

DEC 18 1972

12/17/72 HR, I've read the two life excerpts from Margaret Truman Daniel's book and laid them aside for you. If you like teacle and trifle, it is for you. If not, you may still want to read for other things and to look at some of the pictures for various reasons. These include the fast changes in people, like JFK and LBJ, the number of men prominent enough to be close to them you will not recognize, which should tell you something about the capability of the political system for producing men of authentic ability. There are minierature portraits of the over-advertised, like Churchill and Acheson among others. And of course of the hero. The awful the crap the better its chances of commercial publication and subsidiary uses. Considering especially that her hasband is an editor and the number of years she had to get an idea of solidity of content, this sample reflects a surprising lack of it. To coin a phrase of sorts, it is lard, not ganzerschmalz. The only thing I found really interesting is the certainty that FDR would not last his fourth term. I don't recall that being bruite^{ive}d about. Maybe I've forgotten. Harry and Margaret seem a bit defens~~e~~^{ive} about some of his major and most barbaric decisions. But remember, the condensation may be less than faithful to the full work. There should be some worthwhile information in it for a history major, especially in what she may not have understood the way you would - and if Daniel and others didn't catch those things. My point here is that she was devoted to uncriticalness, not ignorant or chauvenist. HW

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