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Dorsey Writes His Congressman by Aleene Smith 1966-1967

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MEMORANDUM
OF CALL

Previous editions usable

TO:

Don

☐ YOU WERE CALLED BY ☐ YOU WERE VISITED BY

Rosanne Oliver

OF (Organization):

Hydra Company

☒ PLEASE PHONE ☐ FTS ☐ AUTOVON

Houston

☐ WILL CALL AGAIN ☐ IS WAITING TO SEE YOU

☐ RETURNED YOUR CALL ☐ WISHES AN APPOINTMENT

MESSAGE

713-449-2000

RECEIVED BY

H.P.

DATE

11/29

TIME

63-110 NSN 7540-00-634-4018

STANDARD FORM 63 (Rev. 8-81)

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Rose Ann 4492000

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Rose

6406 Lippson

75225

²¹⁴
Coleman

Joyce

Fred Myers, FH

17 months

Fred

155

72821

Ann Brock

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Dennis Lee Dorsey
3115 Lazy ~~Woods~~

77008

(713) 869-3045

449-2000
office

Hydril, Inc.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

1 Ferrera
1 ~~Herman~~ Herman
1 ~~Conan~~ Conan
1 Carson
1 Hart
2 Ailes
1 S. in the
1 mid off
Busch

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Alice Dorsey
V. H. Hospital
Dearborn, Mich

DORSEY WRITES HIS CONGRESSMAN

By Aleene Smith

Dedicated to the Memory of
Paul Dorsey, Constituent

OUTLINE

"Dorsey Writes His Congressman"

I. INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT:

1. How correspondence got started. (With a typed postcard signed "Paul Dorsey" sent to George Bush at Bush for Congress Headquarters.)
2. How it ended. (One year and three months later when Dorsey died of cancer.)

II. DETAILS OF CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Campaign period - Dorsey antagonistic.
2. Post-election period.
 - a. Dorsey giving advice.
 - b. Dorsey needing about Phi Beta Kappa Key.
 - c. Dorsey softened up by GB's Christmas letter.
3. Clippings (48), marked and with comments, mostly advice to freshman congressman.
4. Letters written week of swearing-in, House of Representatives.
 - a. Advice day of swearing in.
 - b. Comment following President's State of Union message with comment on GB's reaction to speech.
 - c. Asking for info re getting into Red China. (First clue to Dorsey's past.)
 - d. GB's self-typed letter to Dorsey.
5. Ground rules set for answering Dorsey's letters.
6. Dorsey's letter on GB's TV appearance re State of Union message.
7. 8 days after swearing-in, Dorsey "closes the book" on GB.
8. Book didn't stay closed long. Dorsey comment on appointment to Ways & Means Committee.
9. Dorsey letter to LIFE correspondent. (Another hint re Dorsey's past.)

III. DETAILS OF CORRESPONDENCE (continued):

10. Dorsey begins to soften up.
11. Dorsey seemed to have completely forgotten about ending the correspondence.
12. Dorsey signs off again.
13. Dorsey didn't go to New Mexico after all.
14. Dard from friend, first indication Dorsey was ill.
15. Letters not so close together now.
16. Dorsey comment on HOUSTON CHRONICLE editorial re GB.
17. More letters.
18. With all his own problems, Dorsey thought of others.
19. Dorsey has now gone from avid opponent to great admirer.
20. Dorsey writes of his admiration for Mrs. Bush. (Dorsey's last, but one, typewritten letter.
21. Dorsey prepares for more surgery and Congressman talks to doctor.
22. Also on day before surgery Dorsey comes up with more advice.
23. "Mrs. Smith-Brown" (name given Aleene Smith, Congressman's secretary, by Dorsey) gets a postcard from Dorsey.
24. Dorsey writes GB about Congressman's visit at hospital.
25. Dorsey writes Mrs. Smith-Brown for assistance with veterans' benefit.
26. Dorsey still worrying about his appearance when Congressman visited him.
27. Dorsey returns to his role of advisor.
28. Dorsey asks Mrs. Smith-Brown for information re living in Mexico.
29. More about Mexico.
30. Dorsey still concerned about others' problems.
31. Letters getting farther apart now.
32. Congressman gets some disturbing news on Dorsey.
33. Dorsey back at his typewriter but his typing has deteriorated.

34. No more typewritten letters - farther apart and harder to read.
35. Last letter from Dorsey, dated December 19, 1967, received Christmas Eve, ended: "1967 has not been a vintage year."

III. CONCLUSION:

1. The final letter came not from Dorsey but from his good friend, enclosing:
 - a. Dorsey's personally-written obituary.
 - b. Full-page spread from LIFE Magazine with picture of Lt. Paul Dorsey, "Photographer of the Month."
 - c. U. S. CAMERA story, "Paul Dorsey."
2. Only then did the Congressman learn that his one-time antagonist, turned good friend, had been a famous photographer-journalist.

DORSEY WRITES HIS CONGRESSMAN

By

Aleene Smith

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

DON RHODES

RETURN TO

With thanks to George Bush who gave me
the privilege of using these letters
and to my husband, Hargrove, my proof-
reader and critic.

"Letters make the best anthologies.... It is chiefly--
perhaps only--in letters that one gets the mother-of-
pearly shimmer inside the oyster of Fact."

Christopher Morley

- 1 -

It began with a typed postcard dated October 15, 1966, addressed to "Mr. George Bush" at Bush for Congress Headquarters in Houston, Texas. It ended one year and three months later when ^{Paul}Dorsey died of cancer January 16, 1968.

This is the story of the correspondence between Paul Dorsey, constituent, and his congressman, George Bush, now Chief, United States Liaison Office, Peking, People's Republic of China.

When the correspondence started, I knew a lot about George Bush, having been his secretary in 1963 when he was Chairman of the Harris County Republican Party in Houston, a member of his campaign staff in 1964 when he made an unsuccessful bid for a Texas U. S. Senate seat, then in 1965 his personal secretary at Zapata Off-Shore Company, an international oil drilling firm of which George Bush was founder, Chairman of the Board and President, and in 1966 on his campaign staff in a race to represent the 7th District of Texas (a part of Houston) in the House of Representatives.

All I knew about Paul Dorsey was that he was a man with a typewriter.

Dorsey's postcard, which follows, was forwarded from the campaign headquarters to the Houston Club Building where Mr. Bush and I had offices across the hall from his former business, the Zapata Off-Shore Company, which he had sold when he decided to run for the congressional seat.

In large type &

"When are you going to quit horsing around....." (in italics)

Oct 15 1966

Sir:

So far you have talked a lot - and said nothing. When are you going to quit horsing around and get down to the meat of the matter. What are your views (if any) on inflation, open housing, integration, street rioting under the guise of Civil Rights, the war in Viet Nam, etc.

To date you are the first political candidate to make the boastful statement that he is a "War Hero". Please amplify. What does the citation say?

Paul Dorsey
Box 13214
Houston Tex

This was followed by a letter-to-the-editor published October 24, 1966, in THE HOUSTON POST:

"The Meat of the Matter, Says Paul Dorsey"

About this fellow George Bush who is enriching the coffers of the TV stations: When is he going to get down to the meat of the matter and tell us his views on open housing, anti-poverty, molly coddling of criminals, mass lawlessness which masquerades as civil rights?

If he is a true "war hero" as he claims to be, then it's a new first. None before him has made such a boastful statement as a prerequisite to public office.

Paul Dorsey
Box 13214

Mr. Bush was inclined to disregard the postcard and the letter to the POST as the work of one of his opponent's supporters trying to needle him.

Knowing the candidate as I did, the taunt about boasting about his war record didn't set well with me. Although George Bush is a man of many accomplishments, he is a modest man, and, far from claiming to be a "war hero" he often joked when asked about his experience which led to his receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross, saying he "broke the world's 100-yard free-style record" swimming toward the U. S. Submarine FinBack which picked him up out of the Pacific.

So I prepared the following letter and, with Mr. Bush's "OK",
mailed it to Dorsey:

~~"~~ Thank you for writing, Mr. Dorsey. ~~"~~

BUSH FOR CONGRESS
1700 Houston Club Building
Houston, Texas

October 25, 1966

Dear Mr. Dorsey,

Your postcard mailed to our campaign headquarters has been
referred to me. I am enclosing one of Mr. Bush's brochures which I
believe will answer most of your questions.

You mention Mr. Bush's war record and ask "What does the citation
say?" I'm glad I have the opportunity to answer your card because I have a
copy of the citation ^{in my office} which accompanied the Distinguished Flying Cross awarded
Mr. Bush ~~#####~~ and I can copy it for you:

"For distinguishing himself by heroism and extra-ordinary
achievement while participating in aerial flights in line of his
profession as pilot of a torpedo plane during the attacks by
United States Naval Forces against Japanese installations in the
vicinity of the Bonin Islands on 2 September 1944. He led one
section of a four plane division which attacked a radio station.
Opposed by intense anti-aircraft fire his plane was hit and set
afire as he commenced his dive. In spite of smoke and flames
from the fire in his plane, he continued in his dive and scored
damaging bomb hits on the radio station, before bailing out of
his plane. His courage and complete disregard for his own safety,
both in pressing home his attack in the face of intense and accurate
anti-aircraft fire, and in continuing in his dive on the target
after being hit and his plane on fire, were at all times in keeping
with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

(Signed) J. S. McCain
Vice Admiral, U. S. Navy

Thank you for writing, Mr. Dorsey. Not enough citizens take the time and trouble to find out the facts.

Yours very truly,

Mrs. Aleene Smith
Secretary to Mr. Bush

Nothing further was heard from Dorsey until after the election, which Mr. Bush won by a substantial margin.

On November 26, 1966, Dorsey started giving the Congressman-Elect advice and he never let up.

In most cases, the complete text of the letters is used, but in the instances where there has been some necessary deletion, that fact is indicated by the use of this symbol:

~~"Don't put Mama on the payroll"~~

Memo from The Devil's Advocate: -

Nov 26 1966

Dear Congressman-Elect Bush:

The rule says that a freshman Congressman should be seen but not heard, but putting myself in your place, and with an eye to '68, I would break precedent, particularly since you are that uncommon bird, a Republican in a nominally Democratic district, where the balance of power is in River Oaks, but the balance of votes is on the wrong side of the tracks.

You do right to criticize me,¹ but if the needle was blunt it was the result of the average citizens innate distrust of professional politicians; those people who make a fetish of personal integrity when that ingredient is so sadly lacking. But withal I sense an inner quality about you which merits approval. Many other voters apparently felt the same.

¹ Evidently referring to a handwritten letter from Mr. Bush.

The political game, as it is played in Washington is a no-holds barred affair.

These are a few things of the things you will learn in the months ahead:

The real productive work is done in Committee. Right from the first day you should make every effort to get the choice of committees where you can best function for your constituents, and for your own future welfare.

It is essential to put together the best available staff. Your Number One assistant should be a real Washington Pro, thoroughly familiar with the ramifications of officialdom. Constantly bear in mind that your term of office is for only two years. Good staff work can make the difference between victory and defeat. Without a thoroughly competent staff you will be lost in the forest.

Get familiar with the Library of Congress, and its many useful functions, particularly in the field of research, available to you without cost.

'Make your number' with the Washington Press Corps, particularly the Texas segment.

Never allow yourself to be photographed singly with any business leader who has contact with Govt purchasing or contracts. Treat Brown & Root¹ and/or Halliburton² officials as if they had poison ivy...~~And if you should~~ And if you should ever appear on TV with LBJ don't look too damn happy about it.....

If you have maintained your Naval Reserve status make it known, praise the Navy for what they are doing in Vietnam (65% of the bombing). Also there is a club for Congressional Airdales if you wish to keep up your stick time.

Maintain an up to the minute run down on free literature from the Government Printing Office, Agricultural and Commerce Depts. Make good use of your franking privileges.

Put your Volunteer Workers to the useful task of making a breakdown of job classifications. Use the computer for quick reference and let each

¹ Large Houston general contractor.
² Houston oil industry-related firms.

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particular segment know what efforts you are expending in their behalf.

Get acquainted with the Congressional TV studios.

Don't forget that snow is something we seldom see. Build a snowman for a family portrait.

Meet the AP and UPI photographers who cover The Hill. If they don't drink they damn well sell the bottle to someone who does. Meet the Time-Life and Newsweek correspondents. The Star is the prestige paper but everyone reads The Post (they own Newsweek). If you ever roughnecked¹ during college vacation - make the most of it. Get Congressional plates on your car, without delay. They grant the same immunity (while Congress is in session) as Diplomatic. That fellow Dirksen has the makings of a good clown and more properly should be playing second lead on the Batman program. He doesn't ring true, neither does your nominal leader, Rep. Ford.....

To any Vietnam veterans who are decorated write the man direct, also write the family. To those who get zapped write their next of kin. Bear in mind that people in these parts don't read The Congressional Record and there are only two years before the next go-round. Make good use of your time and don't be unduly modest.

Stay away from fancy dress affairs. Your best friends may be in the upper income brackets but the working stiff's have the balance of votes. Study the LBJ administration, pick out the spots where it has failed and raise holy hell. Take an especially good look at the Job Corps. Are you hawk or dove? One solution: Give the civilians in Hanoi and Haiphong 30 days to clear out, then level every possible military target. Let's fight to win and get done with it.

Raise holy Hell about recent Supreme Court decisions which protect the criminal and turn the guilty free. You might even cite one recent Texas decision which freed an admitted killer because his attorney was delinquent

¹ An unskilled or semiskilled laborer in an oil field.

in his Bar dues.

Take a positive stand on rioting in the streets which is destroying respect for law and order. Call on Selective Service Hdqrs to come up with full and true records of the draft status of Lynda Bird's boyfriend¹, Cassius Clay and those who have escaped to the sancity (sic) of Canada.

Learn to adjust to the jockeying and vote swapping which is an essential part of your job - but always be true to yourself. I wish you well.

Sincerely,

Paul Dorsey
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

NB - Keep in mind you are weak with the Mexican-American voters. Plug for a wage increase for the Valley farm workers. Keep check on US Information broadcasts, literature, etc. They are heavily Administration slanted. See the working press for dope. Taxpayers' money used to support LBJ, etc. Introduce a bill to regulate cigaret commercials on TV. Today's Army-Navy game had 5 Tvc's for Winston and Salem's. Make the NY Times your daily bible. Don't put Mama on the payroll.

"...I've figured out why you ran for Congress." Dec 12 1966

Dear Congressman-Elect:

Even my best friends tell me I'm slow-witted, but finally I've figured out why you ran for Congress. One, you'll get to meet all those nice people including Rep. Powell and two, it gets cold enough to wear a vest - for without a vest - no key.¹² Right?

I'll take up the cudgels and bury the needle if you will agree to run against that slob Yarborough.²³

Merry Xmas to you and yours.

Paul Dorsey
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

1 A reference to George Hamilton whose draft status was in the news at that time.

2 Mr. Bush is a graduate of Yale, Phi Beta Kappa.

3 His unsuccessful Senate race in 1964 was against Senator Yarborough.

The following is the first record of a letter from the Congressman-Elect to Dorsey:

".....let's have a Holiday armistice."

December 16, 1966

Dear Mr. Dorsey,

Don't bury the needle. I can't agree to run against Yarborough.¹ Not that I'm afraid to, mind you, but who knows what's going to be happening in 1970.

I want to make a confession. When I saw your first letter in the newspaper, pro Briscoe² anti Bush, I immediately said to myself, "There's a damn crackpot." Then came your letter with the advice on how to conduct myself in the Congress. I gave it to my very pro-Bush secretary who has also had a lot of experience in politics. She said, "Well, I guess we've got this guy all wrong." She also pointed out, and I agree, that P. Dorsey knows a lot about the Congress and the affairs of the Country.

You're wrong about needing a place to sport my PEK key. Besides that, I plan to come back to the District a lot, and it's too hot there for a vest. You're right about Adam Clayton Powell. Negro or white, no one should flaunt the laws as openly as he has and sit in the Congress of the United States. You're wrong about being for Briscoe over me. You're right about giving me a chance to show what I can do.

But, let's have a Holiday armistice. Leave the cudgels on the shelf, keep the needle ready, blunt and ready, but don't use it on me until after January 10th, when the Congress convenes.

