

Dear Paul,

1/2/98

I dare not even think of anything that scratches! Including my own fingers inside of Andean leather mittens with a fleece lining with which I sleep. I bleed very easily, the skin, outer layer, breaks if it is looked at hard, and if I touch the doorknob with my wrist on entering or leaving my office it can take two covered months to heal!

When Lil finishes the chore she's one and calls me we'll get to the <sup>daily</sup> doctoring that is necessary. The itching seems to come from two medications that keep me alive. The real problem is in my sleep, despite those mittens. She can apply the prescribed medications better than I can and can reach what I can't reach well.

If your wife is willing I'd love to mail here what I am working on now, ~~the~~ Faking Kennedy: The Dark Side of Sy Hersh. I'm getting toward the end but I suspect I've about 60,000 words on paper.

I have one manuscript now being retyped in Idaho. I've had some done in Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, New Hampshire and I think other places. Wherever people are willing. *Some locally in some time.*

But if you mention this to your wife, please give her to understand that the copy is very dirty, as the letters are. Only the copy also has inserts.

In order to do what I've been doing I sit down and write w/o taking the time for the outline that would take as long as the writing. The volume, my healthy friends tell me, younger ones, too, is impressive. It is intended as a record for history. But the Hersh book should be commercially acceptable, with editing. One thing that I know would have to come out is referring to his method or technique as Hersh-it. (Anyway you take it is is true.)

I think Mary is capable of being completely honest but it is hard to tell when she may have something else in mind. It is not that she is not honest, it is that she can have something else, not visible, in mind.

I've let <sup>your</sup> letter stay where Lil sits and read so, <sup>yes</sup> we did like that marmelade. But if ~~it~~ it has much sugar in it, we should not have it. Pounds. And neither gets much exercise at all.

Hal has not mentioned his health but the last time we saw him and in your picture he did look different. What is his health problem?

Thanks for the clipping, which was news to me, and for the Times bestseller listing. Hersh dropped rapidly. He began #2 at the Times. In the end I may want it by the week, if possible, for ~~stay~~ two months. Or until he is off it, *if less.*

Little Mexican girl is pretty.

What I've been circulating a bit is duplicates of the computer disks after the retyping is corrected. To several colleges almost exclusively.

The way we have worked on the retyping is that the one doing the retyping keeps the diskette, send <sup>s/</sup> me one printout, I make corrections and return it for the corrections to be made. That takes care of most of what is not as clear as it should be because the copy is dirty, *Don't get disks.*

On Debra/Lancer, she asked me to do a piece on the LaFontaine fiction and having done a book-length manuscript I took the time. She said she liked it, then they ~~got~~ got Evica and it was not used. She said it would be in the next issue and wasn't. I did not hear from either further. I've told her what I think of Evica and of his soliciting a paper on me as a CIA agent. She won't ask more, with or without him. He is subject-matter ignorant but makes on the opposite and I think has come to believe it.

Thanks and have a good year!

*Harold*

If you could see me you'd understand better and I think get a laugh.

I've had to keep both legs up for 20 years and then have been horizontal when I'm not on them. Then I was told to keep the left foot as high as the heart. I use a barstool where I sit in the livingroom and one in my office. So my left foot is as high as the mill. Awkward but can be done and I've been doing it for close to two years now. Doesn't improve the typing, tho!

December 30, 1997

Dear Harold;

Thank you for your recent spate of letters; I took it for granted that everyone knew I was "home." Sorry. And you are most welcome for the Mary Ferrell marmalade. And Thanks too for the nice card from Lil. I do hope you enjoy it. There is a story behind it all. I promised Mary a supply of the jelly along with the century award I made up for her. I had it all packed before my recent trip to Texas and changed packing plans and failed to transfer the jelly to another suitcase. I discovered the error when repacking in Minnesota and sure enough - it was sitting in my apartment when I got back!! So I priority mailed it at once. Well, my sister felt so bad about my oversight that she gave me several small jars of jelly she had made from Minnesota berries and plums to give to Mary - which I did!! I wonder if Buck is the one who likes the grapefruit/cherry and Mary lays claim, thereof??? It would be like her!! I thought you would be a good judge - she raves about it and even tried to order some from the supplier on her own!!! Well, I am pleased that you and Lil find it okay!! It was a delight to see Mary up and active at Lancer - although Evica acts like she cannot do a thing without him!!! At least, this year he could not try to claim the jelly idea!! Yes, the story on Mary was very overdue!! It was a good story and she did dominate the Lancer show!! Debra has become the sieve which all JFK stuff passes or is rejected. A sad experience!!

