

to both Johns, 2/18/90

After you returned I started preparing for my 77th birthday now less than two months away with triple-bypass surgery that went so well John Hopkins would have packed me off for home if I'd had more dependable transportation for the snow and ice that awaited me at Frederick on the sixth day. Made it on the 7th and have been doing ~~up~~ quite well in the chest since. More problems with the legs, though. (That hospital, if you do not know, is in "altimore.") I doubt that anything can be done about the legs so all I can do is continue to hope that I can hold onto them longer.

Because I have to keep the legs elevated when I'm not walking, and now the briefest standing makes them swell with the blood that is so slow returning to the heart, as you may recall I have to type sort of sideways. With my impaired vision my hunt-and-peck typing is even worse.

Some months ago I tried an electronic typewriter, and I'd have loved it if I had been able to use it. Among the problems was my inability to avoid some of the controls I did not intend to strike. I erased entire lines and had multitudes of caps when I did not intend it.

Since returning home from this surgery I've been trying, by phone to locate something like the wonderful gadget John S used when you were here. I've not gone to the places that sell word processors and computers because I can't stand and they send me literature only on what in the space I have is massive machines that first won't fit and second are much more than I want or need. I've been intending to write and ask you about that small machine or any other like it of which you know.

But in the time I've had I've been reminiscing, as I'm reminded, continuing to battle recalcitrant officialdom, particularly the FBI, which appears to be preparing another to defame me, and recording the facts and truth about those events of the dim past that the FBI is disgorging. Some of my older friends have been enjoying the copies I've been sending them.

Ad ad for an LC Smith word processor, lap size, in today's WxPost reminds me that I haven't asked you for any information you can provide. I'll make further inquiries about what I know is available in the US now but it is larger than what John S. had. It may or may not have advantages or other disadvantages.

I doubt I'll be able to see the keyboard well enough were I to try to use the machine as John S. did because my eyes may not be good enough at that distance. I don't know and can't until I can try to use one. One of the problems I have with this fine Hermes in its 23rd year that, after many millions of words have burdened it still types a straight line if I do not prevent it is the closeness of the key pads to each other. I may not be able to avoid this in any modern machine. But I strike the wrong letter too often. Perhaps I can determine whether I can use it from literature on your machine. I'll appreciate anything you can send, any suggestion you can make.

Jerry Ray, who has made both an art and a science of undependability, tells me you are interested in putting M Jimmy's book on TV. If ~~g~~ so, you see in it what I didn't. It is, aside from the little personal he has in it, utterly irrelevant and the personal stuff misrepresents him as I learned about him from him and from others. If you have any further interest in him, he had an associate in the Fulham bank job. He told me so.

You also told me that Melanson told you I had a high opinion of his book. All I ~~was~~ told you is that I'd not expressed any opinion to him. If I'd known you were going to go for it as you did I'd have said more but I did want to avoid influencing or even appearing to influence what you did. At my age and with my health limitations I also avoid all the unnecessary controversy I can. My opinion of his book is the exact opposite. For the historical record only, aside from curiosity, I'd appreciate knowing whatever else you'd feel free in telling me about that. I've annotated a copy for the historical record only and have made no distribution of it. He doesn't even know and I can't take controversy as I once did so I don't want to avoid or have any dispute with him. I doubt, tho, that he'll want and controversy with me. He and I know what you do not about that book.

Thanks and our best to you both, sincerely, Harold Weisberg 7627 Old Receiver