I hope you have a great Christmas and prosperous New Year. I know I'll be hearing from you in '67, but in spite of the needle, in spite of the cudgels, in spite of your poor political judgment in being for Briscoe instead of me, I must say I'm kinda looking forward to getting the letters. I have somewhat reluctantly concluded, as you can see, that you

¹ It turned out that he did run for the Senate in 1970, but not against Yarborough, who was defeated in the Democratic primary.
² His opponent in the Congressional race.

probably know what you're talking about and are right more than you're wrong.
After all, isn't this what it's all about?

Merry, Merry Christmas.

Sincerely,

George Bush

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

"From time to time....I'll jot along a note or two....."

Dec 20 1966

Dear Mr. Bush:

Your very cordial letter left me speechless. Sorry, however, to learn that your pro-Bush secretary gets first crack at your correspondence. There are times when my company manners desert me.

As an ignorant, on-the-shelf has-been I've been slightly exposed to national politics as you both rightfully gathered.

Right from the beginning I asked myself the question: Now here's a guy who is head of a profitable profit-making organization, so what's the gimmick? Why would he throw it away to run for a job which has no stock options, no end-of-the-year bonus. Why does he want to make his home in a city with an intolerable school situation?

Then after I had read of the house-by-house campaign I realized you were running in earnest and had the will to win. The TV program had all the earmarks of a professionally guided tour, with every indication (to the close observer) that it was the product of money and brains, plus a faint aroma of the Hasty Pudding Club.

I questioned your sincerity, then again asked myself - Is this fellow really dedicated - and to what purpose? The answers will come after Jan. 10th.

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Of the pols I have known damn few can qualify or merit an accolade as real men of integrity, for to speak the truth can mean defeat. As a for- instance there is Paul Douglas, a real gentleman, decent, honest and out-spoken and yet defeated largely because of his forthright attitude. I too would have voted against him, yet retain the image of a man who is truly great.

From time to time, with your permission, I'll jot along a note or two and maybe a clipping and, in a minor sense, act as the voice of the common man's conscience. There is indeed room in Washington for a man of honor and integrity. I hope you prove to be that individual. No reply is needed and, believe me, I have no axe to grind and no favors to ask. Kindest regards,

Sincerely,

Dorsey

~~George Bush~~
~~George Bush~~
~~George Bush~~

Dorsey's "maybe a clipping" turned out to be forty-eight clippings between this letter and the January 10th swearing-in, marked and with comments, mostly advice to a freshman Congressman.

There were four messages from Dorsey the week of the swearing-in. "This advice is gratis!"

Jan 10 1967

Dear Mr. Bush:

There's a simple way to put this country back on it's feet.

- (1) Turn the Air Force back to the Army.
- (2) Abolish all those phony Great Society programs, and instead furnish shovels and brooms to the so-called slum dwellers.
- (3) Establish Govt operated Trade Schools for the unemployed and promptly kick out those who show inaptitude or ~~##~~ unwillingness to learn.
- (4) Call on Great Britain, France, Russia, etc. to immediately start paying

their honest obligations and halt imports unless they comply.

(5) Require all United Nations members to pay their just dues - or be dropped.

(6) Cut off all aid to so-called underprivileged countries. Let's learn to keep our noses out of other peoples affairs.

(7) Recognize the war in Vietnam for what it really is - An intrusion into a Civil War fostered by inept politicians, and professional military men who see in it an opportunity to enhance their peacetime stature.

(8) Put a stop to the more than 50,000 highway deaths each year by requiring Federal licensing of all cars and drivers that engage in inter-state travel. Follow the lines of the FAA.

(9) Immediately reduce all Federal spending budgets by 25%, follow the recommendations of the Hoover Commission and hire an independent consulting firm to recommend changes to effect utmost efficiency.

(10) Put all Govt postal officials under Civil Service.

(11) Require both physical and mental examinations of all appointees who hold office in perpetuity. (Farewell, Mr. Douglas).

(12) Eliminate 99% of the so-called Public Information Offices and make department officials responsible for open inspection of their work, and records.

(13) Take away the vote from all persons who cannot read and write Basic English and who cannot pass elementary examination in the structure of civic affairs.

(14) Revoke the Executive sanctions imposed on Rhodesia, and recognize it for what it really is - a sop to Negro voters.

(15) Remove the Halo from the head of LBJ and banish him to Antarctica.

(16) Require Bobby to get a haircut - or buy a fiddle.

(17) Require all political candidates to pass (1) A physical fitness examination and (2) a Lie-Detector Test. Impeach those who flunk.

This advice is gratis.

Jan 10 1967

Is this fellow on full or part-time payroll?

pd

Attached to the above note was a letter-to-the-editor published that date in THE HOUSTON POST written by a Mr. J. Frank Jungman in which he predicted that the next Texan to be a President "will be personable, likable, hard-working George Bush."

Jan 11 1967

~~He~~ He advises us to continue playing Nosy Parker...

This is one citizen's reaction to the President's State of the Union Message, just concluded:

- (1) He advocates more spending on all fronts, foreign and domestic.
- (2) He wants more power centralized in Washington, with all States and Cities dependent upon Federal generosity. (His own)
- (3) He will make no attempt to reduce spending.
- (4) He advises us to continue playing Nosy Parker to the rest of the world and continue to interfere with the internal affairs of the nations of Africa and Asia, and to continue their economic support until the end of time.
- (5) He welcomes political debate only so long as the opposition holds views similar to his own.
- (6) His hired ghost writer threw in words with which he was clearly unfamiliar.
- (7) He has a poor sense of timing, in that the Message was dull, uninteresting and overly long.
- (8) He made it evident that the Democratic clique was not unrehearsed. (The cues were evident).
- (9) He advocates the continual pouring of men, money and materials into Vietnam until all their politicians and Generals have become multi-millionaires.
- (10) He proved once again that he a liar, a hypocrite and a demagogue; that he is not to be trusted.

Paul Dorsey

Enclosed with this letter was a clipping from THE HOUSTON POST, "Texas Solons' Reaction to LBJ Message Mixed." Dorsey's comment on Congressman's reaction "I applaud many of the objectives set forth in the President's message, but I am disappointed that the tremendous projected deficit did not cause him to recommend priorities for domestic spending...." was:

"Too many business lunches at the Houston Club....."

Too conciliatory. Out of touch with the common man. Too many business lunches at the Houston Club, not enough at the corner diner. Failure to recognize voters' belief that 99% of Foreign Aid is wasted and has accomplished nothing but Anti-American feeling; that Anti-Poverty Programs are simply schemes to buy Negro votes; that Congress, individually and as a whole, has deteriorated into a Rubber Stamp vacuum.

Ouch!

pd

"Will your Mrs. Brown be good enough to look in the Wash phone book....."

Jan 11 1967

Mr. George Bush
House of Representatives
Wash. D.C.

Dear Mr. Bush:

As you can see from the enclosed, my letter to Ed Thompson, Editor of LIFE and his reply, I'm trying to make my way (with camera)¹ into Red China. It seems to offer the best opportunity to provide for a financial future which at this moment appears rather grim.

The Mme. Whoosis, mentioned in his letter, may or may not have her head by the time my letter reaches Peking, and since time is short I'm anxious to attack on as many fronts as possible.

¹ Our first indication of Dorsey's past history.

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Two other candidates come to immediate mind; the Red Ambassador to the Court of St. James (I believe they're on speaking terms) and possibly the Trade Representative who arranges the purchase of Canadian wheat.

To avoid what might be an awkward situation I'll settle for this: Will your Mrs. Brown be good enough to look in the Wash phone book and get me the addresses of the British and Canadian Embassies. And can she also ascertain whether a letter posted here will leave the continental U.S.? One of your constituents, a Mr. Chow Mein, wants to know.

A friend of a friend said he saw you applauding LBJ's State of the Nation speech last night. If that is so I hereby submit my resignation as a charter member of the Bush for President Club.

Good luck in your new job.

Dorsey

Three days later, in one of the few self-typed letters of which he kept a copy, Congressman Bush wrote Dorsey:

".....when they said write your congressman you sure do....."

January 14th 1967 self-typed of a Sat AM

Dear Mr. Dorsey:

We have to establish some ground rules. I know that text books on this job say answer every letter - in your case, tho I'd like to, for your letters are provocative, I can't answer 'em all. You studied Civics 2 well and when they said write your congressman you sure do...we all (in spite of your suggestions that I can Mrs. Brown¹ - her real name is Smith) read these communiques with a passion. Today Miss Harrison² heralded my (and please note this) early Sat AM arrival with---- "2 more ^{from} ~~###~~ Dorsey". Hell, if I were as rich as the papers say I'd pay to get a jet to bring you up here just to sit down and review the bidding.

¹ No record of the origin of this suggestion.

² Carol Harrison, staff secretary.

Things I do like from Dorsey:

1. view on state of union message - you can say more personal things about LBJ than I can but the points I find to be totally acceptable.
2. knowledge of Washington scene - some day you must tell me where you got all this background.
3. Frankness even when in disagreement with my mighty views.

Things I don't like from Dorsey:

1. suggestion that that astute statesman who sent in letter saying Bush should be President might be on my payroll - surely, sir, you can recognize that be-stirring of the grass roots. No, Mr. Jungman must indeed be a shrewd unpaid observer of the National big picture.
2. Canning Secretary - this upset us. not too much and no action has been taken but what it did was cast a pall over our normally bubbling office staff "If Mrs. Brown can receive the wrath of Dorsey, what about me" kind-of-thing.
3. Criticism for applauding President. There is such a thing as manners. Most of the GOP including yours truly sat on hands much of time. I don't like LBJ programs, but he's not wrong on everything - so I clap when I think he's right and throw stuff when he's wrong....don't resign from Bush for Pres. Club--- join Jungman. The pays better at the White House, and, as you correctly predicted in an earlier epistle the other fellows here don't seem to feel that they need my views on every subject. Each one feels he knows the answers.
4. criticism of Kennedy Bairdo - it's swingin', man. I think it'll prove to be his undoing.
5. Comments on Justice Douglas physical performance. Under plans for universal physical, instead of being thrown out, I'm afraid this guy'd make President.

General Comments on Dorsey:

1. He must be quite a guy. The letter to Mr. Thompson, which I am returning, gave me an insight into a man, and I am happy to have it. We can argue politics, and we can and will agree and disagree - but all this is beside the point, I now

have antreasured personal view of a man who obvisusly can think and feel, and who's trying to reach for something. I am glad to know him albeit through the good offices of Larry O'Brien.

2. I hope he continues to eat me out or holler in rage as I vote or who knows even agree at times.....

Best Regards,

George Bush

Addresses: The British Embassy 3100 Massachusetts Avenue (NW)

The Canadian Embassy 1746 Massachusetts Avenue (NW)

".....~~Three days after the swearing-in ceremony~~, this card from Dorsey:

".....so when can we expect some action?"

Jan 13 1967

Honorable Sir:

Already you've been on the payroll three whole days, so when can we expect some action? We've had no Motions to impeach the Nine Old Men, a 50% increase in the Depletion Allowance, the renaming of this State to Bird Land, more Govt grants for Lazy People and Admission of Dirksen into Actors Equity.

Your salary is taking a big bite out of our Tax Money. When can we expect some results.

pd

On the card this note was written, "AS, Hold in PD file to be answered weekly. JA³ This was when the "ground rules" referred to by the Congressman in his letter were established. All Dorsey communications were placed in a folder labeled "HOLD FOR ANSWER - Paul Dorsey" which was kept in the Congressman's upper right-hand desk drawer. The usual procedure was that the Congressman personally answered the accumulated letters on Saturday mornings.

¹ Aleene Smith.

² Paul Dorsey.

³ Jim Allison, Administrative Aide.

Several days after President Johnson's State of the Union message, some Republican members of Congress, including Congressman Bush, were given TV time to present their "rebuttal." Dorsey didn't think much of their performance as shown in the following letters:

~~.....~~ "The Late, Late Show was a far better performance."~~.....~~

Jan 16 1967

Dear Mr. Geo. Bush - MC

You politicians are taking advantage of my good nature, and I'm not sure I like it.

The newscaster had just finished telling us what a hell of a shape the world was in, the weatherman had made his usual guesses about tomorrow and I was all settled in for an hour of late-evening Shoot-Em-Ups. So what do I get, instead? A fistful of opulent Republicans lavishing self-praise. The name of the game was 'Oh, Boy, Ain't I Just Great'. It left me cold.

Since there was no advance notice am I right in assuming that your little Koffee Klatch was something spontaneously unrehearsed?

The Director, or whoever (m?) handled the affair, will never win an Academy Oscar. It was an amateurish performance all around. No large picture of LBJ on the walls, no God Save our Home and, worst of all, we saw mostly the back of your heads while you were talking.

Granted, I listened with only half an ear, but the sense of the meeting seemed to say that you had all been elected because the opposition was thick-headed. Your Moderator was inappropriately named. He should have been called Mr. Interlocutor. He fed the lines and like a group of schoolboys you answered Present when your name was called.

If this is the best you fellows can come up with I say Come Home, All is Forgiven. You can forget about '68.

I was ready to be impressed, not disappointed. The Late, Late

18
27 -
Show was a far better performance.

Also, I'm not sure I like the idea of you playing palsy with that
¹
Chuck Percy. In the first place, he comes from North of the Mason-Dixon
Line, and secondly, he represents a State who gave birth to someone whose
name I have forgotten, but the initials are A.L.

Dorsey

Dorsey didn't approve of the way the Republicans conducted them-
selves on the unseating of former Congressman Adam Clayton Powell, either:
~~They~~ ["] You people certainly flubbed the ball....."

Jan 18 1967

Dear Mr. George Bush - MC etc.

You people certainly flubbed the ball in taking the lead on the
Powell custer. It was a Heaven-sent opportunity.

Considering the mood of the country the Democrats had no choice
but to wash their dirty linen in public. Mr. Ford, in his eagerness to
make headlines for himself, put the onus on the Republicans. The number of
Negro votes you have lost is incalculable,

If the GOP can't come up with better leadership I'll be forced to
swing my allegiance to George & Lurleen.²

Did you notice the manner in which LBJ disassociated himself from
³
the O&G industry by the State of the Nation swipe at the pipeline people?

One of these days I may come up with an idea which rings the bell.
At the moment I've concluded that the education of a President is a long and
tedious process.

Best Wishes,

Dorsey

¹
² Senator Charles Percy of Illinois.
³ Governor Wallace of Alabama.
Oil & Gas Industry.

19
28

after
On January 18, Dorsey sent along two letters and now/eight days as
a congressman, Dorsey must have come to the conclusion that he just wasn't
going to be able to make anything out of Congressman Bush and wrote that
with these communications, he was "closing the book."

"The Moon is made of Green Cheese."

Jan 18 1967

Mr. Geo. Bush:

According to Business Week (Jan 14) The Space Agency will shortly
ask the Congress for another \$5.1 Billion dollars to continue their work.
This is money wasted.

As a Tourist Attraction the Space Center has good possibilities, so
does Disneyland.

Why spend all those hard-earned Tax Dollars to learn what every
schoolboy already knows: The Moon is made of Green Cheese.

Yours very truly,

Paul Dorsey - MRL*

*Member, Poorer Class

"This closes the book."

Jan 18 1967

Mr. George Bush,
House of Representatives,
Wash, D.C.

Dear Mr. Bush:

Unless the Great Game of Politics has changed considerably since
I was a child it's mostly a matter of compromise. You vote for my worthless
dam, and I'll vote to support your Peanut crops.

Counting both Houses, there are a couple of hundred so-called Repub-
licans in elective offices in Washington and, to this day, not a single one
of you has had the guts to stand up for what you know is right.

Not one of you is willing to challenge that profligate spendthrift, who wants to impose his will on the rest of the world, to a bare-knuckles fight. In place of a pay-as-you-go government you have let us be saddled with a debt which can never be paid, the interest alone amounting to \$14,000,000,000 yearly.

You have abrogated your rights under the Constitution by allowing the Executive Branch to involve us in war, the cost of which is rapidly amounting to an astronomical figure. You sit supinely by, twiddle your thumbs, make resounding speeches for the folks back home - and do nothing.

As the Law-making department of government you are a dismal failure. The Supreme Court has assumed that function. The criminal is King. Your only reaction: A shrug of your shoulders.

