

Dear Gerry,

9/29/92

The mail was heavy yesterday and I was rushing to complete a chapter, which I did, so I saved your excellent article on Specter to read when fresh this early morning.

It is accurate, it is well done, but you have a problem with it that would be no problem at all for a paper wanting to use it but can be an excuse for one not wanting to or uneasy about the decision: it is more like an excellent speech than an oped page piece. If you have a journalism course there, can you show it to one who teaches it and ask for a critique? Otherwise, when you are here again, I'll get it out and we can go over it,

Things like, page 1 graf 2, "I would like to speak to." Some papers will use this but I think most won't and there are a number of similar expressions.

In general, they prefer directness and nothing not necessary.

I wish I could remember the name of a woman reporter who returned to Penna from DC. She wrote an article critical of Specter that an Altoona paper used. If the Inquirer does not get for this and you can learn the identity of that paper, perhaps it might.

And on that Cyril Wecht could be of help. He is no friend of Specter's. He is a friend of mine. Dept, Pathology, Central Medical Center and Hospital, 122 1200 Centre Ave., Pittsburgh, 15219. Send him a copy, tell him I suggested it, and ask him if is aware of any Penna publication that might use it. If he is, I suggest that you tell him you have never written an article for a paper before and for the paper to feel free to edit to make it conform to newspaper style.

There is nothing wrong with your writing, the fear you express in your 9/25 note. However, it is not newspaper writing. I think it is a fine piece.

I've been doing some similar writing and your exhibits remind me of two things that in haste I forgot, you r J and L. What is the date of L? (And that is the kind of specificity newspapers want.) Oh, I see you have it in "six days later."

You have the same problem to have, in wanting to be fully informative you wrote more than a paper will usually carry.

Wecht used to be active and fairly high up in ^{Democratic} Penna politics so with his dislike of Specter to help, he may be willing to help place it. Don't be afraid to ask him and if you do not know him, tell him I suggested that ^{you} send ~~me~~ it to him asking him for help in getting it published. And if any paper is interested and wants either confirmation of more, I'll be glad to do either or both.

Now I must get to the rest of yesterday's mail so that when I return from my early-morning walking, which will be before daylight! I can read and correct yesterday's chapter and mail it to Dave. He has been simply wonderful in retyping these chapters on his computer. It has grown into a large book and I've more to write. I hope it will be as definitive as I intend but ~~with~~ with the rushing I can't be sure. Dave thinks well of it, though.

By the way, some weeklies, although smaller, may use longer pieces. Best to all,

Harry