Yes, ~~yes~~, my lawover in San Antonio to visit my little Mexican friend is well worth it. One sees things so differently through the eyes of a child. I am enclosing her 1997 Christmas card (a machine copy).

I got a letter from Hal Verb and he said he sent you eight pages on the Vincient/Johnson thing. It could only prove that the whole thing was premeditated with all those implications. I entered the whole thing through a "closed mouth portal" ~~and~~ I felt I could not relay any "facts." I sent Hal an Oriental backscratcher which I felt he could use well now that he has medical problems. I thought long ago to send you one, but, you wrote that you have brittle skin. I can appreciate that since I often scratched my itchy fire ant bite on my ankle using my back unit while lying in bed. While it felt good, the ankle would be raw and bloody - so I had to quit that!! So I figured the thing would not be of value to you - I did send out 17 of them this year and everyone was delighted. I do know that one cannot rise in the am and say I am going out today to buy a backscratcher. Where would you go???

What would you expect to pay???? Etc.??? Hal did appreciate it and could put it to good use. I did send one to Mary - what with all her physical problems can find a good use for it!!!!

Trying to move to the Tampa-area is not as easy as one thinks!! Place with all the elements a person wants just isn't available!! A lot sells for about \$18,500 and homes are built for \$69, 79 and

- more -

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89,000 so for about \$100,000 it can all happen. The 89 is with screened pool and all which one can do without!!! I'll go over to that side of the peninsula soon and iron it all out. What I like about this approach is that my son can live downstairs and I can design the upstairs the way I want it to be!!!!

The Hersh thing is another attempt to cash in on the JFK affair. I saw it in Newsweek while in Minnesota and thought they had put him away with the zip code and typewriter that had not yet been invented. I guess the comeback was that someone had copied the original stuff. Many are climbing out of the woodwork to make bucks off this event now that it cannot be defended!!! \* I imagine you are having a ball with this. Yes, <sup>(Hersh)</sup> he does have a formula for getting rich, like Posner, and there are those who fall for it!

It was no big deal to get the NY Times best seller list and I am enclosing it. I will keep my eyes out for anything that is printed here on Hersh. With the work on MORTAL ERROR and Nechiporenko sounds like you've been busy and motivated to correct that crap. Too bad we are not closer since my wife is a crack typist and would be pleased to knock out your drafts!!!! But, so it goes!!

Hal Verb says he's working on articles especially since he feels the recent conference has gotten off the rails!! At least, we did not have Lemming or Flash!! That tells you something when my notes on each speaker or panel begins with, "I am not prepared....."

By the way, Jim Heller who was at the 1994 conference, remember the last day panel stating that JFK planned to merge all federal law agencies under one department and, hence, under one man!!

I am still seeking the item on the guy who stated that LHO had partially repaid a debt with a rifle!! I saw it and read it not too long ago. Once I unwind my mental index, it will be there!!

Best of everything and happiest of holidays!!!!!!!

Paul Haller



Lancer tried to pad its credentials by having a Kennedy family member on the program, Kerry McCarthy, who proved nothing - was a distant cousin!! Just a cheap shot on behalf of Lancer and was a big fooler for the newcomers!!!

\* Like the book "by" JFK's Scandinavian lover who had him considering divorcing Jackie!!!!



Season's  
Greetings  
1997

Marcela

Paul: I love  
you  
Happy  
Christmas!