Dear Harold:

The main purpose in this brief note encompassing your mailings of Sept. 18, 21 and 25 is first to get the enclosed clippings on their way before they disintegrate from old age, and second to explain briefly our recent silence.

First, I don't believe any of the enclosed items need any explanation, as each usually has a small but possibly important angle not seen elsewhere.

For the past month or so I've been working outside, trying to get a job on the underpinnings of the house far enough along so that the approaching rainy season won't catch us without its being far enough along to involve damage. As you know, the house is built on the side of a steep hill, with its uphill side backed up against the slope (resting on a long massive "spine" foundation of concrete) and with the downhill side cantilevered out over five massive pillars based on concrete piers. Briefly, the piers have done some sinking, probably due to small earthquakes and the basically unstable nature of the ground on such sites. A contract job to jack up the lower side of the house and put in three supplementary piers and pillars probably would run up to \$2,000. Fortunately, one of our neighbors is a young architect-builder who os willing to tell me what to do as far as I can do it, then help pour the piers and install the new pillars. He'll work by the day and probably save us 75 per cent of what it would cost otherwise. Consequently I've been doing a lot of hard digging of holes for the piers, building forms for the concrete, and since we have to order a minimum of 3 cubics yards of concrete I've also torn up some disintegrating blacktop walks and stairsteps which also will be concreted on der tag when the concrete truck comes. There'll be a pumper truck too, to pump the slurry down the Mill through a 150-foot hose instead of the usual practice of having to build a I've had to sink three holes almost a yard square to a depth of four feet, and the digging was not easy because the site was under the house and hasn't been wet for 16 years. Also, xI've never built any concrete forms before, and had to proceed slowly and cautiously, using junk lumber left over from building the house 16 years ago. Fixing in the reinforcing steel is another new field for me, and by this time I'm happy to report that I've made about all me mistakes possible and should be finished well in time for the arrival of the cement truck and the pumper next Thursday.

At nights I've had to concentrate on trying to keep up with the clipping chores, and all in all there hasn't been much time to sit down and write the kind of reply I would like to for some of your enclosures.

at times exhilirating if somewhat jumbbled piece of work. He has a certain grace with which he ticks Nixon off as a cheap little bastard and other appropriate characterizations which one simply finds nowhere else.

About your note of 9/23.74 and the possibility of getting the Cubans' notebooks, we just don't know any young people who have the slightest interest, and certainly none who would have entree at the Hoover Library at Stanford, or to Stanford's Latin-American archives if they're separate from the Hoover Library.

We're sorry to hear about Hoch. For what it's worth, my own feeling about him has been that he is a very isolated person and very hard to communicate with. Certainly he always acted as though he were scared to death of us when it came to any human contact. So while his venture with the melons indicates that he can be influenced, I would ascribe his use of the material you object to more to simple ignorance and inexperience (both inevitable in a person so isolated and hard to know) than to his having been persuaded to do it by someone else, although that cannot be ruled out. The point may be that he could not have been persuaded in any case had he had enough real association with other, real, people. It does seem that, in general, any young person with enough concentrative capacity to become gemuinely interested in this particular field also usually comes up with a blind spot or deficiency of some kind which sooner or later gets them into a situation where they perform with less than honor or waxxx ethical principle. In other words, they simply don't know how to behave in the sense of making an honorable choice in vertain situations.

Glad to have your 9/16/74 thoughts on the pardon. We too had noticed, and continue to notice, how Ms. Nixon has faded from the picture and stays out of it, and like you have from the first felt it meant something rather important. Today, for example, when he left the hospital, there was no mention on radio reports of either her or Tricia, merely someone stating from Long Beach that Julie was elsewhere in the hospital as her father left. Tonight, one report said Pat and Tricia left with Nixon, but no further mention.

On the whole, we feel that the fleebus caper has lost much of its clout due to that shameless hussy and female chavinist, Betty Ford, who had the gall to have a matterious mastectomy just as the fleebus tide was running full. How can a mere mortal man hope to compete, in this degenerate mammalian society, with a dramatic coup like a mastectomy -- short, of course, of having one testicle removed? Do you suppose that the matchless medical team of Tkach and Lungren could locate a new bloodclot in one of Nixon's balls? Only would be enough, of course, to even the score with that insolent woman in the White House, and there'd still be one left, wouldn't there? Tune in tomorrow.

Thanks for the clipping on Margaret Mead and UPOs. We'd not have seen it otherwise. She's typical of the way the scientific crowd avoids the issue while seeming to deal with it.

By the way, I promoted to let you know about KPFA. They got back on the air two or three weeks ago. Broke and operating only with volunteers after caving in to the strikers. Their programming even poorer than before, with even the news affected adversely. Will Lewis of hatth about tingform powarand with about the production of the produ