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*aw 4/12*

Dear Harold:

I had to laugh when you requested the Cat hats! I will send you 2, I have 1 at home, will get another. They are adjustable.

The video the kids have is called something like "Giant Construction Machines- Detour Ahead." It was made by a guy who expected modest success, and it became a best seller. Kids love those big tractors. So do I. It broke my heart when I was forced out of the business. Of course, I think we are still sort of still in the business. Our family has several million dollars in stock in the local Cat dealer. Dad is still on the board. The other day, we passed a van dealer, and dad said out loud, "Boy, I would hate to have all my money tied up in that inventory." Then we laughed, because he has much more than that tied up in Cat tractors and parts! I don't know exactly what they have in inventory now, but when we were down there, we kept a \$30 million parts inventory! Turned it over about 3 1/2 times a year, for parts sales of \$100 million a year. The dirty little secret of Cat dealers is that you make 105% of your profit on parts sales, machinery sales and service barely break even, if that.

So, I guess I can afford two Cat hats! No charge. I have seen guys buy a million dollars of tractors, which is only 1 or 2 these days, and then ask sheepishly if he can have a CAT hat!

Once, Occidental Petroleum and Island Creek Coal, a subsidiary that Senator Gore, Al's father, ran, had a venture with the Chinese to run the largest coal mine in the world. They brought all the Chinese engineers to Wayne to see our rebuild shop, which at the time was the best in the world. They had never seen dynamometers, flow meters, milling machines, or most other modern shop machinery. I told marketing to give them all Cat hats. They balked, and said who would pay for them. I said I would if I had to, because these were going to be Caterpillar's best international customers for the next 50 years! They all dressed like high school kids in the 1950's. They all got Cat hats, too. And I had enough pull the marketing people paid for them!

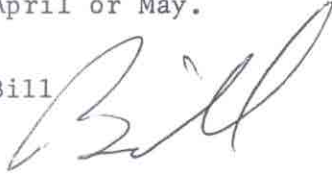
When you give some poor Chinese fellow a Cat hat, he might hold on to it for 25 years! They don't get a lot of free stuff.

Been reading McKnight's book. It is great. Makes you realize what a nut Hoover was.

Looks like they have removed the judge in Ray's case. For fact finding. God forbid they find any facts. Might have to look for truth next.

Gotta run. Will send Cat hats as soon as I get them. Say HI to Lil. We cannot promise anything, but our goal is to come up in April or May.

Bill

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bill". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name "Bill".