This country of ours badly needs a Messiah, a slayer of dragons. Even a Huey Long, at his worst, is better than most of those who represent us today.

We need a Teddy Roosevelt, even a Calvin Coolidge, not ~~another~~ another Warren G Harding, with a dissimilar accent.

Since the end of WW II you have allowed us to continuously meddle in the affairs of other nations to their great detriment, and to ours. More than half the world hates us and we, alone, thru intervention, are solely responsible for present conditions in India, Africa, the Middle East, Indonesia and China. First we placate the Jews, next the Negroes, now the Dictators.

Let's put our own house in order, and allow others to do the same. If they choose to practice cannibalism that's their affair, and no concern of ours. Certainly their civilizations are much older than ours and they managed, somehow, to survive long before we came along.

Let's cut out the dam foolishness and get down to the serious business of putting our own house in order.

Is anyone listening?

Sincerely yours,

Dorsey

NB - Tilting at windmills is an expensive avocation, one which I, as one of your least affluent backers, can no longer afford. (Did I hear cheering?) This closes the book. If, at any time, I can be of help please do not hesitate to call on me.

~~"Impossible! I don't believe it."~~

Some really big news evidently made Dorsey forget the fact that he had "closed the book" on the Congressman. On January _____, Congressman Bush was appointed to the House Ways and Means Committee. This was a singular honor considering the fact that he was only one of four freshmen congressman so chosen in this century ~~###~~ for what is generally referred to as "the most prestigious" or "the most powerful" committee in Congress.

A clipping from THE HOUSTON POST with the headline "Rep Bush Named for Ways and Means Post" was forwarded by Dorsey ~~###~~ with this comment, "Impossible! I don't believe it."

So, it was back to business as usual on the Dorsey correspondence which began again with this note attached to a copy of his letter to Bob Sherrod at LIFE magazine,

Mr. Bush:

Bob Sherrod has the most real guts of any man I know. He is decent, honest and a real gentleman in every sense of the word. From his Wash experience he knows the hiways & byways of the Capital. If you can, meet him - and listen to what he has to say.

P.D.

(Copy of letter to Bob Sherrod)

Jan 25 1967

Mr. Bob Sherrod,
LIFE
New York NY

Dear Bob:

You have gotten one hell of a lot of mileage from that lucky two-dollar bill. When we met on the beach at Okinawa, April Fool's Day, 1945, I seemed to sense that you had had a bellyfull of ducking lead. Why not be reasonable, now, and let us youngsters take the licks for a change.

Your lead story on Vietnam was a real beaut and from all the damn mishmash that has been written on the subject of our involvement there your clean-cut analysis was the first to give me a clear insight into what lies before us. Also, I see you were back with the Gyrenes to the dismay, no doubt, of the DogFace boys. Better keep in mind what happened to Ernie¹ when he left our side to go wandering. Incidentally, did I ever tell you that Ernie came ashore on D-Day with two canteens full of medicinal brandy. A fellow didn't have to be sick to appreciate that kind of stuff.

Thru the good offices of Ed Thompson I have gotten the name of a Mme. Whoosis, supposedly a big wheel in the Peking hierarchy. I have written her that I would like to make the trip to record on ~~##~~ film some of the wingding now taking place. As ~~##~~ insurance, a dup original of my letter was sent to Life's Bureau Chief at Hong Kong for mailing from there.²

I seem to recall that you spent some time in the Crown Colony. In addition to learning the good places to eat and drink did you happen to come across anyone who might be of help in getting me into Red China?

A good friend of mine (we have met thru correspondence only) is George Bush, a damyankee and carpetbagger ² inddisguise, who has just gotten

¹ Another clue to Dorsey's past.

² The Congressman was born in Massachusetts, reared in Connecticut.

himself elected to Congress from this District. If you get down Wash way drop in and say hello. And don't be influenced by that shiny (his wife keeps it that way) PBK key. He's a damn smart businessman, but has one hell of a lot to learn about the not so ~~gentle~~ game of politics.

No need to say Thanks a thousand times for the good offices of the Overseas Press Club.

All the best,

Sincerely,

Paul Dorsey

A couple of days later, the Congressman responded:

"Your letter about Bob Sherrod arrived two days late."

January 27, 1967

Dear Paul:

I refuse to call you Dorsey, and I especially refuse to call you Mr. Dorsey.

Your letter about Bob Sherrod arrived two days late. By coincidence I had been invited to a dinner two nights ago to meet him but I had to go to some deadly reception which in retrospect I probably could have avoided. I am going to write him and refer to your letter in hopes that when he is here he will come by. You gave him a glowing recommendation which from what others tell me, is certainly more than merited.

I hope you approved of my committee assignment. Let's face it. There's a lot of luck involved in this, and I was # at the right place at the right time. But no matter how you skin it, it's a real good break for a freshman Congressman to be on the Ways and Means Committee.

Life has been hectic. I've been briefed by every department on the Hill, and though it's a liability in Texas, I find that the Ivy League bit is not too big a liability around some of these agencies. I have been favorably

impressed by some of the people and rather dismally impressed by others.
But isn't this the way life is?

More later. Best regards.

George Bush, M.C.

P.S. I am leaving for San Antonio and Houston, so this letter will not be personally signed by me. Do not deduct any points for this however.

January 30th was a three-letter day and also the day I became known as "Mrs. Smith-Brown." Dorsey chose to ignore the Congressman's correcting him ~~his~~ his January 14th letter for referring to me as "Mrs. Brown." He just made it "Smith-Brown", which has stuck to this day.

~~Dear~~ "Mr. Jones, you've got bad breath....."

Jan 30 1967

Dear Mr. Congressman:

George Bush, that renowned fire-eating Congressman from the wide open spaces of Texas, ignores my suggestions but not so the mighty house of Johnson & Johnson.

"Mr. Jones, you've got bad breath" rankled me, particularly since it came at a time when I was trying to eat peas with a knife. They sent me a fancy two-page letter explaining the facts of life as they applied to the world of commerce. Now I see they've had second thoughts.

There's a message here, but for the moment it slips my mind.

Very truly yours,

P.D.

PS to Mrs. Smith-Brown: What's your Zip number?

Attached was this letter from Johnson & Johnson:

Dear Mr. Dorsey:

You wrote us a while ago to express your feelings on our MICRIN* Oral Antiseptic commercials.

As a result of letters like yours, we believe now that the television actors are so blunt and outspoken that the commercials may prove

* Trademark.

unintentionally irritating. This is obviously not the impression we planned to leave.

We believe you will be pleased to know that we are changing the tone of the MICRIN commercials. The first of the new ones should be reaching your television screen shortly. We think you are going to view them with more favor.

You have often heard it said that a voice in the crowd can't change the course of events. The truth is that you and a relatively few other television viewers took the time to write us. This led us to take another look at our commercials. So, you see, the individual's opinion does count. We appreciate your letting us know your views.

Sincerely yours,
JOHNSON & JOHNSON

".....when I present myself at the West Gate at 1600a..."

Jan 30 1967

Dear Mr. Congressman:

You are making life difficult for this lowly peon. Without a dictionary I am forced back to phoenetical^(sic)/spelling. The word is (or sounds like) presumptuous.

Six (eight or ten) years from now when I present myself at the West Gate at 1600 and tell the SS man I have a date with "George" there can be no doubt that my next stop will be a place called St. Elizabeth's.¹

Granted, if we had met in the ordinary course of events - well, only the stuffed shirts in the oil patch² refer to each other by surnames, but now the situation is somewhat different. I have a \$15 bet riding on you in 1968 and when I go down to Parr country to cast my several ballots I don't want to have them challenged for bias.

My thought about Bob Sherrod: He's a most knowledgeable guy - and perceptive, but no patsy. It was my idea that an informal, off-the-record

¹A mental hospital in Washington.

²A West Texas name for an oil field. This is where Bush got his start in the oil business.

meeting with members of your committee might prove beneficial, particularly in view of the fact that the military is apparently building for a Thousand-Year stand. My name may help as an introduction but Bob is a person who thinks for himself and he definitely wouldn't want to become involved in anything smacking of politics.

From where I sit that fellow Westmoreland will continue hollering for more troops until he gets a fifth star. Wanna make a bet?

Best wishes,

P.D.

Dorsey begins to soften his approach to the Congressman, and, in the following letter, is downright polite:

~~He says~~ "I do wish you every success."

Jan 30 1967

Dear Mr. Bush:

Please accept my apologies for the delay in answering your most cordial letter of Jan. 14th.

As explained in a previous letter I have been forced by economic and physical reasons¹ to concentrate on events closer to home. I do wish you every success.

Congratulations, too, on your appointment to one of the three most important committees. It speaks well for your political future.

Sincerely,

Dorsey

Paying no attention to Dorsey's contention that they couldn't be on a first-name basis, the Congressman wrote:

~~He says~~ "You won the battle of the mouthwash."

February 3, 1967

Dear Paul:

Thank you for your letter of the 30th about the committee. Needless

¹ Dorsey's first reference to his health.

to say, it's a lucky break for a freshman. The other side of it is that it takes plenty of time. For the first two days on the debt ceiling we met for six and a half hours a day, and I sat there up to my neck in tables and graphs. Wilbur Mills appears to be fair-minded and will give everybody a chance, though I must say, when it came my time to take a shot at the Secretary of the Treasury, I decided to listen rather than talk.

I called Bob Sherrod the other day and found him here in Washington. We had a nice visit, and I told him I was sorry I missed the dinner given in his honor a night or two before. He sounded down to earth, and told me that we would get together when he came back to Washington. I'm sure he was being polite. But if I follow up, who knows, maybe I'll get to know him and see the fine points that you have outlined in your letter.

The war bothers me. It's a great big fat zero so far as I'm concerned. The status quo seems to be the big thing around here, and this worries me.

Mrs. Smith-Brown says our zip number is 20515, address 1608 Longworth House Office Building. I am glad to see a rebel like yourself paying attention to the details such as zip numbers.

I will be in Houston from the 11th of February through the 14th. This is the Lincoln Day weekend, and I'm sure that the citizens there will be interested to know how I feel AID ties into things up here. In any event, I will be there should you decide to come say hello, either at the Federal Building or at my house at 5000 Longmont. I would consider it a real pleasure. You won the battle of the mouthwash. Now what can you do for the armpit sufferers?

Best regards,

George Bush

Dorsey seemed to have completely forgotten about his earlier indication of ending the correspondence and letter followed letter.

~~Is that~~ Is that Job Corps dropout still writing your speeches?

Feb 1 1967

Dear Mr. Ivy Leaguer:

Is that Job Corps dropout still writing your speeches? As one of the great unwashed all I know is what I read in the papers. Apparently no temperatures were raised. The Sunday CHRONICLE gave it four sticks, and no great fanfare. Obviously you're playing it close to the vest while learning the ropes - but maybe - too close? Remember only _____ days to Election.

Now, on the subject of homework: (And assuming you have in mind hitching a ride on the underground choo-choo). Did you pick up this cover story on Braniff, and compliment them for having ~~##~~ gained the South America route? Did you, the day following the Chicago fire, write the companies which had been burned out and extol the merits of Roy Hofheinz' Playpen?¹ Yes, I understand you're not in the Convention Business, but think how nice to announce that thru your sterling efforts these many companies were coming to Houston (Lord, forbid).

On the other side of the platter: Tax-exempt foundations supposedly drain off twenty-billions of tax dollars yearly. Rep. Herlong has made a stab in this direction. How well has he documented his case? Put those gals to work. It's for doggone sure every taxpayer would have reason to rejoice if you could slay a few dragons.

Since you seem to be hipped on the subject of Smog the enclosed American Petroleum Institute publications may have merit (darn little).

Next order of business: Kindly present my compliments to J Edgar. How many prisoners in Federal pens? Put the damn bums to work. Jack Heard of Texas Prison System (Huntsville) should be a good source of information.

¹ Reference to Houston Astrodome.

Pls note I'm using 27 1/2 gloves. Any hurt is unintentional.

Kindest regards,

P.D.

In his next letter, Dorsey gave the Congressman the benefit of his views on how to end the involvement in Vietnam.

"All you need do is follow these few simple steps."

Feb 1 1967

Dear Mr. Bush:

With all due ~~###~~ respect to George Bush, the businessman, I find it hard to believe you political types when you tell us, ineffect, that the fighting in Vietnam is an enigma without a solution. All you need do is follow these few simple steps.

(1) Bring the Tonkin Gulf Resolution back for debate. Call on the President and the Congress to make a formal Declaration of War or get the hell out.

(2) Call for an immediate halt to all permanent construction. The multi-million dollar headquarters buildings give lie to the Administration statements that our position there is a temporary one.

(3) Chase all PX's and Canteens. Ship the personnel home and make tobacco and beer rations articles of issue.

(4) Station a Congressional Watchdog at Saigon to pass on all expenditures, military and otherwise. You people have given McNamara ~~###~~ a blank check and have never once questioned his outpouring of our tax dollars. He only thinks he is God. Some of us disagree.

(5) Put Vietnam off limits to all but a small handful of civilian correspondents. One from each of the wire services, and one each from the TV nets. If the TIMES, the TRIB or the DAILY BLADDER want by-line pieces let them come from the troops themselves.

- (6) Recognize the fact the war is the business of the military.

To the Brass this business makes faster promotion. To the Rank & File and the youngsters fresh out of the Trade Schools it means a chestful of salad dressing, pronto.

- (7) Emphasize that this is a temporary action and require all field-grade officers (and above) to live in tents and subsist on C-rations.

- (8) Cut the number of rear-eschelon goldbricks in half and restrict those remaining to their immediate work areas. Put all bars and Houses of Prostitution off-limits.

- (9) Return to the States immediately the endless hundreds of PR personnel whose lies have put the good Baron M¹ to shame.

- (10) Give Gen. Westmoreland a Well Done and promote him to the Joint Chiefs. Replace him with a General whose thinking embraces something other than the Administration line of bull. My choice: Maxwell Taylor.

- (11) Replace Ambassador Lodge with a man who better understands the bass-ackward Oriental thinking. Only one man fits this slot - Edwin O Reischauer. His mental processes are in tune with the underlying reasons for Ho's behavior which is, simply stated, a watered-down Communism in ~~the~~ preference to a military dictatorship. In the eyes of the North (and ~~the~~ before long the whole of Vietnam) we are the replacement of the French Colonialists.

- (12) Relieve Ky and his assorted Generals of their fancy transportation and issue each one Bicycle, G.I. If the bastards want them motorized let them pay for their own damn motors.

- (13) Insist on an immediate election. If they vote Comrade we have a perfect out.

- (14) Insist that all Vietnamese of military age be drafted, forthwith. Withhold all aid unless and until they comply.

¹ Baron Munchausen, teller of tall tales on radio programs.

(15) (15) Give recognition to the Negro troops and appoint one of their own race as Deputy Ambassador.

(16) Draft George Hamilton and Lucy Bird, or whatever in hell her name is, will put the arm on Papa to halt the War.

Three courageous Congressmen could put a quick stop on our involvement. One each from Military Affairs, Appropriations, and Ways & Means.

One further thing you men have wholly overlooked: From time immemorial dictators have used war to strengthen their tenuous hold on the minds of their people. I predict that Chairman Mao will attempt to relieve the pressure at home with an overnight invasion. Most certainly he now has more imaginary provocation than the day his troops crossed the Yalu.

Paul Dorsey

The same day Dorsey got off this letter which prompted the Congressman to break the ground rules of answering his letters on a weekly schedule. Attached to the letter was a HOUSTON POST advertisement promoting their TV news program on the story of the arrival and introduction to the U. S. House of Representatives of "The New Members" from Houston, "George Bush, Republican, and Bob Eckhardt, Democrat."

"Leave Mrs. B to run the business in Washington and you come home....."

Feb 1 1967

Rep. George Bush,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator:

Although we are light years apart in ideology I am forced to confess that "The New Members", shown here on KPRC last night, was a real stunner. The photography was second-rate but the message was clear. We have two representatives in the Congress who are as disparate as two opposites can be. Your forthright dialogue was in clear and striking contrast to the fawning attitude of your Democratic colleague.

