

Dear Bill,

3/4/96

We are back from my semi-annual trip to see the chief of cardiovascular surgery at Johns Hopkins and as usual the trip alone tires me, this time I did, to. I've enough time before supper to begin to respond to your 2/27, here today.

The report I got at Hopkins was better than I'd expected. The dopplers show that in the past six months I'm holding my own on the blood pressure in the legs. I do wonder that he put it differently this time, that the pressure there is 75% what it is in the arms, same as last time. He'd given me numbers before,

What you say of the effect JFK had on people who met him seems to be true of just about all <sup>of the class</sup> who began hating him or wound up hating him. In today's mail I've a letter from a man 25 who says he cares more about what happened then than he does about the present mess he says began then. His opinion is that until we can do something with meaning about the assassination this mess will not get cleaned up.

You enclose the Alsop clipping from US News. Alsop was to me obviously a homosexual 60 years ago. He was then a Washington correspondent for the NY Herald Tribune. It was a good paper with high standards. He covered the hearings of the committee I worked for for it. He was then really gross, that awfully fat. He came dressed neatly, once in a white suit. He was also a SOB. He got there early to get the end seat on one of the two press tables, the one closer to where I sat at the witness table. In those pre-Xerox days we had, when we could carbon copies of the exhibits. I tried to have two, one for each press table. If I had only one, that had to do. But Alsop would let them accumulate, sitting closest to me as he did, and he would pocket those he really wanted. That meant that either nobody else at his table if I had two copies or no other reporter if I had only one could see it. I had a low opinion of him as a human being, largely from that. I had nothing to do with him in the course of my work because he never wanted to see any galleys or exhibits, etc.

Your brother Larry's spirit may be the most important part of his recovery. As I said earlier, I believe that the physical therapy, when he gets to it, will make a real difference.

The support for Buchanan is perhaps surprising but it is possible because of the abdication of the media. Aside from his Nixonian involvements some new aspects of which George Gardner reported in yesterday's Post he has a clear record that has not been looked into. He wrote editorials for the St. Louis Globe-Democrat that would have made David Duke envious. He also represents the effort of the so-called Christian right to take the GOPs over. To a degree it has already.

While there may be much we do not know about this new problem with Castro, we do know that it resulted from a string of provocations. I think those anti-Castro

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were and have been working with the CIA. Which needed distractions and has the long standing anti-Castro ambition, one of its greatest difflascos having been its earlier efforts. He was predictable. He would take so much violation of their territory before he would react. So, they could predict he would react and they wanted him to. This coincides with its own need for distractions and with the added advantage of helping the GOPs of the right during the period before the votings. In Florida it came close to assuring that the Cuban right would turn out ~~ex~~ masse.

Aside from what this has caused here it has hurt us throughout the world. We would have reacted before he did and more strongly. And with the measures into which Clinton was forced, we are hurt additionally with Canada in particular. We are pretty much alone in the world in our attitude toward Cuba. But it is not Castro who is being hurt. It is those we say we want to help, the average Cubans.

This, too, is commentary on what has happened to us. There is no distator of the right extreme we have not done business with, having made it possible for most of them to take power, but Castro is the exception.

All of this and so much more like it that is so hurtful to the country has come about because of the failure of the major media to meet its responsibilities in a society like ours.

Aided and abetted as it has been by ~~Clinton~~ Clinton's stupidity in not putting the Fairness Doctrine back in after Reagan ended it. That assured the tirades of the right on all the talk shows and that meant making the people more ignorant and more inclined to hate.

Hope you can get to come here soon.

Best,

Henry