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2/11/98

Dear Clay,

The two packages you mailed as one by UPS on 2/2 came yesterday evening.

They were in perfect condition! <sup>Have</sup> I was to see <sup>if</sup> such boxes are available locally.

However, I am baffled to <sup>see</sup> ~~see~~ the reprint of the Brown manuscript because I had not sent you the correction <sup>all</sup> which are required before the manuscript can be used. I think I wrote and said I'd send it when you let me know when you'd ~~be~~ sending the next one. That was to avoid confusion in the mind and between the manuscripts.

<sup>He</sup> ~~He~~ had the next one ready to return, with many fewer corrections, <sup>but</sup> ~~but~~ again was waiting to hear from you. It happens I'd have sent the second one, the Donahue/Hickey one, <sup>Next</sup> ~~Next~~, because of what I'd learned: that Hickey is in a nursing home.

In terms of priorities, the Hersh manuscript, the last one, is the one that can, with luck, have some present potential and I'd like to go over it and get the corrections made as soon as possible. After that I'd like to have the Donahue disk so I can get a printout to Hickey. I think it might make him feel a bit better.

Errors <sup>are</sup> inevitable and <sup>they</sup> ~~they~~ can creep in more easily with haste and with a lack of knowledge. I've been a bit embarrassed by some of mine I'd discovered lately. For example, Dave Wrono, after reading the rough draft of an epilogue for a book ms. I'd not mentioned <sup>to</sup> ~~to~~ you, regarded it as worth making into a separate book. Dave is a Univ. Wisc. history prof and a dear friend. He decided to retype it, too, and was <sup>+</sup> surprised to get that retyped ms. in the mail! Then, after sending you the Hersh, I started to read and correct it. I discovered that well as I know the Francis Gary Powers story, I had that last U2 flight of his starting in Turkey. I know and it ~~is~~ is well known that although he was based in Turkey the CIA had that flight start in Pakistan. But I'd written Turkey!

All the manuscripts have to be read with care to avoid errors, innocent and unintended errors, ~~from~~ <sup>from</sup> not being caught. We all make them and I sometimes make more because I have a serious confabulation problem, seeing on the paper what is not there and is in the mind. <sup>in</sup> ~~in~~ what I've corrected recently <sup>I</sup> caught a few of those.

If I know when to expect the Hersh I can have the Donahue there by Priority mail fairly rapidly and would like to. I do not like to think this way but I must: I do not know how much time I have left. Next week I see the critical-care specialist who sent me to Johns Hopkins in 1996, not expecting me to live, and the week after that a consultation with the Hopkins cardiologist. And I am 84 with too many other medical problems <sup>my</sup> local doctors are amazed that I've survived.

So, of course I want to clean up as much as I can and keep it that way and there is much more to do. Before the retyped ms. came from Wrono I started the research for another book ms. and when I spoke to him a few days ago he thinks there are two <sup>other</sup> books that I should address. One is of 900 pages and am I now a slow reader. Nothing can be done about it. Come with age and more. Saw the ophthalmologist a week ago and he has <sup>me</sup> been using drops every hour.

Our life changes with the years, Clay, and there is no learning process in advance of it for most of us. What is real for us older ones seems unreal to those who have not accumulated as many years.

No matter how unreal it may seem to be, it is real.

This is normally the harshest month around here but this month there have been days when I wore shorts. Easier to adjust the anti-embolism hose with shorts and they do need adjusting from time to time. But this is the mildest February I can remember. It gets down to freezing and below most nights but warms up with daylight and there have been nights, 4 a.m., when I've left home in shorts. TV is full of what El Niño has done to CA. Hope neither it nor the winter have been hard on you.

Thanks and our best.

*Harold*

Harold Weisberg