

Starr is fishing, and not in White water. He is an ideologue, as he should not have been in the Ditch of the bunch. He will hurt you.

Dear Dave,

1/31/98

Reup 1/25, there is nothing in the Hersh book that is new while being true and there is much in it that is deliberate lying, for money he planned to make and maybe did make by disgracing our history.

You refer to his sources but you do not say that he has no source notes and no bibliography in the book. Not very scholarly, is it? He made so much of it up he could not use any source notes because it then would be obvious that he just made most of it up.

Joe Kennedy was as you say and he was with his children as you say but they all wound up with political belief that were not his, more liberal than his, and they have all gone in for public service. He made that possible by the money he made and left for them.

You have been influenced in what you think about ^{the} 1962 missile crisis by the fact that you are a Republican, ^{NOT} or the Republican Party that is the party it was when I was your age and younger. Hersh does not address what the alternatives were to seeing to it that there was peace and those missiles removed. Hersh is also less than honest in what he says about removing those Jupiters from Turkey which had been ordered long before that crisis. Not does he say what the reaction by your party would have been if their belated removal was an announced part of the deal. Your people would have screamed and screamed. And they are the ones who made that kind of situation inevitable, Eisenhower admitted in his autobiography that he ended his Presidency doing what JFK could not undo, setting Cuba policy for JFK, and he left JFK those 1500 armed and trained Cubans he had to get out of Guatemala. Simplification but I hope enough for you to think about.

I think most of us would rather that the president ^{not} sleep around for many reasons but with regard to the Clinton situation, first all this, and it is political, the Republican campaign is going to kick back and give the Democrats a fine campaign slogan, of the Republicans who are so bankrupt of real issues they have to go in for that kind of stuff. Lott was silly-looking following the State of the Union speech and the polls indicate that the people care more about what the administration has done for the country and plans for it than for scandal. Meanwhile, it all hangs on the word of one young woman whose word can't be taken. And Starr has been caught in a witchhunt. He had before the grand jury a man who only the day before had spoken to the Democratic Party people where Tripp lives because she did violate Maryland law to get this all started. With guidance from one of Nixon's known dirty-tricks experts. Who admits she wants to get Clinton out. And all this comes from Whitewater, where there never was any case against the Clintons but how many millions has it cost so far? And how much hurt for the country? The GOPs I remember and respect were the Norrises, the Borahs, etc. Best,

I split my habit until after the first Reagan administration and campaigned in some Republican ads - traditional Republicans

January 25, 1998

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Dear Harold,

Thanks for your recent letter. I always appreciate hearing from you and getting your insights.

I am trudging through the Hersh book, amidst my reading and study of my art history course. I had reservations about putting forth the money invested in it, and in a sense feel that way more while reading it. On the other hand, I try to read a variety of sources on important and controversial subjects and have, of course, the friendly bias by and about Robert, Ted, and Jack by themselves in some cases, and the likes of Sorenson, Schlesinger, and others, as well as the stuff by Hersh, both Reeves's and Nigel Hamilton.

On the plus side, what I have found is at least the source of some of the rumors about Kennedy - identified, some credible, some not, some are very third-hand. That part was disappointing. It is also very dry, and some of the conclusions are not clear from the sources provided. And by admission, some of these sources have general credibility problems of their own. As I read, I can pass that, annotated, along to you, if you are not reading them directly.
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I don't think there is any question that Joe Kennedy set the tone for his children's behavior and it has visited his family for generations. Some of this arrogance has brought forth some positive things: an energetic boost to the American public in general, the Peace Corps, a vibrancy, restoration of art and culture in the White House, and, even in death, the Civil Rights Act.

In regard to the Cuban Missile Crisis, I have 3 sources - Robert Kennedy's 13 Days in October, The Kennedy Imprisonment and The Bay of Pigs (not specifically about missile crisis, but background). The revisionist stuff says a crisis was created and we actually gave more than we got. I'm not sure. I am thankful he didn't just ignore the presence of the missiles, of course, that they sent in nuclear armed submarines later is another problem. I remember going to bed the night of his address thinking we would not wake up. It seems clear that if Khrushchev backed down, Brezhnev took that as an incentive to boost Soviet missile production, creating in some areas, though not in all, the missile gap that Kennedy claimed existed in the campaign of 1960, that did not.

You and I likely disagree on the effect, other than the obvious moral considerations, of presidential sexual misconduct, on his ability to do his job. Frankly, I think it is unconscionable for a president to put himself in the position of being blackmailed in any number of ways. To me clearly, Kennedy's relationship with Judith Exner did this, as well as Clinton's current problem. It is unacceptable to me that Clinton should be at the mercy of a 24-year-old intern. She is not blameless, after all, she knew he is married. How can he deal with Iraq, the Middle East, Bosnia, or any of this with these problems? The American public can be forgiving, but they expected it to stop, and don't like being made fools of. Arrogance begets overconfidence. Clinton has no limits. Philosophy aside. Hope you're doing well. I have