

Dear Clay,

3/22/98

I finished going over the Hersh-it ms. yesterday and wrote a brief epilogue for it but yesterday was not a good day, I had interruptions, and I'd expected to get on it this morning but I'm still not back to my present norm so I'm catching up on the mail. I also took the returned Menninger/Donahue and got it ready. Now that may seem odd to you but unless you've lived as I do much that is real and necessary will seem odd. I can't sit at a desk as most people do. Right now and for the past two years I'm typing with my right leg out straight, horizontal, and my left one with the heel as high as the heart, on an old what used to be called a kitchen stool and was when I got it, before you were born, and they are now referred to as bar stools. This machine, on a pedestal table, is between my legs. I told two years ago to keep that leg higher and when I'm home and not on it I do. Where I sit in the livingroom it is easier to do it and that is where I read and correct what has been retyped. I have an end-table on ^{my} right and a small chest on my left and my desk is a clipboard that when not in my hands is on my lap. I put the pages I've gone over in a box on the end-table on my right and what was retyped or corrected is on my left. I have that stapled together by chapters so I can flip pages and not worry about dropping them.

I did ~~stale~~ ^{stale} the Donahue return by chapter in the hope I'd be able to do that this a.m. if I did ~~not~~ feel like reading and correcting ~~set~~. Also, when I first ~~got~~ ^{got} up I sit and read for a while to let the ticker get to its usual ticking rate. But I didn't feel like that this ~~xxx~~ a.m.

I think I probably spent a little more time walking yesterday a.m. than I should have. If this feeling lingers I may even take in a preseason ballgame with Lil this afternoon, on radio. We've not gotten cable. Lil became an Orioles fan and I like baseball.

Meanwhile, we'll see how tomorrow is. Maybe I'll get an early start. Tomorrow is one of my bloodtest days and I don't then ordinarily go to my supermarket where I have more stability with a cart that I do with a cane or a walker. On which Lil now is, she's gotten that weak and unsteady.

In either the letter with the Donahue crap or one before then you deprecated what you referred to as your hunt-and peck use of the computer. In terms of accuracy those who were professionals I used did not do any better and most who knew what in typing is called the touch system made more typos than you did. Skipped more, usually a line. No, your work is good and I do very much appreciate it. Where you ran into problems was trying to be helpful, as in deciding that Little, Brown and Book-of-the-month Club should be in italics. Not so. All has to

have the italics eliminated.

You also thought you were being helpful in changing Cuba missile crisis where that is in my writing to Cuban missile crisis, which is how it is in quotations. I have never referred to it as the Cuban missile crisis and it wasn't. The crisis was between the US and the USSR. (At the time, when it was current, I doped out how it would end the Wednesday before it ended.) Cuba was virtually a bystander. McKnight often wondered about this but when he read the transcripts in Cuba on the Brink he came to agree with me. ^{u/}But I doubt he would refer to it as I do.

You said that ^{v/}sending on the pages with corrections would be cheaper and for most people that would be correct. Now I'm having the copying done commercially because I can't use the xerox as long as I used to without that knocking me out, to. I can sit with that left leg horizontal and have and do when I use it but some of the chest muscles do something to the ticker. So I do not take the time to eliminate the pages with no corrections and for the record for the future it should be a complete copy. I make a copy before sending the one I return and when there is no need for that, I can find someone who can use that copy among those in academe to whom I give disks. Several you do not know who are writing, too.

I've given McKnight what I had done on two books that required the use of my basement files now inaccessible to me and they'll be fine works when he finishes them. He had a sabbatical for one. (His excellent The Last Crusade, on the King Poor Peoples Campaign, by Westview, is in the stores now. He did very well with it.)

Not selecting the pages with corrections only eliminate^{s/} the possibility of my making a mistake. When my lap is my desk and my fingers do not work as well as once they did, it sometimes is not easy turning pages and they tend to stick together more than I remember from the past.