Kudos also to Mrs. B.¹ who also performed splendidly. In fact, I have a suggestion. Leave Mrs. B to run the business in Washington and you come home to take a job I'm holding for you as Roustabout on ODECO IV, now operating in the Ship Shoal Area.

And, if it isn't libelous, you can quote me as saying that she is a darn sight better looking.

Yours in friendship,

Dorsey

* - Are you still using that Greasy Kid Stuff?

"...not departing from my schedule of answering your epistles on a weekly basis...."

February 3 1967

Now Dorsey, your letter of February 1st pushing my wife into the foreground is not fair. And besides that, it's the ZAPATA IV, not the ODECO IV. I refuse to show your letter to Barbara. She's pushing a little too much as it is anyway. The first week up here she got a big spread in the WASHINGTON STAR - society page, but still publicity. And now this. As to the hair, look at Bobby Kennedy. He's getting millions of votes just on that rag mop. Why not try something different. A little Wild Root Cream Oil in my view is - I might capture an entire generation. I've just come from another day at the Ways and Means where they voted to bring the debt ceiling bill to the floor. The Republicans got beat on a straight party line vote trying to amend the bill to get a little honesty in budgetary reporting. We got clobbered, but it was an interesting though somewhat tiring exercise.

I am not departing from my schedule of answering your epistles on a weekly basis, but when I saw you booming my wife for high office, I felt I had better squelch it. The kids have got her hands full at home, and this is the way¹ it should be.

¹ Mrs. Bush.

² The Bushes have five children, three of whom were at home at this time, the others away at school.

is the way it should be. Adios.

George Bush

Dorsey found time to fire off one more letter on that date, and, in effect, more or less signing off again on the correspondence.

"You have been a wonderful person to correspond with...."

Feb 1 1967

Cong. George Bush
House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Bush:

Dear Mr. Thru the efforts of a friend with a petroleum-affiliated company I've been promised a ride to New Mexico, with the loan of an unmarked company car to follow. My purpose is to drift around and try to locate a small town where living expenses will be considerable less than they are in Houston. At 64 I'm past the employable age, and particularly so in view of physical disabilities. The combined SS and VA checks, totaling less than \$200 a month, have certain definite limitations.

You have been a wonderful person to correspond with, and especially so in view of my perverse nature. Also, you have been generous in your response to the not-so-gentle barbs which a less knowing person would have resented - and properly so. You have inflated my ego by ascribing some degree of education to one whose formal schooling ended at the 8th Grade. In truth, you have mistaken a degree of observation for intelligence.

My knowledge of Washington, in its political aspect, is remote and outdated. In fact, a Liberty Week-End pass from Quantico, which ended in a dandy scuffle with Army MP's, was my last appearance. We were a group of dont-give-a-damn enlisted men, fresh from overseas, with probationary appointments as 2nd Lts, and the Spit & Polish Course, which is about what

- 34 -

it amounted to, struck us as slightly asinine. And, believe me, my interests at that particular time had nothing to do with politics or politicians. I do, however, have certain view on the subject. Punch the red button marked "PANIC" and you will receive one man's scorching opinion. Don't forget to remove the hatch cover.

My apologies to those people in your office who have borne with my particular brand of misbegotten wit. I have purposely marked this letter Personal to avoid further offense.

To you and Mrs. Bush my sincere best wishes for a successful future.

Paul Dorsey

Dorsey didn't go to New Mexico after all and the correspondence resumed, with a reference to serious physical disabilities.

~~Dear~~ "Right at present I'm minus one nose."

Feb 6 1967

Dear Mr. Bush:

This is in answer to your note of the third.

Let's face it and be honest with ourselves. You are doing a darn good job without any coaching from the sidelines, as witness the Ways & Means appointment.

My knowledge of politics is an accumulation of pre-digested opinions, and to date I've been unable to come up with a single worthwhile idea. A limited few may sound good on paper, but the practicality of politics soon disposes of any simple solutions to complex problems.

As I attempted to point out at an earlier time, the danger you encounter is that assimilation into the vagaries of Washington may tend to blind you to the realities, and a burr under the saddle could possibly serve some useful purpose. It should be undertaken by someone with proper credentials.

From my limited reading you have made progress, more than I could have anticipated. On the other hand, I sense that you are ⁱⁿeffect talking to yourself and disregarding the thinking of others. For example, you have made several appearances in Houston to address various Republican organizations. I'll accept the premise that these people may be able to nominate you, but they alone can never elect you. That requires votes. And what have you done so far to bring yourself to the attention of John and Jane Doe? We don't read the Congressional Record of the Society Page of The Star. In short, and I'm not sufficiently polished to soften the blow, what you have done so far has been for the sole benefit of Geo Bush, Republican Congressman. Granted, the Session is just getting under way, but as a practical matter I offer the suggestion that the public image should reflect an effort to serve the public first - Bush, second.

It was darn nice to extend an invitation to say Howdy during your upcoming trip to Houston, but the difference in our social and economic status rules it out. Also to be truly objective, any critic worth his salt should not be influenced by personalities. You impress me as being a darn good salesman. Another thing. Because of numerous sessions in the Cutting Rooms at various hospitals I don't make a presentable appearance. Right at present I'm minus one nose.

I want to be your friend and hope that some day we can meet under somewhat different circumstances.

Kindest regards,

P.D.

For some reason, the Congressman's "A.A." answered that letter.
"....here comes a third party butting into your business".

February 17 1967

Dear Mr. Dorsey:

Well, here comes a third party butting into your business. First it was Congressman Bush; second it was Mrs. Smith-Brown; and now it's the Administrative Aide.

Seriously, we all enjoy hearing from you and look forward to hearing from you -- particularly some damn sound advice. The Congressman was most disappointed that he couldn't meet with you this past weekend. Frankly, I am hoping you two will break bread one of these times.

You mentioned in one of your letters the fact that you might make a trip to look for another place to live. Now, here is my free advice. Take a close look at Alpine, Texas. This delightful community has one of the greatest climates in the United States and is a warm, friendly place in which to live. It also has Sul Ross College near by, which is no mental giant, but at least an institution with a library of sorts. I have no vested interest in the town but as a former resident of West Texas for many years, I think Alpine is worth a look.

Incidentally, I am the guy you can blame if he doesn't speak to the right groups, or listen to advice.

An advance apology for butting into your business.

Sincerely,

Jim Allison, Jr.

".....Welcome Home....."
Dorsey's next communique was a welcome home of sorts for the Congressman's Lincoln Day weekend visit.

Feb 3 1967

".....Welcome Home....."

Feb 9 1967

Mr. Bush:

Due to internal changes I've been obliged to give up Girl Watching, smoking 'pot' has lost its thrill and my favorite Senatorial candidate refuses to lose his cool, so what's left for an old man to do.

All of which is by way of saying - Welcome Home, even though ## your

stay is a brief one.....

Regards,

Paul Dorsey - ISOWP

(Instant Solver of World Problems)

Included with the above note was a clipping from THE DRILLING CONTRACTOR about the fact that the profession of horseshoers was making a comeback, their point being "that some day in the not too distant future the oil and gas contract drilling profession again will become a healthy and prosperous business":

"....see no reason why he shouldn't be equally at home with horses."

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The bearer of this message, Geo Bush, is handicapped by too much education and an accent which is not indigenous to Texas - however he is honest, a hard worker and a dues-paying member in good standing of local #213, Friends of Lyndon. Since he is particularly adept at kissing babies I see no reason why he shouldn't be equally at home with horses.

P.D.

The next communication was addressed to Jim Allison, Jr., and sent by a friend of Dorsey's.

".....temporarily on the sick list....."

Feb 20 1967

Mr. Dorsey (temporarily on the sick list) has asked me to express his appreciation for your letter and to say it was good to hear from you.

H.K.

Four days later Dorsey was back at his typewriter and beginning to reveal more about his illness, along with some scorching remarks about politicians and Republicans in particular. This letter was also directed to Jim Allison.

"....I'm loaded with such a walloping dosage of radium...."

Feb 24 1967

Dear Jim:

It was good of you to take time out from a busy schedule, and I do appreciate the suggestion of looking into the merits of Alpine. Unfortunately, my choice has to be limited to closer proximity to a VA Hosp with proper facilities for handling my particular ailment. At the moment, I'm loaded with such a walloping dosage of radium that the glow from my ears is visible "clear across the corral."

You people seem to have adjusted nicely to the higher altitudes, and Mr. B has been very sensible in not 'sounding off' without a full complement of reserve ammunition. Conversely, my friends (both of them) and I are of a different temperament. Until proven otherwise we have no choice but to lump him with the great mass of office seekers who promise so much, but deliver so little. As a person I respect his friendship.

As matters stand at present, the best you Republicans have to offer us is a man who believes in plural wives, who will have as his running mate an ultra-Liberal New Yorker (Javits). Your spokesman (Dirksen) has covered all contingencies by voting both sides of every controversial issue. Is it any wonder that the average voter is both discouraged - and disgusted?

Sincerely,

Dorsey

NB - Pls try to understand that my decision not to meet Mr. Bush hinged solely on personal factors - namely that as the result of numerous operations I try to avoid public exposure whenever possible.

Dorsey's illness begins to take its toll. Where, in the beginning, he would fire off three or four letters a day, they were now beginning to be shorter and spaced farther apart.

On February 28, Dorsey warned the Congressman to be careful not to be too concerned about the petroleum industry.

~~Dear~~ "Your wife knows you're honest...."

Feb 28 1967

Dear Geo Bush:

The introduction of the Ethics Bill was a brilliant piece of work, and splendidly timed. It made me very proud of you. But why, for pete's sake, did you spoil it all by rushing to the defense of the petroleum industry? Not once, but twice within one week. It was a foot-in-the-mouth performance that you may have cause to regret.

Your wife knows you're honest, the good people in your office know you're honest and I know you're honest - but what about Joe Blow and Mr. John Q. Citizen? Are you trying to build an image for yourself as unofficial spokesman for the Oil & Gas Business? I certainly hope not. They're big boys now, so let them fight their own damn battles. They have the manpower and, according to a recent Oil & Gas Journal report, their 1966 profits were the highest in history.

Your ready defense of the pipeline industry struck a very sour note. The Washington lobbyists to the contrary, have you checked the records to learn the actual number of people killed in natural gas explosions? Have you overlooked the East Texas explosion some years ago which took the lives of hundreds of school children, the explosion in Louisiana in 1965 which killed 17 people; the recent explosion in NYC? Have you talked with the spread bosses, the compressor station supt's, or the pilots who fly the Pipeline patrol? Have you looked into the matter of the thin-wall pipe which

some companies are now using? One big bang and our Mr Bush has cooked his own goose, and it could well be that giant underground storage cavern completed last year within spittin distance of Manhattan. Please - listen to your Uncle Paul - I can thoroughly understand where your sympathies lie, and why, but try to remember you are now plumb out of the oil business. You're a politician, and a darn good one, so, in naval parlance, don't give yourself the Deep Six.

Probably nothing may come of it but I've taken the liberty of suggesting to Bob Sherrod (now living in NYC) that he just might consider the possibility of doing a piece about a Freshman Congressman, the frustrations, jockeying for committee assignments, protocol, motivations, etc. In the unlikely event it succeeds you will owe me a free ride on the Staten Island Ferry.

Kindest regards,

P.D.

EB Does Mrs. Smith-Brown give typing lessons? I could use some. Also spelling.

On March 4, Dorsey let loose both barrels apropos the oil industry, evidently fearing that in spite of the fact the Congressman had sold all his oil industry-related investments when he was appointed to the Ways and Means Committee, he was somehow going to be tripped up by a natural interest in the welfare of the industry. [REDACTED]

"Seriously, Old Buddy, why in ---- did you do it?"

Sat Mar 4 1967

Dear Geo Bush:

Is there a market in Wash for a large supply of Bush-For-Prexy buttons?

Until last week, shares in Bush Enterprises Ltd were selling at a

premium. Today's closing DJ: 10 shares Bush sold for 5 sticks Bubble Gum (used).

There were further repercussions: The 7th St Gang resigned en masse, and asked for reparations. It seems that posing as a friend of the Congressman I had promised each and every one of them a Cabinet post when our man moved to 1600 Penna Ave. A sober delegation, headed by the High Sheriff, has given me 24-hrs to get out of town.

Seriously, Old Buddy, why in ---- did you do it? ¹ All ~~that~~ that pious campaign speechifying about working for the greater good of the common man, etc. was swept away in one ~~gesture~~ futile gesture. Even a backward Head Starter would realize that without the support of Humble (Standard Jersey) the price increase was doomed to failure, and on the pipeline thing just one big bang would put you out of business - for keeps. Have you ever thought about the potential disaster which lies buried beneath the Houston Ship Channel?

From where this observer sits there are several items which are of major importance to the man in the street, and quite definitely the profits of Messrs Humble, Texaco, Conoco and TGT² are not among them.

Item: Race relations. Item: War in Vietnam. Item: Government spending & encroachment. Item. Crime.

As a Friend of the Court may I suggest that you and your band of Young Turks, or whatever you may choose to call yourselves, should strike now and strike hard on the crime situation, with particular emphasis on the Tender Loving Care of criminals. I have some thoughts on the subject which, while not literate, may have a degree of validity. Any takers?

Before you fellowshitch your wagon to the Romney star I suggest a precautionary look-see into the tenets of the Latter Day Saints. To the

1

2 Texas Gas Transmission.

best of my knowledge they have never disavowed their belief in polygamy, and if some smart cookie makes this an issue in the final days of the '68 campaign an awful lot of women will be made unhappy. Including Mrs Bush.

The thought that you owe me a letter is pleasing, but from a practical viewpoint I'm well aware that there are other and more important items of business.

Kindest regards,

P.D.

NB - The Ethics Resolution was a real beauty.¹ It was wonderfully well received in the press and on TV. Both the POST and CHRONICLE carried editorials praising it. You deserve a 'Well Done'.

On March 9, Dorsey's illness began to affect his typing ability, in which a lot of strikeovers and "xasing" out began to appear.

".....I'm up to my ears in pain medicine...."

Mar 9 1967

Dear George:

This is apt to be a rambling letter since I'm up to my ears in pain medicine which is having but little beneficial effect. So pls bear with me.

Again thanks for the invitation to come a-visiting, and again I must decline for the reason that I've been a hermit for so long that I cannot make for good companionship. Further I'm ashamed of my appearance, ashamed of my pennilessness and my inability to earn a living. It's a condition which may be difficult to visualize, but believe me it is real.

More worthy of your consideration are two friends of mine, both avid Bush Boosters and more than willing to lend you their support. Noel Culver and Herman Kleinknecht² (don't try to pronounce it). Culver is an intelligent extrovert, owner of a string of dry-cleaning shops and an amateur fly-boy. Herman is a sheet-metal worker. They are good, substantial

¹
² The "H.K." who wrote Jim Allison on Feb. 20 that Dorsey was temporarily on the sick list.

'middle class' citizens, decent and trustworthy. Culver wants to put autographed photos of you in his shops and is sincere in his desire to be of service. Herman is a damn good friend without whom I would be completely lost. Culver, incidentally, believes you were right in espousing the cause of the pipeline and petroleum companies. I disagree.

I have one suggestion which please consider: The great danger in immersing yourself in the immensities of the Washington scene is that you will lose touch with the voters of your District. Already I sense that you have become too involved in details which would be better left to the staff.

This is a thought which was put forth earlier and if you think it lacks merit I'll be inclined to argue: To keep abreast of thinking on the home level you should inaugurate a Bush Advisory Committee (or Panel) of about twelve persons and representing the various segments of the population. Suggested members would be a labor official, Minister, physician, Negro educator, physician, lawyer, C of C staffer, police official, banker (or economist), small businessman, member of the League of Women Voters, an insurance man, farmer (or rancher) etc. Preferably bi-partisan people who prefer good government to party labels. As an alternate, or addition, four or five Poly SC students from Rice or Univ. of Houston. Time of meeting, a Sunday morning brunch or afternoon 'tea.' Keep the meetings small, not more than six or eight at one time, make it very informal and free-wheeling.

At the expense of being redundant I strongly urge the formation of some type of organization which will enable you to keep in closer touch with your constituency and believe that an Advisory Council is worth consideration. It has the added value of being something of an innovation in the political arena. The students should be those who have good background in government and are not tied to dogma. They should be productive of some good and perhaps novel ideas.

