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Dear Harold:

Glad you and Lil got to go to the ballgame. I understand the park is really nice. Thanks for the souvenir napkin! It must be nice to get out of the house. Much better than the hospital.

I found out something nice about baseball this weekend. The Cardinals have torn up the astroturf and replaced with real grass. I remember going to Busch Stadium to see Bob Gibson, and with the plastic grass, it was like 125%..Really hot. Baseball with Gibson was boring, no one could hit him. One of the main reasons that they lowered the mound about 25 years ago.

Our new Louisville Slugger museum opened last week. Many hall of famers there. They asked Hank Aaron about the new juiced baseball, and he always the diplomat, said, "Well, I think they are winding the binding tighter this year!" Wonder how many homers Aaron and Ruth and Mantle and Maris would have hit with the new baseball? 70?
As far as prophets without honor, do you realize Maris is still not in the hall of fame? A disgrace, he deserved the honor when he was still alive.

I have been reflecting on Waketh lately. It is really quite shocking. To think the Joint Chiefs would disobey a direct order concerning nuclear missiles is really too hard to believe, if it were in a movie, no one would. But I know it happened.

I have always thought Krushchev's comment to Bobby Kennedy, or rather Bobby's to K's, that if they cant get the Cuban crisis solved, JFK did not know how much longer he could control the military, is fascinating. Frankly, in light of the fact that the Gulf of Tonkin incident was a fraud, I really don't know what to think. That is really serious stuff, a hell of a lot more interesting to me than Witewater.

I have had great fun with Larry and dad lately. Whenever a Democrat somehow miraculously gets elected President, I somehow am the designated apologist for him. Despite my protestations that I am a Democratic Socialist, they always give me a hard time. So I bet each of them \$50 that Clinton will be reelected. I am going to framethose \$50 bills! I even bet Larry \$100 that Al Gore will be elected in the year 2000. And I think he will.

I always admired Gore's father, who destroyed his political career by coming out against the Vietnam war.

I really hope that you are feeling better. Maybe you are over the worst. When I saw you last year, I thought you were in pretty good shape. Mentally, you are as sharp as when I first met you, and physically, if you can keep moving around, I don't think you are worn out yet. As I write this, I hope Gerry Ginocchio is with you right now. Gerry and Dennis are two of the nicest people I have ever met, and I hope they make progress on their book.

My spy Gerry is going to make me some copies of some of your FBI memos, etc. I thought I had most of the interesting ones, but Waketh made me realize that there are at least a few I don't have.

Well, say HI to Lil. I better get back to work. Had an interesting day yesterday, the lock on my door broke and I could not get into the office until 1:30. That really made for a great Monday!

Let's hope for a safe Olympics and no more terrorism. It will be interesting to see what hit that 747. It is kind of interesting, after the first day, "they" said it was impossible to be a Stinger missile, but then on Nightline, one expert said they can go up to 16,000 feet. If illiterate Afghanis can use them, I am sure it is possible. One thing I read today said it would have to be shot out of a 40 foot boat. That is silly. It appears to me that a missile attack on that plane is a real possibility.

Talk about Pandora's box. We never should have given those weapons to anyone. What a foolish thing to do, just so we could shoot down a few Soviet planes. Sen. D'Amato said we have satellite images of the plane explosion, and the FBI expert sort of look stunned when asked about this by a reporter. The FBI and CIA don't like Senators to give away their secrets. In these situations, it is interesting to read between the lines. In my opinion, a missile is a real possibility. There is absolutely no security at JFK, either. A couple years ago, they broke up a theft ring. The airlines own employees would take master keys, in the belly of the planes they were unloading, and rifle suitcases. Then close them. People would get home, missing money, cameras, etc. Figure they left them on a bed in Paris. Caught them with hidden cameras. If the employees are like this, what must security be like?

Peace

Bill