After I've sent the first you retyped back I'll copy and send what is real trash, what I did on ZR Rifle, which is really ZR Trifle. With what Cuban intelligence gave her the wonder is that Castro survived! ^{Actual} After junk. Silly, too.

If I can ever find time to try to complete straightening out all I've done I'll probably find more. I've a long Mailer ms. that the person who was correcting just quit on, one on the Soviet Spook, Nechiporenko (more crap) and a long ms on which the two people working ran into problems. A fine, really fine person, Dennis MacDonald, sociologist, of St. Anselm's College in Manchester has that. One of those people, Dennis says as bright a person as he ever knew, developed serious psychiatric problems and the other broke the computer and can't afford to get another one. She also created a problem ^{of} aspect of which I take up.

I've asked everyone to correct obvious mistakes of which I make many, too many typos and misspellings (apologies on freebies, and thanks). I've also asked that ~~if~~ something seems wrong to mark that on the original copy with a highlighter. Adding a note may be a good idea but as I turn the pages I'm sure to see the color. That fine woman put her question in what she retyped so all of that has to be removed. And there is always the possibility that seems wrong is not, as in Cuba missile crisis rather than Cuban.

From this description of the working conditions that are forced on me I think you can see why when I flip the pages as I read the color will catch my eye and if I intended what is in the ms., it will not have to be restored to it.

I now am looking at your 3/10, and with my eyes that means I have to stretch over to the right. You refer to misspelled words. I do not recall that you misspelled any. I always do! Some is just typos. But in the years I farmed I forgot all I knew about the rules and forgot how to spell many words I'd had no need to use with chickens or with the people to whom I sold them. That there is no misspelling in the books I published is because Lil caught all of that. She is not now up to that and I rarely ask her to read and correct.

You ~~are~~ have used "reprove" twice. None of this is that. You've done very well and it does mean much to me and I think will to others in the future.

You are correct on my feeling about haste. I want to do what I can while I can and it is oppressive to have reason to think that if I do not do it, it will not get done, will not be available if there is interest, will be lost. It is not a feeling of accomplishment. It is of ~~expressed~~ oppression and of apprehension.

You may be right on Shylock but in this area that play is used in all English classes so most people get the meaning. But on things like that, that will not effect the use scholars of the future may make so I take no time for them.

Twining's book is much worse than a waste of time. Wrono asked me to write about it and I got it and marked it up. it is the most professional of determined ignorance, the personification of stupidity, by a college-educated ignoramus. If

I live long enough I'll do as Wrono asked. I did ZR Rifle because McKnight asked. But before you got the Hershey back to me I started another work on the King assassination. I was Ray's investigator for some years and my work was as successful

as the political situation permitted. I also sued the government under FOIA and got about 80,000 pages. Frame-Up remains the only dependable work and there is much more I can do. If Ray can hold on long enough I may have enough to attract attention for TV or newspapers by then.

I think I got in the habit of sending every page when for those who were

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doing the retyping I and for myself on its return I put a paperclip on each page with a correction to be made. That drew attention to those pages. But with someone as mature as you I did not. I did use the lines you've seen where I did not forget.

If I do the epilogue today maybe I can get the copy made and mail it tomorrow. if not, I hope for Tuesday and I'll be onto Donaghe.

FYI, without ever meeting or speaking to him I got him to file the suit and I got him a lawyer to do it. He delayed too long in making up his tortured mind. He is now in a nursing home. When I decided to do that work to give him and more his family some better feeling about that monstrous sick ego and its harm, the case had been thrown out of court, wrongly. Before the appeal could come up St. Martins made them an offer they accepted. It includes an apology. But I went much farther in the book and I will get a copy to them.

There is an awful lot of bad, dishonest, misleading books on the assassination and they'd at best only mislead and misinform you. When you are in this area against off and pick up any you do not have. These stack.

I usually let this wait in the hope that I'll catch more and confabulate less in reading and correcting.

Until then, many many thanks!

Sincerely,



Harold Weisberg