- 44 -

Pls try to understand that Mr Average Citizen is not conversant with happenings in Wash except insofar as they affect his pocketbook or mode of living. The press and TV fare is skimpy and often times biased.

I expect you to resent much of what I have said but you should know that I have the highest respect for your integrity and ability¹ but I say again that we, the little people, are more interested in government spending and crime suppression than the net profits of giant corporations, all of whom are capably staffed to protect themselves. (and Trade Assns.)

A final word- I'll promise to stop throwing brickbats if you'll promise to spend more time with your family. Also there are more worthwhile undertakings for a Sat morning² than the re-education of a beat-up old buzzard whose future is clouded in doubt.

Kindest regards,

P.D.

ME - Also on that panel I suggest the possibility of Jim Savage, formerly of Kerr-McGree, now vp of World Over Drilling, a onetime friend of mine whom I have shunned these past several years because he insists on loaning me money - which I could never repay. He's a real go-getter as instanced by a one-man effort (while Foreman of the Grand Jury) in putting thru a County Bond issue for a new jail.

For your own sake I hope you have remembered to resign from API, TIPO, AAODC³, etc. Do you read me?

¹ Dorsey has come a long way from his first postcard deriding George Bush the candidate.

² The Congressman was still answering Dorsey's accumulated letters on Saturday mornings, usually by hand. On this letter he noted, "Answered by hand."

³ All oil industry-related organizations.

Dorsey tried to call the Congressman at his home in Houston.

".....looking for a 'pigeon' to pick up the bar tab."

Sun Mar 12th

Dear Mr. Congressman:

Sorry we missed connections. Bob Sherrod headed up a TIME, Inc. Task Force here to do a quick review of the NASA program. Tried, unsuccessfully, to call you at home Fri night before he returned to NY. We were looking for a 'pigeon' to pick up the bar tab.

Please give me A for effort.

Best wishes,

Dorsey

The number I have is NA 2-8979. Is that correct?
".....sorry to have missed you...."

March 15, 1967

Dear Paul,

The number is NA 2-8979. I'm sorry to have missed you, but I didn't get in until late Friday night -- damnit. When Bob Sherrod comes back, we'll correct all that. Incidentally I'll be in Houston for the whole week following Easter.

Regards,

George Bush

"Geo: We love you (sometimes)."

The next word from Dorsey was a clipping of a March 14 editorial of the HOUSTON CHRONICLE praising the Congressman for remarks in his first Newsletter. Dorsey typed on the clipping. "Geo: We love you (sometimes). The Folks Back Home."

Attached was this card:

"I demand equal time."

Mar 14th

Also on Channel 11 tonight (6:25-6:30). George Bush is one hell of

a nice guy. I demand equal time.

pd

Dorsey took exception, however, to the fact that the Newsletter was labeled "Confidential from Washington, D.C." He returned his copy with this inscription, "Not so." and this letter:

"As a public servant you are working (supposedly) in a goldfish bowl...."

Mar 13 1967

Dear Mr. Congressman:

This Report is a good thing, and strikes a most responsive chord - all but that business of labeling it CONFIDENTIAL. As a public servant you working (supposedly) in a goldfish bowl, and are/the connotation here is that you are divulging restricted, or classified, information to a select few - which is patently untrue.

Why not simply call it BULLETIN or NEWS BULLETIN or something more indicative of its true meaning.

Sincerely,

Dorsey

Jim Allison, who worked on preparation of the Newsletter, answered:

"It's not time for the Congressman's weekly letter...."

March 17, 1967

Dear Mr. Dorsey,

It's not time for the Congressman's weekly letter, so I'm breaking this pattern with one of my own again.

You're absolutely right about the "Confidential" on the report. It has attracted some attention, which was its purpose, but you summed the whole thing up in your letter of March 13.

As the guy who put it on the newsletter, I will be the guy who takes it off beginning with the next issue.

Keep the good thoughts coming. Believe it or not, you're making us take a better look at ourselves.

Sincerely,
Jim Allison, Jr.

Before he had time to get Allison's answer, Dorsey again brought up the "Confidential" wording.

".....hope you have had the good sense to remove the CONFIDENTIAL label....."

Mar 14 1967

Mr. Congressman:

In consideration of that rarified atmosphere in which you travel, it is only reasonable to assume that the majority of your friends are fellow Eggheads and Oil millionaires. It follows then that you are weak in understanding the mores of us Poor Folks. Here's a suggestion and, for what it is worth, it carries the Dorsey Seal of Approval.

The local AMVETS Chapter, about 300 strong, is composed largely of ethnic groups, Tex-Mex and Slavs, many of whom are State, Federal and City employees. I joined up several ~~few~~^{few} years ago because they promised to bury me in an asbestos coffin. Joe Zupko, the Membership Secy is the (State of) Texas Veterans Affairs rep at the VA Hosp. His job is to circulate thruout the 1400-bed hosp and listen to gripes and complaints (real and imaginary). He is also Pres of the local Ukranian Society - several hundred strong.

During the course of a visit yesterday I met Joe and told him there was a possibility he might receive your application. He said you would be most welcome. The cost is five bucks a year and I believe it is a good investment.

Unless you are in the business of peddling Govt secrets I hope you have had the good sense to remove the CONFIDENTIAL label from the Bush Report.

You Republicans don't seem to grasp the idea that you weren't elected for your good looks (or good deeds) but simply because the country

was thoroughly disillusioned with the Johnson-Humphrey Administration. There is a golden opportunity before you, but to date you have failed miserably. Your leadership is un-coordinated and often just plain damn stupid, as witness, for example, the placing of Meredith's name in the Harlem cauldron. I suspect the fine Italian hand of your Mr. Javits, but whether or not, it was an error of the first magnitude. It was obvious from the beginning that the Harlemites would put their Mr. Powell on a martyrs throne, and the asinine way in which Meredith withdrew from the race was clear evidence of the manner in which he was selected.

Unless your compatriots in the Senate take immediate steps to remove Mr. Dodd, the Negro voters will have clear proof that Powell's ouster was racially motivated.

Your friend (I hope) and severest critic.

Dorsey

On March 21 Dorsey responded to Allison's letter about the CONFIDENTIAL label.

"....pls tell Mrs. Smith-Brown I do so remove my horns, before retiring."

Mar 21, 1967

Dear Jim:

Hell's Bells, Jim, my nitpicking criticisms are not intended to be taken seriously. It's all good clean fun. Most of you fellows have a wife to use as a sparring partner. I'm too damn ornery to have a wife, so I'm forced to vent my ire on someone else. You just happen to be a handy target.

Imagine yourself at bat in the last game of the World Series, with the score tied at 5 all. You come up and hit a home run. Do I applaud? Hell, No. I'll criticize you for hitting over the left, rather than the right field fence.

The Bush Team is functioning nicely, so pay no attention to some pesky heckler in the bleachers.

And pls tell Mrs. Smith-Brown I do so remove my horns, before retiring,

You fellows are doing just fine. Keep up the good work.

Best wishes,

Dorsey

Before the above letter, Dorsey was in on March 18 with more advice and asked that the Congressman not visit him in the hospital.

~~to~~ ¹ "Please - no visits. I'll be in the cancer ward...."

Mar 18 1967

Mr. Congressman:

The pain is once again approaching the Red Line and before they haul me back to the hospital for more surgery there are a couple of thoughts I'd like to pass along.

From my seat way out here in the bleachers, it would seem that your team of horses is headed into sixteen different directions and that you are trying to cover second base and the whole dam outfield at the same time. Too much attention to detail, which could better be left to the hired hands. The many hectic plane trips to Houston would seem to bear this out.

As a potential Senatorial candidate your Number One priority and immediate goal should be to put the Bush label on a beneficial piece of legislation which will result in favorable attention from the entire State - not just the 7th Cong Dist. And, for this, I can think of no better cause than the introduction of legislation (a Constitutional Amendment, if necessary) to nullify the Supreme Court decisions (Miranda and Escobar) which ~~##~~ literally free confessed rapists and murder^{ers} on the flimsiest of judicial reasonings.

1 The first time Dorsey used the word "cancer" to describe his physical condition.

Your 'Ear-to-the-ground' Department, if you should establish one, will confirm the fact that crime, in all its aspects, is one of the three subjects which vitally concern Mr and Mrs Citizen.

Further, you have great need for an alter ego, some retired person of good repute, substantial means and a demonstrated sense of mature judgement who has a desire to serve the cause of good government (and Geo Bush) and can properly co-ordinate the Houston-based volunteer staff. His sole reward: A \$1.00 a year salary and desk space in the Federal Bldg. Surely, among your many acquaintances there must be such a person. Incidentally, what are you doing to organize the various women's groups - and sororities?

Concerning the Bush Report - it had a nice, homey touch, was well written and certainly as you undoubtedly know, was quite favorably received. May I suggest that in Vol II you give proper credit to your most capable staff? They work doggone hard in the Bush vineyard and deserve to be recognized.

Please - no visits. I'll be in the cancer ward and it isn't a pretty sight. Also I will leave word at the Nurses Station - No Visitors except pretty girls; and that takes care of you.

Best wishes,

Dorsey

P. S.

Let's see what I know about Geo Bush:

He's a 43-yr old Connecticut Yankee who graduated from Yale with a major in Baby Kissing, as befits a future politician, migrated to West Texas where he headed a water-well drilling outfit but got sand in his ears, sold out for a reputed \$300,000,000 to a Mr H L Hunt, moved to Houston

where he put on a brilliantly organized Do or Die campaign which got him elected to Congress, where he now worshipfully sits at the feet of that Great Leader, Lyndon the Conqueror. Somewhere along the way he sweet-talked some poor, defensively helpless female (who adores his bluish-green eyes) into marriage.

Have I left out anything?
P.D.

As the Congressman was leaving for Texas, he asked Allison to answer the letter for him. Dorsey and the Congressman had still never met, nor talked to each other on the telephone.
"....he is trying to hunt you down....."

March 27, 1967

March 27 1967

Dear Mr. Dorsey:

The Congressman is back in Houston for the Easter recess so I am taking the liberty of answering your letter of March 18. In fact, despite your request, he is trying to hunt you down to see you. I, for one, hope he is successful in his search.

We like your suggestion about a bill to nullify the recent Supreme Court decisions. We think it will take a Constitutional amendment, but we're going to research the thing for George.

We do have an alter ego in Houston in the form of one Jack Steel. Jack runs our volunteer organization between campaigns and is a bachelor who must devote at least forty hours a week to the volunteer work in addition to his regular job at Prudential. I hope sometime you can meet him as he is a great guy.

Volume Two of the Bush Report will have a picture of George's staff. Our ghost writer did a good job on Volume One and I am glad you agree.

Now please give Mr. Bush the opportunity to meet you. Don't worry about your looks - I just want you to meet a great guy whom I have known

for 12 years and one who admires you.

Best regards,

Jim Allison, Jr.

Despite his many problems, Dorsey thought of others, as shown by this letter regarding a young medical student.

"I'm soon to become a statistic."

Apr 3 1967

Dear George:

The secret won't keep much longer. I'm soon to become a statistic. Unless someone comes up with a better idea it's too extensive to be operatable. (sic) I've been advised to stay away from the hospital until the pain becomes unbearable.

I have on hand several pages of notes which I will try to put into some kind of shape before mailing. If for any reason I can't complete the chore my friend Herman Kleinknecht will ship, as is.

A young med student * (Baylor) who puts in one night a week at VA to pay for his room and board wants to be a do-gooder doctor when he graduates. In short, he's more interested in helping people than in piling up a bank account. I suggested the possibility of the US Public Health Service. He's an Ivy League grad. Our conversation was necessarily short. I'd appreciate it if you (or Mrs. Smith-Brown) would drop him a line to get a better understanding of his wants.

Sorry we never got together.

With kindest personal regards,

P.D.

* J. Douglas Allderdice
Box 6, Baylor College of Medicine
Houston, Tex.

¹ Dorsey begins to start some of his letters with "Dear George" although he had said earlier they could never be on a first-name basis.

If this crosses that line I'd appreciate it if you would ask

Bob Casey¹ to make an exception. This kid has been damn nice to me.

Before the Congressman had time to answer, Dorsey perked up enough

to blast the "leadership of the Republican Party" again.

"Is it for Dirksen?"

Apr 5 1967

Mr. Bush:

It's a mild understatement that the leadership of the Republican

Party is lacking in an ingredient commonly referred to as common sense.

On the same day that the front pages of papers here and in other

cities thrust the country carried lurid accounts of the nefarious activities

of Sen Dodd and the Rev A C Powell we are informed of still another same type

of shindig for the Senate Minority leader.

What is the purpose of the \$100 a plate dinner? Who gets the money?

Is it for Dirksen? The Natl Republican ~~Committee~~ coffers, or are the

participants expected to consume that amount in strong spirits?

As MR so aptly put it - A plague on both your houses. You both

seem determined to give the country away to those groups which make the loudest

noises.

Dorsey

Here follows the exchange of letters between the ~~former~~ Congressman

and the young medical student:

"...understand you took excellent care of my friend"
April 7, 1967

Dear Dr. Alderdice:

My good friend, Paul Dorsey, advised me of your possible interest

in serving with the U. S. Public Health Service upon graduation.

I am enclosing several pamphlets on the programs offered by the

Public Health Service, along with application forms. If after looking these

¹ Congressman from a different district in Houston.

over, you decide to submit a formal application, let me know and I will be more than glad to write a letter of recommendation in your behalf. Competition for these appointments is keen, and sometimes such a letter helps. I understand you took excellent care of my friend. He's a great guy and I'm most grateful.

Good luck and best regards,

George Bush, M.C.

Copy to: Mr. Paul Dorsey

"...your warm response to Mr. Paul Dorsey's request on my behalf...."

April 10, 1967

Dear Mr. Bush:

Thank you very much for your warm response to Mr. Paul Dorsey's request on my behalf. The pamphlets on the Public Health Service opened up some exciting possibilities to me, especially that of serving overseas with the Peace Corps.

Three years from now I would be honored to ask for your recommendation to accompany my application and I will surely write again at that time. If, between now and then, there is anything which I might do to support your longevity in Washington, I would be a most enthusiastic worker.

Yours truly,

Doug Allderice

Then came one of those Saturday A.M. self-typed letters. Fortunately, the Congressman made a carbon copy for it is a warm, touching letter revealing the strong feeling of friendship he had developed toward Dorsey, a man he'd never met. In all the years I worked with the Congressman, this is the only time I knew him to open his heart to anyone about the tragic loss of their little daughter.

"I am not happy with the news you sent me."

April 8

Dear P.D.,

Mark! I am typing this myself - Sat AM at office - no overtime, just here - so is Mrs. Smith-Brown, so is Jimmy, so is John De La Garza¹ - pls note all this so your flak will be aimed at issues - not at the overpaid congressmen, etc.

As to the Dirksen Banquet - a party needs money to run: it's that simple - no thing for Dirksen, just dough for the party.....I don't agree that fundraising dinners are corrupt - directly or indirectly. If you Tom Dodd it and add on to the house or send the kids somewhere on the proceeds - that is a horse of a different shade.

We are happy to work for that Doctor at Baylor - hell with congressional courtesy on this matter at this time.

Say - what are you trying to do to my wife - she was teary and grateful and very happy. She was embarrassed about the lack of recognition on the phone² but I took her our correspondence file and let her read it - something I never do, because I keep my business and politics separate from my home life - usually that is. She is not informed on issues and intrigue - perhaps this is selfish on my part but we have a close, close relationship with the kids, et al, and I just want to have that oasis of privacy. However, where friendship is involved we have a new ballgame. Suffice it to say she is your admirer and friend.

No more politics in this letter. I am not happy with the news you sent me. I don't like the pain, I don't like the whole damn thing. I talked to Zupko on the vet benefits, but also on PD. You must keep me advised on

¹ Press aide.

²

the progress - you must also remember that in this field there is change - there is radical discovery - there is hope. I will never forget when they told me Robin had leukemia - age 4 - beautiful, sinless, full of vitality. The lady doctor, our friend, when I asked what we should do - said "let nature take its course - spare yourself the agony of treatment for this is an advanced case - then with broken heart I called my uncle at Memorial Hospital in N.Y.

