms. that can use editing I started work on a new manuscript. I'll now lay that aside and will go over what I've just gotten first. I should also note that I also make mistakes from haste and this gives me a chance to pick some of them up.

After you've retyped Faking Kennedy, I'll return what is to have corrections made for those corrections. I think that with editing Faking could be done commercially now but have no agent, no publisher, and much as I'd like to see Hersh corrected, will instead of searching return to the next manuscript because I believe that if I do not do that it will not be done and that it should exist as a record for our history.

Now with regard to what you say in your 1/27, I think that when the corrections are made there should be real pagination rather than by chapter. Adding a contents and a sources page was fine! Many thanks! So is shortening some of those convoluted sentences I managed to get tied up in. But again, it is better to indicate that with a highlighter because experience tells me that is one way errors creep in. Including my own when I've done that.

If what I do not expect, something is ever done with the manuscript, that is when the title can be improved. If there were any prospect of publication, what you suggest, as in 3., would be in order but when there is no prospect of publication (generally and with regard to that ms in particular) I opt for getting more on paper.

It may not be as real to you younger ones, but I live and work with the knowledge that there may not be another day. I've been given up three times so far and am still here and hope ~~not~~ ^{not} to face that again, at least for a while, but I'm so feeble any procedure may tax me too much, as in what is to be done about the prostate other than what I believe they'd not consider now, another rotorooter job. (The first one was no problem and no ~~bad~~ ^{big} deal and for most men is outpatient.

3
I was hospitalized for five days because of a hematology problem, which is one of the reasons I was sent to Hopkins, where I'm a hematology patient.)

I may not always make the correct decision, but this is what I intend to be what decides it.

From a literary point of view what you say in 3. is correct but it is not as important to me as getting the next manuscript on paper so when I rush to make the record these kinds of things will be real and they will continue to exist but they should not interfere with comprehension if ever used. (And with Donahue and Hickey, I had Hickey and his family in mind ^{but} the retired SS agent who was on the WH detail with Hickey, ^{my contact,} now says he has lost his address and that ^{of} Hickey's daughter, which I do not believe. I think an outrageous reversal in ~~state~~ court has thrown Hickey for another loop. ^{I've seen a check, not yet copy later,}

^{to} In 4. your reference to "primary sources" is where I refer to what I had published, there were special reasons for my using what I had published, with Donahue in part ^{because} ~~because~~ he had that. In general there are two other reasons for my doing this, sometimes more. One is that it is then obvious that the information had been drawn together for the use of others and another is my present condition and handicaps. I am sitting right now with the typewriter between my legs, on a special stand I had made for it, a pedestal stand rather than a table with four legs. My right leg is horizontal, on a thick foam pad ^{the} stand because for more than 20 years I've been to keep my legs at least horizontal when not on them. For almost 20 years the left was on the other side of that pedestal, on that same foam pad. But for ^{of} almost two years now the doctors want my left leg, foot to be as high as my ^{heart} ~~heart~~, so it is elevated, ^{on a bar stool,} close to the heel being at the level of the heart of higher by a tiny bit. If I do not do this that leg swells quite a bit and circulation is impaired more. So, it is not easy for me to consult the sources I used in the books that I did publish and were available to others most of whom, Donahue in particular, had them.

If you mailed this the 27th or the 28th, the UPS took longer because it got here the 4th. ^{Not that} Priority is always two-day. ^{Dave} Wron recently sent me something by Priority and it took five days ^{after} after the Xmas rush. You ^{be} hearing about Dave Wron and about others. Dave is like Jerry, a history prof. but he has just retired and is overly busy on his own special projects that include a book ms. and helping native Americans, an area of his pre-eminence.

If you let me know when to expect Faking retyped I'll have a manuscript with corrections back just in time to keep you busy! I do not know how you got the time but I love and appreciate it. Many thanks and best wishes.

Harold

Filing will be in a ^{folder} file box. If you can, please use it when you return it with the retyped copy, as I'll explain. I have no filing space upstairs and using the stairs to the ^{basement}, where I have an empty file cabinet, has been unsafe for me for several years so I do not go there. (Where most of my documents are and thus I can't cite them as in the past.) Three years ago, on leaving the office of the local newspaper, which is but a single step above sidewalk level, my right hip or knee gave way and despite the cane I went down and could not get up unassisted. Fortunately the paper's security guard saw me and he picked me up. Inside they improvised covering for four wounds that were large and ugly but were quite minor. After they were cleaned and covered I drove to the family doctor. When I left his office I was covered with four four-inch Ace bandages, ^{over gauze!} This is what can happen if I fall, and that is from the ^{outer} layer of skin only. Last time I was in the basement I fell from the bottom step. Fortunately there was a young woman student here then. She could bring me a chair and by pushing on it I could get up. So, I have no filing space to which I have access for normal filing.

But I did have the bottom drawers of the file cabinets in my office which, though quite small, holds seven full-sized file cabinets and seven ^{two} drawers as well on one three-drawer. I could not get down to those bottom drawers to use them for filing but I can and do use them ^u for storage. Four are presently full with manuscripts that have been retyped and some rough drafts. As I need the space for what has been retyped I shift the rough drafts, in boxes like the one I ^{now} use, to book shelves elsewhere in the house. Gave three shelves of books away to get that space. And as long as I have file-folder boxes I'll be keeping the rough drafts as this one is, in a file folder ^{by} chapter, with in some instances back-stopping included. If there is any in this, please ignore it and leave it where it is. I do not ^{now} remember. The retyped manuscript will be in a stationery box that, believe it or not, I can't buy here in Frederick. Not ~~at~~ even at the large store of one of the largest chains of such store. I have a friend who can buy them elsewhere and when she has time she'll replenish my stock. So, the retyped manuscripts ^u will be file in ^{drawers} boxes in those bottom drawers and the rough drafts will be in their boxes ^{on} those shelves, until they all go to ^{Good},

This may all seem strange but as we weaken we have to adapt and what we adapt to we'd not have thought of before we had the need.

2/5/98

Dear Bill,

A new friend of whom you've not heard, Clayton Ogilvie, 355 Ninth St., Idaho Falls, ID 83404 (208-522-3137) has just retyped two manuscripts for me and in the mail with this I'll be sending him Faking Kennedy, on Hersh, to retype. Clay would like a copy of Waketh. If you can find the time, will you please send him the disk, rather a copy of your disk? And if you can, of the second epilogue of it? The first is having the corrections picked up now and I hope to be able to send disks of that before as long as the retyping took.

Please let me know the cost and I'll send that to you.

By now you should have a copy of Jerry's book. If I did not tell you, one has been sent to the Balt. Sun where your friend does the reviews. Not necessary to send him one now.

If you saw accounts of the severe storm that had blasted this half of the country, as of this morning it has not been any major problem for us and right now, at 6 a.m., the thermometer outside the window where I sit has warmed up five degrees since I came in here at 3 a.m. It is three degrees above freezing so after daylight I'll take the mail out, get the papers, go to the supermarket for my delayed walking inside it with some purchases for Gil, and then home and after reading the papers, back to work. We had a little snow but most of it began on the other side of this mountain and most of the heavier rain and the predicted flooding is south and east of us. We saw pictures of part of Alexandria, Virginia and of Ocean City under water. We were lucky, in the best of possible locations this time. Now I'll breakfast and see what the TV adds to what was known last night.

Thanks and best to you both,

Harold