

January 29, 1996

Dear Harold:

No word on my article yet. If they don't publish it, I think I can get it published in LEO, a free weekly general interest-hip-advertiser's newspaper. Whose founding editors are Denny Crum, the UofL basketball coach, and Bob Shulman, who wrote the only bio of Sen. Cooper so far, and who did not even send me a thankyou note when I gave him a copy of Reasonable Doubt and WWII. But he is not active in the paper!

Bought a book on Hunter S. Thompson, a former Louisville writer who is "Duke" in Doonesbury. He is an eccentric nut, but he wrote two of the funniest books ever written, Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas. his story of getting drugged and drunk in Vegas when he was supposed to be covering an offroad race, and Fear and Loathing on the Campaign Trail, on McGovern's doomed 1972 run for the presidency. A damn funny book.

One of my fishing guide buddies once had to tow him in from out of the Gulf Stream when he ran out of gas. He thinks he is an idiot, which would not be unusual for eccentric writers! Of course, they were mad because he had placed a fake ad for the marina in the Yellow Pages advertising smuggling boats for rent, which is a touchy subject in the Keys!

Fortune magazine ran a hatchet job article on Steve Forbes. Very interesting. Although Forbes is a smart man, I think it is in general bad for democracy when rich eccentrics like him and Perot run, their only qualification being that they have never held public office. For example, on Brinkley's show, or rather Nightline, he casually came out in favor of developing antiballistic missiles. Of course, this means that we would have to throw out all the non-proliferation treaties, and spend about a Trillion dollars-no exaggeration, that is what I think one would cost, if a B-2 costs \$2billion-and yet he is unchallenged on that as if he had come out in favor of a strong military. Some of these crackpot ideas are truly dangerous, yet the press lets them slide. I still think if Perot had not been crazy and temporarily withdrawn because he was afraid the Republicans would call his daughter a lesbian, he might have been elected president. Some day we'll get a rich guy who is either evil or more radical than Reagan and if he is good looking, he might be elected. I predicted several years ago that we would see the day when politicians scramble for to see who is the toughest on the death penalty, and we see that now. Someday we are going to see people actually advocate eliminating AFDC and other welfare, and their ideas will come to pass. We almost see that now, with Newt.

One thing we see today is the rise of blue collar Republicans. My friends who work at Ford make about \$40,000 + a year, and they hate welfare, taxes, and Democrats. I don't think the Democrats yet realize that most working people are becoming further and further alienated from liberalism, in that they work 45 hours a week and get hammered by payroll tax deductions, and are becoming fanatic against welfare, I think the feeling is that we work for a living, and all the folks on welfare are bums. In 1980, the majority of union employess voted for Reagan.

The day may come when sink or swim types like Gingrich get into a position where they can really cut the hell out of the social programs, and food stamps, welfare etc, will be drastically cut. Like 30-60%. I truly believe that welfare does not have even a 50% support among the middle class.

Of course, Clinton does not get any credit for the good economy, more employment, and yet I think he is a shoein for reelection. Thank God for our system of checks and balances.

I wonder if the current House and Senate would have even had Watergate hearings. With the current makeup, I think Nixon would have remained in office. I really do.

I guess you saw where Sen. Ralph Yarbrough died recently.

Hope the flooding does not get you. It is pretty here today and although the Ohio River is flooding, it does not effect us. I saw where Chip Selby is again listed in the credits of Unsolved Mysteries. Do you know if Chip has ever tried to get them interested in the Altgen's picture?

Have not seen Hosty's book.

Well, I better go. Back to the salt mines. Hope you liked the pictures, make you think of Florida instead of all that snow.

Just thought of something. I don't know if I sent you the article a few months ago on cheating in the Navy academy, Annapolis. Bottom line, those who lied about seeing the stolen test remained in the Navy, those who told the truth, even said they had no idea the answers they were looking at were stolen, were dismissed. All the football players remained on the team. If this is how they run the Academy in 1993, what kind of message does this send? That if you won't lie, you are unfit for Naval service? With that type of attitude, I sometimes think these sort of things tend to support your thesis about the military and Kennedy. If it is like that today, what must it have been like in 1963? Something to ponder late at night.

Bill