He was a great cancer surgeon, who had been stricken with polio. A strong and purposeful man....I told him of our local doc's advice and he said "You have no choice - none at all - you must treat this child. You must do all you can to keep her alive" and he went on to tell me of the strides in the field and of the importance of hope. So we treated her, and we watched her die before our eyes, but we also saw the wonders of remission and the dedication of the nurses and doctors, and we saw progress and we knew his advice was right. Six months later when it was all over - I thought back with gratitude for this sensible advice - it was tough on Barbara - I guess the toughest assignment a mother could have - for she was there for the bone marrow tests - the ordeals of blood. Someone had to look into Robin's eyes and give her comfort and love and somehow, Paul, I didn't have the guts. My point I guess is this - today a kid with leukemia has a much greater chance - and so tomorrow perhaps a gutsy guy with carcinoma might well have it made.

If there is anything a far away friend can do to make this possible you should tell him - you should not hold back for embarrassment sake - you should not be afraid to tell a friend, for you owe it to yourself to battle it with all you've got. Never forget that friends, true friends, get pleasure - pure selfish pleasure - from being around when they are needed. Let me know what it is I can do - when - where - what.

Adios,

George Bush

Dorsey's next letter was six pages of criticism and advice. At the same time, it was evident that Dorsey, avid opponent, had progressed to Dorsey, great admirer. We were to find out later -- after Dorsey's death -- why he had so much to say about a photograph accompanying a news release about the Federal Budget.

"George you're a damn swell guy."

Apr 10 1967

Dear George:

These are from notes started more than a week ago but unfinished until now for reasons which are of no immediate moment. They are rough, extremely rough. I'm missing on two cylinders and the carbuerator (sic) needs adjusting -- also I have to wind the clock, put out the cat and try to put myself in a proper mood for the morrow.

Basically our problem is one of communications. We're not on the same frequency. There is also a great difference in backgrounds. While you were making with the Whippenpoof Song I was working as a field hand, following the wheat harvest from border to border. There's also the difference in personalities. You're the gentle persuader and I'm the damn rowdy who learned to hit first and argue later. There's also this: I've gone thru three typewriters, two blonde secretaries and a small amount of mental scrubbing to suggest Ways & Means of polishing your political image, and have yet to ring the bell.

Take, for example, a recent suggestion that you could save much wear and tear on your frame and pocketbook by appointing an Alter Ego. Back comes a note saying it has already been attended to, in the person of a 40-hr a week insurancemen. This is more than a matter of semantics. Without going into detail, we seem to be talking about two entirely separate subjects. I had in mind a person of substance, mature judgement and ability to move in a wide circle of friends. The answer that you have such a person .

available for the week-end circuit is completely not a proper substitute.

We come now to the matter of '68.¹ Assuming for the sake of convenience, that your eye is set on a seat in the Upper House, the odds are greatly against you. The incumbent has much working for him. As an avowed Liberal he has the Negro and Mexican segments in his favor, by reason of his voting record on farm labor and Housing. Labor is on his side because of his record on the Right to Work Law. Roughly I should say this will amount to about 40% of the voting population. Then, of course, he has the complete backing of the Administration with support from LBJ and others in official capacities.

My mathematics ended with Long Division, but I assume that no problem can be solved before it has been properly presented. Have you then laid out an all-inclusive Plan of Campaign, with stated objectives and means of attaining them. Have you given thought to proposals which would attract favorable statewide attention from voters of both parties?

At this point let me inject the thought that any reference to the singular 'You' is to Bush the Politician and not my good and true friend.

As an impartial observer, and not a Friend of the Court, it's my self appointed chore to observe what goes on in front of the curtain, and to remain oblivious of what transcends backstage. There are certainly arguments and reasons for every action you take, but my sole concern is that which is presented to the reader or viewer. In this connection I fault your thinking because it betokens insularity. In short, it lacks the spark of imaginative thinking to set it apart as something new, fresh and different. Let's take, for example, your proposal to put Postmasters under Civil Service. (This note is several weeks old). We both know that patronage is a Sacred Cow and will

¹ Dorsey was obviously referring to a U. S. Senate race which didn't come up until 1970. The Congressman ran for re-election/^{unopposed} to the House in '68.

ever remain so. Obviously, then, your proposal will never get off the ground. Wouldn't it have been far better to couple it with a suggestion which would have been hard to refuse - namely, an appropriation for a complete study of the postal system by an independent business management organization. Also, there comes to mind this thought: There's no valid reason the Post Office should not be operated by private business¹ and instead of yearly deficits of billions it would become a profitable and taxpaying organization. Has anyone ever thought of asking for bids? Would IT&T, Litton or some of the aerospace companies be^{interest?} interested? You bet they would.

Next we come to the matter of your debate here last week at the University of Houston. Am I to assume that you and that other Congressman are now experts on the War in Vietnam by reason of having sat next to Col Potbelly at some Washington function? Granted, you may be a fast learner. I'd be more inclined to call this Instant Osmosis. (Don't run away. There's more.)

Now, take your search for a "grass roots" issue. Surely you're putting me on. What's wrong with wasteful spending, taxation, Foreign Aid, Crime, destruction of State's Rights.

You're the fellow with the resources and facilities for staff planning. I have nothing but a faulty memory. But take the matter of Foreign Aid, for example. Have you broken it down into dollar totals for each country and where we stand vis-a-vis that country today. The more they get the more they hate our guts. Humphrey's just completed tour is one more added proof. If, as I suspect, the total amounts to more than 100 Billion Dollars have you tried to break that down into so many hard earned dollars from the pocket of each American taxpayer.

Now, speaking of ritualistic thinking, let's take that recently released Budget photograph.² These are honest expressions: I showed it to

² Photograph of Congressman at his desk looking over Federal Budget.

¹ In 1971, the U. S. Post Office Department did become a corporation - the U. S. Postal Service; however, to date it is not showing a profit.

I may be. And seriously I would appreciate it if you could find time to

might we counted a certain 14 votes. A note to him will reach me wherever

brothers to discard their Yarrowough buttons. Before he left here last

ticket. Furthermore, he has persuaded his fellow KC and Masonic Lodge

the form of Indian Halls, against any neighbors who fail to vote the Bush

of any remaining equipment after I'm gone. He has threatened reprisals, in

My friend Herman Kleinmeyer, has my Power of Atty and will dispose

you acted as men?

Executive to abrogate your Constitutional Rights. Isn't it about time that

have come to your present poor state by allowing the Judiciary and the

thinking individuals and not Brain Washed children of the Executive. You

there are three branches of government, and exercise your right to act as

When are you people in Washington going to learn the lesson that

correspondence which can easily be read with a lower power glass.

suspended on a Fisherman's scales. It's damn poor form to include personal

interest, who got cheated out of her House Seat, holding the Budget Book

close-up, so that the book title can be read. Better still little Miss

and all that desk clutter is entirely superfluous. A pair of balancing scales,

the people's money. Nothing beats a pretty girl. The background is hideous

The general idea, if my assumption is correct, is to vilify the spending of

cation I can't visualize any editor in his right mind using the damn thing.

himself, should be digressing. If the idea was to get newspaper publi-

it is a lousy photograph and the photographer, if that is what he calls

across, so could anyone else who gave it half a thought. In the first place,

phone book in half." I can think of a hundred better ways to put the message

"Well, now, that old son-of-a-gun is about to demonstrate how to tear a

"That's one of the loudest photographs I've ever seen." From Dorsey -

Noel Culver - "Looks like Old George is drunk". To Herman Kleinmeyer -

thank him for his efforts in your behalf. He has truly been a friend in my time of need.

Take a good look at this ad from the SATURDAY EVENING POST and contrast it with your Budget photo. Here the picture ¹ tells the complete story. The expression on the old dame's face, the shotgun, and finally the pussycat and garden hose, which spell home.

I've got just 30 minutes before the Butcher Wagon comes calling.

To put it in a nutshell you Republicans and you, Geo Bush, have a Heaven-sent opportunity before you - here today - and you're not doing a damn thing to enhance your reputation. That's blunt - but my honest feeling. It's my idea that you have gotten yourself so wrapped up in the Wash merry-go-round that you have lost sight of the immediate goal which, in your case, is to attract favorable attention to yourself on a state-wide level as a doggone good businessman who has cast his bread on the political waters.

On the positive side - Your campaign is going well but there is one major ingredient lacking - Imagination. Your actions are predictable and follow time-hallowed grooves.

In your place I would inaugurate a series of Sunday-afternoon TV debates on topical subjects, with Bush moderating. The subjects are endless: (see Par 2 below)

If you are serious about being of service to Negro businessmen why not a small panel of successful men to advise them.

Par 2 - For the War in Vietnam I would select four university students - 2 pro - 2 con, perhaps two ROTC and two CO's. As Moderator you could feed them questions and control the discussion. I would do a repeat

¹ An advertisement titled "Some People Just ~~Don't~~ Don't Take Naturally to Moving" (Bekins Moving & Storage), showing an elderly woman in a rocking chair on her front porch with a determined look on her face and a shotgun across her lap.

performance on crime, using perhaps an Asst DA, Police Official, etc.

Went the Budget, then Govt Spending, Aid to Poverty. If properly handled

I think this could bring worthwhile returns and give positive proof that

our man Bush is really in there pitching. Obviously it should be on tape

and the principals should be persons of intelligence, not kooks.

Whether or not we like it, vast numbers of people sit for hours

and stare at that damn Idiot Tube and, for many, it beats having to think

for themselves. But to compete with the commercial fare, your programs

must be interesting and thought provoking.

Time to leave you now. Sorry if this damn 'letter' is such a

confounded jumble, but under the circumstances it's my best effort.

George you're a damn swell guy. I wish you the best of everything.

P.D.

There's not time to proof read this damn thing. Pls make proper allowances.

Dorsey writes of his admiration for Mrs. Bush. The next two

letters were the last typewritten, except one, all the remaining were hand-

written in his unique, printed style.

"Now, about your Sweet Wife."

Apr 10 1967

Dear Mr. Bush:

Yesterday I received a most cordial letter from Joe Zupko, the

State Contact Representative at the VA Hosp. He told me of your call from

Wash and said that to the best of his knowledge it was the first instance of

such concern on the part of a Congressman, in behalf of a patient.

Today I ran into Joe in the hall. I had just come from surgery

where a Pogo Stolk had been rammed down my throat and my attention span was

somewhat limited. To the best of my recollection he said that because of

your interest in Veterans Affairs you had been unanimously elected a Life Member of AMVETS and that notification would come thru in about two months. I presume it has to go thru both State & National offices.

Now, about your Sweet Wife. More than I can begin to tell, it meant a great deal to me.¹ The Doctors and Nurses are necessarily impersonal and to know that someone cares makes the burden a little bit easier. But please, no sympathy, or our friendship will come to a sudden end.

With all best wishes,

Paul

"Don't look Now, but Mrs B and I have a thing going."

Apr 11 1967 H-Hour Minus Two

Dear George:

Don't look Now, but Mrs. B and I have a thing going. Just as soon as my present case of indigestion is overcome I plan to be completely refurbished with a Wig, two Ribs, One Nose, One Spinal Column, one Right Lung and a Do-It-Yourself Monkey Gland Kit. We have a date to meet at the Witching Hour at the home of the Rt Hon Supreme Court Justice, whose name escapes me.

Hope you're not the jealous type.

She's a Dear Lady and my one regret is that I do not know her well enough to say - With Love.

Paul Dorsey.

Tell Jim Allison that when St. Peter rolls out the carpet I plan to raise Hell because the damn gates need a grease job.

Dorsey prepares for more surgery.

"...this morning...a carpenter came around to make measurements."

Fri Apr 14

Dear George -

Doctors have said my condition excellent and improving. I believed them until this morning when a carpenter came around to make measurements. Now I'm beginning to have doubts.

This is definitely a second rate Hosp. No olives in the martinis.

All the best,

Dorsey

P.S.

I'm terribly unhappy with Mrs. Smith-Brown. Where is that rich widow with 3 Cadillacs and 7 discovery wells?

Evidently thinking this might be his last letter, Dorsey wrote:

"If we never meet....."

Tue April 15

Dear George -

Can't understand what I may have done to offend you. For whatever it may have been, my humble apologies.

Letter penned day before entering here was written under difficulties.

Go to surgery bright & early tomorrow.

If we never meet my best wishes go with you always.

Paul Dorsey

Stapled to this letter is a slip of paper on which the Congressman had written "Dr. Angel" and his telephone number at the V. A. Hospital.

Dorsey was feeling better when he next wrote.

.....shall probably try out for the next Olympics.....

Thu Apr 20

Dear George -

I got your note about the license plates. I used to have those personal plates but traded them in on ones that say House and also U.S. Congress. They get a good deal of notoriety around town and I guess it's a good thing except when one of my kids starts to speed.

Things are getting along pretty good here. I have been spending at least four hours a day in the Ways and Means hearings (executive sessions) on the social security legislation. It is tedious and long but I'm sure I'll have a much better understanding of the problems after these weeks in hearings.

Last night you would have been pleased. I attended a Teamsters' Banquet and spoke on the same platform with Eckhardt and Yarborough.¹ How's this for getting "grass-rootsy"? Actually, the Teamsters people did help me to some degree. Mrs. Hoffa spoke. I learned one thing pretty quick -- that is, don't say anything against Hoffa at a Teamsters' meeting. I didn't, but there was a great deal of obvious sentiment for him there. The Teamsters have an unique way of campaigning. They send their wives around to the offices laden with tough questions. My approach is to be very frank with them and tell them where I agree with them and where I don't.

Hope things are getting along good for you there. I don't like sending this to the hospital. I'd rather have you out there at your own place with your own typewriter and your own wealth of documents.

Best regards,

George Bush, M.C.

"Mrs. Smith-Brown" gets her first direct communication from Dorsey on a picture postcard of the Veterans Administration Hospital, Houston.

¹ Democrat Congressman from ^{Houston} ~~Texas~~ and U. S. Senator from Texas.

"Some fellow impersonating Geo Bush was by here Sun....."

Mrs Smith-Brown
c/o Rep Geo Bush
Longworth Bldg
Wash D C 20515

Some fellow impersonating Geo Bush was by here Sun. Promised me an appointment as Ambassador to Outer Mongolia in 1970.

Best wishes -

Dorsey

So, Dorsey and his Congressman had finally met in their first, last, and only face-to-face meeting.

Here is my answer:

"The Great Imposter" returned to Washington...."

April 28 1967

Dear Mr. Dorsey,

"The Great Imposter" returned to Washington and told us of his visit with you.

However, I have to report the ominous (for your ambassadorial ambitions) development that he did not mention his promises to you on that score!

The entire Bush staff send their best wishes.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Smith-Brown

Dorsey writes the Congressman about his visit to him at the Veterans Hospital:

"Your unannounced but most welcome visit....."

Mon Apr 24/67

Dear George -

Your ^{un}announced but most welcome visit caught me with my hair in curlers; my mind at half mast.

As evidence of my good & best wishes for success in '70 there is enclosed a small contribution to the Bush for Senate campaign fund. Pls.

do not squander it on wild women or long shots in the 7th race at Pimlico.

In a way your visit was a great disappointment. It had always been my belief that you city slicker fellows wore yellow spats, come Sunday.

The best to you -

Paul Dorsey

The Congressman's answer:

"...wild women and long shots...."

May 2, 1967

Dear Dorsey,

You have achieved another first -- this is the first time I ever received a post-dated dollar bill!

I will put it away -- with your good wishes -- for the future.

As a champion of the Ethics Bill, I don't know how you could even mention "wild women" and "long shots" at the races to me.

Hope this finds you improving in health. The next time I come calling on Sunday, I'll dig up some yellow spats if it'll make you feel better!

Best regards,

George

On the copy of this letter, I wrote, "Put in safe." Then in a later note: "Taken out 1-14-70. \$1.00 deposited in fund to be used in 1970 U. S. Senate campaign."

An exchange of letters between Dorsey and Mrs. Smith-Drown followed on his request for information regarding the possibility of his moving to Mexico to live:

"This is between ourselves...."

Sat Apr 29/67

Dear Mrs. Smith-Brown -

This is between ourselves and for obvious reasons, it will be appreciated if you will consider it a personal matter.

As you may be aware, my physical condition precludes most any type of work, which makes me entirely dependent on a monthly (V.A.) income of less than \$150.00.

I have read or been told that you have had considerable Wash. experience - so here then is my request. Will you be good enough to learn from the Mexican Embassy or Consulate if there is any American Colony where living costs will be more in line with my income? Are there any restrictions on physical disabilities?

Your courtesy will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Paul Dorsey
V. A. Hosp.
Hous-Tex, T

"....checking on your request (confidential)...."

May 2, 1967

Dear Mr. Dorsey:

I am checking on your request (confidential) mentioned in your letter received today....will let you know when we get some information.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Smith-Brown

P.S. Enclosed is your stamp....this one is on us.

"...investigation into living conditions in Mexico...."

May 21/67

Dear Mrs. Smith-Brown:

It's a handicap being cut off from all facilities hence my investigation into living conditions in Mexico is proceeding at a snail's pace. A letter to the Mexican Consulate with requests for specific information brought forth only a handful of travel literature. From another patient I have learned of a sizable American Colony at Guadalajara & am attempting to reach a ham radio operator who regularly talks with his counterpart in Mexico.

Altho Fate has prevented us from ever meeting it has been a real treat to have the pleasure of your company.

Best wishes,

Dorsey

"....talked to Mr. Boles on the Mexican Desk..."

May 24, 1967

Dear Mr. Dorsey,

I talked to Mr. Boles on the Mexican Desk in the State Department today and he's sending over some information for you on requirements for residence in Mexico.

He said the main American colonies seem to be at Guadalajara, Cuernavaca and San Miguel de Allende (in state of Guanajuato). In his opinion, the cost of living in the American colonies themselves is not much less expensive than in the U. S.

I will forward the information as soon as it gets to us.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Smith-Brown

"If you want us to dig deeper..."

May 25, 1967

Dear Mr. Dorsey,

Enclosed is the information sent over by the Department of State on Mexico.

A lot of it may be the same as you got from the Consulate; however, on page 17 there is specific information (which Mr. Boles mentioned to me on the 'phone) about requirements on income for immigrants which may be something for you to consider.

If you want us to dig deeper up here, let us know.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Smith-Brown

I didn't keep Dorsey's request confidential as he asked because I knew the Congressman would want to know about his financial difficulties. As is shown in the following letters, Mr. Bush was able to get some assistance for him. (So far as I know, Dorsey never knew of the Congressman's role.)
".....Paul Dorsey does not have too much time left...."

May 2, 1967

~~Mr. Percy J. Mims, Manager~~ in the VA Hospital in Houston in whom
Veterans Administration Regional Office
Federal Building
Houston, Texas

Dear Mr. Mims:

There is a veteran presently in the VA Hospital in Houston in whom I have a personal interest. We became fast friends through correspondence and only ten days ago did we meet face to face.

I've talked with Dr. Claiborne and some of the other doctors. They tell me Paul Dorsey does not have too much time left -- he is a cancer patient.

I understand his only source of income is a VA pension of less than \$150.00 a moth. I would greatly appreciate your checking to see, if, under the law, he would be entitled to any additional benefits. Anything you can do will be personally appreciated.

Very truly yours,
George Bush, M.C.

"....requesting a summary of his treatment...."

May 4, 1967

Honorable George Bush
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Bush:

Thank you for your inquiry about Mr. Paul Dorsey.

We are requesting a summary of his treatment at our Houston Hospital for rating purposes. When it is received, we will determine if he is entitled to an additional \$100.00 a month on account of need of regular aid and attendance. We will inform you and Mr. Dorsey of our decision.

Your interest in the welfare of Mr. Dorsey is appreciated.

Sincerely,

P. J. Mims

"His disabilities do.....entitle him to a special 'housebound' benefit...."

July 18, 1967

Dear Mr. Bush:

As promised, we are glad to tell you of our further action on the claim of Mr. Paul Dorsey.

Mr. Dorsey was discharged from the Veterans Administration Hospital, Houston, Texas, on June 3, 1967. The summary of his hospitalization showed he tolerated therapy very well. The report showed that Mr. Dorsey is not bedridden and that he is not in need of aid and attendance at the present time. His disabilities do, however, entitle him to a special "housebound" benefit of \$35.00 each month in addition to his pension payment. Mr. Dorsey has been informed of this and his award has been adjusted to pay him the household benefit from the date of his admission to the hospital.

We appreciate your interest in Mr. Dorsey's welfare.

Sincerely yours,

P. J. Mims

The preceding exchanges of letters regarding Dorsey's request for information about living in Mexico and those with the Veteran's Administration skipped over a period when Dorsey's communiques continued to come in. The following is the second letter he wrote the Congressman after his visit to the hospital:

"....upset to learn that you had been so rudely ejected."

May 7/67

Dear George.

The hosp supt was most unhappy & upset to learn that you had been so rudely ejected.¹ There is now in my chart a notation that you are free to come & go "at any time." Apparently he learned thru the grapevine since the report certainly did not come from me.....

You've got more important chores to handle than responses to notes from this correspondent. Just knowing you is sufficient unto itself.

Sorry I'm unable to send Mrs. B flowers for Mother's Day. Please extend to her my best wishes.

Surgery is out - the damn thing is too extensive so instead I start on cobalt at Baylor Hospital tomorrow.

Sincerely

Dorsey

I'm still waiting to hear you sound off on a bill to make desecration of the national colors a Federal offense - preferably carrying a mandatory 10-yr sentence. Today's medication has been heavy - pls make proper allowances.....

PD

¹ On March 18 Dorsey had written that he had left word at the nurses station - "No visitors except pretty girls and that takes care of you."

Dorsey asks Mrs. Smith-Brown to explain his personal appearance at

the time of the Congressman's hospital visit:

".....whiskers are not necessarily the sign of a beard...."

May 13/67

Dear Mrs. Smith-Brown -

Will you pls be good enuf to tell H.R.H. that the whiskers are not

necessarily the sign of a beard - nor are they an affogation - rather the

result of a neck operation last year which left my skin too tender to be shaved.

Best wishes

Dorsey

Dorsey is not too ill to give more advice to the Freshman Congressman.

Attached to a gossip column from THE HOUSTON CHRONICLE reporting the trip of

some Texas office holders on an oil company jet to a Democrat fund-raising dinner

in Washington, Dorsey wrote:

".....raise holy hell in the wrong hands....."

May 13/67

Dear Geo -

Having committed yourself to decency, you must perforce set a clean

example for others.

In this connection, let me point out an obvious fact. One good picture

of you taking passage on a company (private) plane could raise holy hell in the

wrong hands. And the fact that most major oil and private planes are not so

labeled doesn't cut any ice. A clever opponent could easily trace ownership

by the license number.

This is undoubtedly an unnecessary warning - so pls excuse me for

pointing out the obvious.

Best wishes

Dorsey
VA Hosp

- 75 -

"....makes as much sense as having my Aunt Tessie give pool lessons to Minnesota Fats."

May 14/67

Dear Mr. Congressman -

Allowing a civilian to dictate purely military tactics makes as much sense as having my Aunt Tessie give pool lessons to Minnesota Fats.

Incidentally - what year did your buddy, Secy MacNamara, graduate from the Command & General Staff College?

According to my informants the only sounds of battle heard by him in W W II were the clicking of adding machines at the Pentagon.

Sgd. Vox Pop -

Alias - P.D.

Sgt

"....you have my permission to visit the/Shrivers...."

May 15/67

Dear Cousin Willie -

You have my permission to visit the Sgt Shrivvers provided the conversation doesn't stray from the price of hogs and his views of the 1962 Edsel. But now if it ever reaches these old ears that you've been seen running interference for Ethel on "you-know-who's" touchball team me & the whole damn clan will put the hex on you.

Old Man Hippocrates, the fellow who runs this ward, says I'm doing just fine. He has sent for some fellow named Brinkley¹ who peddles goat glands - guaranteed to restore my interest in females.

Don't forget to wash behind your ears -

Uncle Paul

¹ A reference to a "Dr. Brinkley" who at one time advertised from a powerful radio station in Mexico. He specialized in rejuvenation practices.

The Congressman reassures Dorsey on his above words of warning:

"You'll be unhappy to know that the Shriver deal got rained out..."

May 18, 1967

Dear Paul:

I agree with your comments on the private planes. I actually have a policy now of not flying on the planes. There are many opportunities to ride on private planes to Houston with many close friends of mine, but I have turned them all down for the reasons you enumerate. I have kind of rationalized the riding of planes of publicly-owned companies as different than riding in a personal plane of a friend, although to date, since I have been elected, I have not been in any of these private planes.

You'll be unhappy to know that the Shriver deal got rained out -- thus, no fun and games that day.

We had a big vote today on rent supplements which the Republicans won. Hope all is well with you and that I will see you before too long.

Best regards,

George Bush

Along with a clipping of a complimentary letter-to-the-editor about Mr. Bush, written by a man named Gonzalez, Dorsey observed:

"....a Latin branch of the Bush family."

May 16/67

Dear Geo -

I have carefully perused Burke's Peerage, Who's Who, The Almanac De Gotha & The Farmers' Almanac - but nowhere do I find mention of a Latin branch of the Bush family. It seems safe to assume, therefore, that this fellow Gonzalez must be an offspring of the family blacksheep who was last reported living at Tampico and later executed for horse stealing.

Regardless of motive, he certainly deserves a personal letter of

thanks which I feel certain has already been dispatched - post haste.

Best wishes

Dorsey

The Congressman's answer:

"Don't be so damn cynical....."

May 18, 1967

Dear Dorsey,

Don't be so damn cynical about this statesman, Abel Gonzalez. Quite clearly, he is an enlightened American who puts good of country first!

Besides, when you pay a guy \$25,000 a year, what do you expect?

I took your advice and dropped him a personal note the minute I

saw the clipping you sent. Thanks for the tip.

Best regards,

George

Dorsey alternately praises and criticizes:

".....you did a creditable job recently....."

May 19/67

Dear Mr. Congressman -

For a fellow who lays claim to being one of the original Bush-For-

President Club Members, I have a legitimate beef.

I've been told you did a creditable job recently on a local TV station.

In fact, several nurses who have delivered mail from you stopped by to add a

word of praise.

From all indications, you seem to have struck a favorable note with

much of the local TV viewing audience.

Next time you're on, it will be appreciated if someone will drop me a

note in advance.

Regards,

P.B.

"Your intentions are good but....you are naive...."

Sat May 20/67

Dear Geo -

Your campaign tactics are showing considerable improvement but much remains to be done. My greatest dissent concerns the manner in which you are following time-hallowed methods & not striking out in new directions. Every politician from time immemorial has trod the same old rut.

My interest span is necessarily limited because of too damn many pills - but here are several innovations which should put you above the common level.

(1) Ask the Congress to pass a unanimous resolution of thanks to those countries which have actively supported our military efforts in Vietnam - i.e., So. Korea, Australia, New Zealand, etc.

(2) A Bush college scholarship to the most deserving boy & girl in your district, assuming that it could be tax-deductible. I would handle it in such a manner that the voters themselves would make the nominations. A Mon AM press release to all news media should bring best coverage. I have other ideas on the subject but they can wait.

(3) You never saw fit to send me a copy of your Ethics Bill, but have you considered one obvious loophole - namely the Senator or Rep who takes a fancy fee for addressing various gatherings.¹ From personal experience I can cite two examples - one, a Senator paid \$7500.00 to address a manufacturers organization. His speech was simple & to the point - "Let's cut out fooling around and get down to the serious business of the meeting." (Drinks for All). Two, a Cong from a mid-western state who rec'd an unknown sum for delivering this message - "All in favor of eliminating the speech-making signify by saying Aye."

Your intentions are good but that you are naive is evident to a close observer of the nat'l political scene, which is why I suggested that

¹ Effective January 1, 1975, members of Congress were limited to accepting \$15,000 per year in speaking and writing fees.

you & a few close associates should retain an old Washington hand to help you avoid the many & varied pitfalls.

Think it over -

Dorsey

The Congressman's reply to the two letters:

".....I hope this finds you undoped....."

May 24, 1967

Dear Paul:

Thanks for your recent letters. I am sorry you didn't get to see the TV program. We've had some pretty good comments on it. Nobody has blasted me yet.

Here's a copy of the Ethics summary. The bill itself simply puts in legal language what this summary says. We are thinking of pushing harder on this now since a special committee on ethics has been established.

I recently co-hosted with a Democrat a luncheon for many officers from our allies - Korea, Ethiopia, China,¹ Turkey and many others. I plan to get this picture around as much as possible.

Thanks for the suggestions. Keep them coming and I hope this finds you undoped and well on the road to recovery. Send me a private note on your physical condition if you get a minute.

Best regards,

George

About this time I wrote this short note to Dorsey:

"....haven't heard anything out of you....."

5-39-67

Dear Mr. Dorsey,

We haven't heard anything out of you on our latest Newsletter....we're

¹ Nationalist China.

wondering if possibly it wasn't forwarded to you at the hospital.

Mrs. Smith-Brown

Dorsey was obviously in one of his more mellow moods when he answered.

".....truth is our boy George is running a mighty good race...."

May 22¹/67⁵

Dear Friend -

Our letters crossed. Comments on latest Newsletter should have reached you by now. It shows some improvement but six pictures of His Nibs ~~is~~ carrying a good thing too far.

Glad to see he finally acknowledges having a staff, which, if truth be known, have made his good showing possible.

The cover photo is a lulu & the shirtsleeves do much to dispel the widely held theory that politicians are cream puffs.

I wouldn't want him to know it but truth is our boy George is running a mighty good race & his public image improves with each passing day.

I have purposely asked him to refrain from accepting me into the inner circle. Our present relationship leaves me free to express honest personal opinions, which as you well know, aren't always laudatory.

If, as I suspect, he has his eye on Yarborough's seat in '70, it isn't too soon to give some thought to conditions in other parts of the state.

Please tell him we're all squared away with the nurses in Ward 107. I took the liberty of making three trips to catch all shifts and showed them the paragraph in which he complimented the nurse for carrying out her bounden duties.¹

If they weren't Bush supporters before they certainly are now. In the words of the head nurse - "Mr. Bush impresses me as a real gentleman."

P.D.

¹ Referring to the nurses following orders on "No Visitors" to Dorsey.

Dorsey was still thinking about the possibility of moving to Mexico:

".....may I ask two small favors....."

May 25/67

Dear Mrs. Smith-Brown -

In return for a report on the Houston weather* may I ask two small favors -

(1) The publishing address & subscription cost of "VISTA MAGAZINE", a semi-monthly put out by the United Nations Assn.

(2) If available, a fairly recent issue of The Natl Geographic which I am told carried a lengthy article on Guadalajara (Mexico).

I am endeavoring to look into every possibility before making a final move (provided, naturally, I can leave this place under my own steam).

Best wishes,

Paul Dorsey

* If no rain it will be fair & sunny.

"I'm returning the \$1 bill....."

May 31, 1967

Dear Mr. Dorsey,

I'm sorry to be so long in answering your letter, but I've been on a four-day Memorial Day weekend (we have to take time out to catch our breath once in awhile to try to keep up with the Congressman).

Publishing address of the VISTA magazine:

Vista
United Nations Ass'n
345 E. 46th St.
New York, N.Y.

I just called the Library of Congress about the issue of the National Geographic. They will search out and copy the Guadalajara article. Will send it on as soon as we get it.

Sincerely,

P.S. I'm returning the \$1 bill...you'll need it for stamps.

Mrs. Smith-Brown

That Dorsey was down but not out was made clear in his next four letters:

"There were times when I was inclined to believe you might be the exception to the rule....."

Sat May 27/67

Dear Congressman -

There were times when I was inclined to believe you might be the exception to the rule that all politicians were incredulously insincere. Now I am having serious second thoughts.

The headline, if memory serves correctly, read - "Cong Bush Urges Police to Destroy Arrest Records of ¹TSU Rioters."

Is this your idea of the proper way to obtain respect for law & order or do you subscribe to the liberal theory that certain groups are exempt from constituted authority?

Definitely this was a smart political move but did it leave your conscience undisturbed?

Very truly yours

Paul Dorsey

"This definitely a Dear George letter." (at top of page)

May 28/67

Dear Mr. Bush -

Could it be that you & your fellow congressmen are so busy composing campaign speeches that you are overlooking the obvious?

Without risking a military confrontation you have it within your power to halt the flow of Russian arms & ammunition to North Vietnam. How? By instantly shutting off all import-export trade with Russia, by closing all trade missions and last, but not least, by the immediate cessation of tourist traffic, on which they now depend heavily for hard currency.

¹ Texas Southern University, Houston.

To talk of mining the Harbor of Haiphong at this time is ridiculous in view of the stink we are making about a similar move by the U.A.R. (United Arab Republic).

Cordially,

Dorsey

"This was the day I had set aside to raise hell....."

June 2/67

Dear Geo -

This was the day I had set aside to raise hell about your T&U stand but meanwhile I've run into a WW II vet with 8 children, 3 of whom suffer from diabetes.

He has no GI pension, no SS & is dependent on the generosity of his church for financial aid. He also, like myself, is a cancer victim.

Although his home is in Alvin ¹ it would take the services of a surveyor to establish his district. "Take the 3rd road to the right, go about a mile, turn left on the blacktop until you come to a yellow house painted green - you can't miss it."

His wife is due in tomorrow with a stat of his discharge. I'll collect as much pertinent information as possible and ask as a personal favor, that you pass the dope along to the congressman concerned.

Can do?

Best wishes,

Dorsey

The Congressman noted on this letter "Answered by hand June 4."

¹ A town near Houston.

- 84 -

"After it will be like a baby taking his first hesitant steps".

Fri June 3/67

Dear Geo -

The cobalt treatments were concluded today & my future address will be at the same old P. O. Box number. After two months of hospitalization it will be like a baby taking his first hesitant steps.....

Pls tell my good friend Mrs. Smith-Brown I rec'd the Natl Geographic article - for which many thanks.

You're a most fortunate guy to have such a capable & loyal staff.

Best wishes,

Dorsey

P.S. The fellow with the 8 kids prefers to go it alone. Feels his church pastor can find a solution.

On July 24, Mrs. Smith-Brown received her last letter from Dorsey, written from a different hospital:

"....a belated attempt to say thanks...."

July 19/67

Dear Friend -

This is a belated attempt to say thanks for your assistance in helping me to locate a Mexican residence. All efforts came to a sudden standstill when I learned of the minimum monthly income requirement of \$240.00 ~~per~~ which far exceeds my combined Social Security & G.I. checks.

Also, conditions are such at the present that I can ill afford to stray too far from the local V.A. Hosp where all my medical records are stored.

Sincerely,

Paul Dorsey
Ballaire Gen. Hosp.

Although mail poured into the Congressional office (sometimes literally sackful¹), we were worried by the fact that we weren't hearing from Dorsey as usual. His next letter to the Congressman was almost two months after the previous one.

"....receiving treatment for after-effects of the cobalt series".

July 31/67

Dear Mr. Bush.

As requested in your note I tried to call you at home on Saturday but didn't make contact and the foreign sounding maid¹ would not accept a message. Sorry we missed connections.

I have been a patient here at Bellaire Gen Hosp since early in June, receiving treatment for after-effects of the cobalt series.

My 60 days under Medicare will be up shortly.

Your offers of assistance are greatly appreciated.

Kindest regards,

Paul Dorsey

The Congressman got disturbing news about his friend, Dorsey, in the following copy of a letter between physicians:

"....had hoped to send Mr. Dorsey back to V.A. Hospital...."

August 7, 1967

Dr. John W. Claiborne

Administrator, V. A. Hospital
Houston, Texas

Dear Sir:

Mr. Dorsey was treated in V.A. Hospital for Tumor of the Rt. Lung. He was dismissed from the V.A. Hospital after Cobalt treatment; he was unable to care for himself and was admitted to Belleaire General Hospital for Nursing care under Medicare.

¹ Paula Rendon, formerly of Mexico, who has been with the Bush family for many years.

Xrays made in Bellaire Hospital show extensive tumor in upper 20% of Rt lung and in the mediastinum. As your records show Mr. Dorsey has had numerous operations for cancer - in the V.A. Hospital and M. D. Anderson Hospital. His time is about up under Medicare.

I had hoped to send Mr. Dorsey back to V.A. Hospital for further care and treatment. He has no family and is indigent.

Yours very truly,

Seale I. Johnson, M.D.

cc: Rep. George Bush
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

On the letter, Congressman Bush noted "talked to him (the doctor) on phone 8-9-67. Terminal disease - spread all through him." Following receipt of this information, Mr. Bush wrote this letter which shows his concern about and affection for Dorsey:

"We're beginning to worry up here."

August 9, 1967

Dear Paul:

I was sorry to hear that you were in Bellaire Hospital. I saw Dr. Claiborne the other night and he told me that you were not in his place any longer. He again apologized for the treatment of the nurse which I don't think either you or I thought was bad at all.¹ I hope you're getting along better and those darned cobalt things are behind you once and for all.

We're beginning to worry up here. You haven't even eaten me out for anything. Incidentally, Rose Zamaria² from this office was in Methodist Hospital in Houston for 10 days for a serious operation. But she is now recovering at home for a month or two. Everybody else, including Jim Allison and Mrs. Smith-Brown, and even I, are getting along okay. We're swamped with problems, but

¹ More concern about the Congressman having been turned away when he went to hospital to visit Dorsey.

² Office Manager for Mr. Bush.

we are liking it, so send us the Dorsey view. We don't like it when you're not busy keeping us on the ball.

Best regards,

George

Dorsey wrote one last typewritten letter from his home in which he showed some of his old fire.

"...most that can be said for it is that it came cheaper than the usual Grade B movie...."

Aug 18 1967

Dear George:

After carefully ascertaining that all the pretty nurses were either married, pregnant or spoken for I checked out of Bellaire General last Friday, spent the weekend scrounging for a used opium pipe to relieve the pain of this little problem which won't go away, collected a two-months accumulation of mail, including several letters from you dated as far back as May, and prepared to celebrate my release from confinement with appropriate ceremonies. Things were going well until Monday evening, when on the stroke of midnight I flipped the dial to Channel 2 and latched onto something appropriately called The Last Word. It involved several contestants and a referee, and the most that can be said for it is that it came cheaper than the usual Grade B movie which usually fills this time slot.

Perhaps I missed the introductory remarks of the moderator but if the program had a purpose it's meaning was never made clear, or as our English cousins would say - It was in the aid of What? With the exception of a few narrow misses it was boring and repetitious, as for example your repeated remarks that the solicitation of new voters was confined to specific areas. Hell's Bells, are you just awakening to the fact that the entire Poverty Program is designed to perpetuate the party in power?

All hands will concede that you have done well in exposing the Bush name to the voters - but what about your public stature? Was it improved, for instance by putting yourself on a first-name basis with a Poverty official who saw nothing wrong in putting two accused murderers on the Federal payroll? Offhand I can think of several other instances where you have led with your right - to the detriment of that which you seek to accomplish. Your behavior in seeking the release of the TSU rioters will long linger in the memory of many of us.

On the brighter side - my many thanks for your interest in my physical welfare, but please no more long distance calls.

With kindest personal regards,

Dorsey

Relief that Dorsey was more like his old self was evident in the Congressman's answer:

"...sounds like you're your same old mean self again."

August 23, 1967

Dear Paul:

It was good hearing from you.

As usual, you are screwed up on some of your political thinking, but it almost sounds like you're your same old mean self again.

This is a free country and I refuse to accept your dictates about long distance calls. The only inhibition I have is that they cost money and my wife eats me out. But I vow here and now ~~###~~ you will not scare me off from calling whomever I choose. (How about that for the King's English?)

You are right about the poverty program and the votes. You are wrong about my comments on the TSU rioters. All I was saying was that the innocent should be promptly processed and released. This is the American system, and I'm

sure you would agree.

You are right about the midnight program being boring. But look at it this way. There was always Channel 11 or Channel 13 to switch to. You are partially wrong about Francis Williams, the head of the Poverty Program. He is to some degree a victim of circumstances. I agree that he's wrong about those indicted for murder. Technically, they are not murderers until convicted. But he has been right in trying to keep the black power elements from taking over the Poverty Program. You are wrong about my wife. She's not nearly as great as you think she is. Oh well, maybe, on balance, she is. You are right on some of your comments about public stature - not all. I am worried about trying to build a constructive record here and it isn't too easy.

Get well quick. . . . In spite of your rightness and wrongness, it was terrific hearing from you. Mrs. Smith Brown is fine and so is Jim Allison and we talk about you often.

Best regards,

George

In a couple of weeks, Dorsey wrote this whimsical note on a page on which was pasted an old picture of what appeared to be a couple of immigrant street vendors:

"Don't let it happen to you."

Aug 30 1967

My Yankee Friend:

This is a recent (unretouched) snapshot of our Uncle Jasper and wife, Clementine-Penelope, whose only offense was that he put out more than he took in, thereby calling a halt to what might have been a brilliant career. Don't let it happen to you. P.S. That's Cousin Eustace in the White Palm Beach.¹

Affectionately,

Uncle Wilbur

¹ A street cleaner at the curb.

The Congressman seemed relieved that Dorsey was up to giving him the needle again.

"...only one is less confused than I am."

September 8, 1967

Dear Paul:

I received the letter from Uncle Wilbur with a very interesting photograph of his Uncle Jasper and wife Clementine-Penelope. Evidently Uncle Jasper, one of the last great entrepreneurs, was doing well when the picture was taken. However, Aunt Penelope looks slightly pregnant in the picture, and that mysterious look on her face made me wonder whether Cousin Eustace (he of the White Palm Beach suit and heavy broom) might have been more than a kissing cousin.

In any event, I have shown the picture to many people in the office and only one is less confused than I am.

I hope you have gotten over being sore at me about the TSU matter. After all, you've been telling me for months I ought to be "for the people", and on this issue, all I asked for was fair play so that an innocent person would not have a police record.

I am depressed. Our public hearings on the tax bill end in a few days, and I'm thoroughly confused on this. The easy political answer is to vote "no." But I'm not sure that is the right answer for this country - facing a \$29 billion deficit as we are.

Hastily, but with best regards,

George

We didn't hear from Dorsey again until October, and his hand-printed letters were getting harder to decipher.

"....I am suffering from hoof & mouth disease...."

Oct 21st

Dear George

After much punching and probing, mostly with long dull needles, it has been decided that I am suffering from hoof & mouth disease or cancer of the spine.

Sorry to be such a lousy correspondent. The future could be brighter. Also this flat on my back writing position.

Are you being coy about '68 or should I tell all & sundry you're a damn good man for the job?

Best wishes to all

Dorsey
V A Hosp

On this letter, I wrote this note: "Call Houston office, ask to send flowers, sign card George Bush and Staff, send bill to G.B."

On November 15, this brief (for Dorsey) note:

"I've been fighting this damn disease for more than ten years...."

Nov 15/67

Dear Friends -

My belated thanks to all of you for the lovely flowers and for the thought behind them.

I've been fighting this damn disease for more than ten years and so far have managed to come out on the losing end. It has been a long struggle and a lonely one.

Sincerely,

Paul Dorsey

Though there is no record in the file, the Congressman obviously had had written a personal Thanksgiving Day letter to Dorsey.

"You have been a good friend....."

Nov 28/1967

Dear George -

Thanks for your Thanksgiving Day letter. It must be a good feeling to have the whole family under one roof again.

I can well understand your mixed emotions where the governorship is concerned.¹ There are good arguments to be made for & against. The greatest advantage, as it appears to me, is that the job would give you state-wide exposure, a great advantage for the senatorial race in '70. You are presently doing a bang-up job. However, your reputation is largely confined to this immediate area. Another factor is the worth of your opponent and the strength of his organization.

On the negative side there would be the loss of a most valuable committee assignment, as well as another disruption of your home life. I have other thoughts on the subject, if you're interested.

A mystery to me is why you Republican members of Ways & Means sat on your hands & waited for Wilbur Mills to initiate Congressional opposition to the President's proposed tax increases. Without knowing any particulars it appears to me that you people muffed a golden opportunity. What we poor folks want and need is less federal spending and even a casual study of the budget would disclose hundreds of unnecessary disbursements.

If perchance, you should find me sounding as if my head is in cloud nine you can lay it to around the clock dosage of a rather potent medication, for the relief of pain. My condition is such that surgery has been ruled out &

¹ Mr. Bush was being urged to make the race for Governor of Texas.

additional cobalt or x-ray would turn my red corpuscles to buttermilk. It is not unlikely that within the week I'll be transferred to a nursing home, there to vegetate until der tag.

You have been a good friend and I wish you every success.

Please remember me to Mrs. Smith-Brown and to Mrs. Bush.

All the best to you

P. Dorsey

A couple of days later, this letter arrived:

"I have a small favor to ask."

Nov 30 1967

Dear George -

To answer your question - I purposely omitted V. Nam from the list of priorities because it is not a subject on which you can qualify as an expert and I feel that any definite expression of opinion might be subject to change at a later date, as for example, McNamara on V. Nam & McArthur on Korea.

A Bush sponsored bill on some vital subject of general interest & benefit to the greatest number will be your best recommendation for re-election. My recommendation (1) Crime (2) Taxes. These are broad general subjects which can be expanded to cover a multitude of sub-heads.

The people here at VA say there is nothing further they can do for me, medically, and the rest homes have declined to accept me as a patient because the cost of medications almost approximates the sum they receive from the govt. On Fri (Dec 1st) I'll be transferred back to Bellaire Gen Hosp under Medicare.

I have a small favor to ask. The ward physician who has supervised my treatment here is a young resident who has far exceeded the bounds of duty to make my stay as comfortable as possible. A little note from you would mean much to him -

Dr. L. K. Favrot
U. S. Veterans Hosp
Houston,

Best wishes,
Dorsey

P.S. Further on V. Nam -

I make the prediction that within the next 18 months American troops will have the sole burden on the fighting fronts; that the S. Vietnamese will brand us as the Imperial Aggressors & that their hatred for us will exceed any feeling they have for their northern neighbors. A proper understanding of Oriental psychology is the greatest impediment on the path to a peaceful settlement.

P.D.

Here is the Congressman's letter to Dr. Favrot and Dorsey:

"I have a friend named Paul Dorsey....."

December 4, 1967

Dear Dr. Favrot:

I have a friend named Paul Dorsey who I understand you have been taking care of. In fact, according to Dorsey, you have gone far beyond the call of duty and I just wanted you to know that I appreciate this very much.

I am sure that the work there gets discouraging at times as you are around people who are so very sick, but I thought, perhaps, that a little note telling you of the appreciation of one patient and the appreciation of his friend as well might make a difference to you in your work. Keep it up! Dedication is a rare virtue.

Warmest regards,

George Bush

"I hope that you will keep in touch...."

December 4, 1967

Dear Paul:

I wrote a note today to Dr. Favrot.

I hope that you will keep in touch with me from Bellaire Hospital. I am anxious to know when you'll ~~##~~ actually get transferred over there.

Best regards,

George

The next letter from Dorsey was advice on the Congressman's upcoming trip to Vietnam.

"On your way home make a detour to Tokyo & bring me one of those cute little Geisha girls."

Dec 18/67

Dear George -

It has been brought to my attention that you are planning a trip to V. Nam following adjournment. You have my permission provided the following conditions are met -

- (1) Come hell or high water Xmas day must be spent with your family.
- (2) A competent person should thoroughly examine your insurance policies to determine whether or not a rider is required for presence in a "war zone" and/or injuries (etc) suffered while a passenger in a non-scheduled (military) plane.
- (3) Accept with reservations information put out in official briefings which must, of necessity, reflect the Administration line. A more truthful & unbiased accounting can be had from news correspondents on the scene.
- (4) Suppress any desire you may have to play cops and robbers by riding shotgun on a carrier based plane.
- (5) If at all possible you should stop over at Pearl long enough to make your number with CINCPAC.
- (6) Pls do not emulate that damn fool stunt of Sen Percy & take any member of your family into a combat area.
- (7) On your way home make a detour to Tokyo & bring me one of those cute little Geisha girls. I need someone to scratch my back in those hard to reach places.

If you fail to meet these conditions a kangaroo court will sentence you to watch 100 hrs of daytime television.....

I think it is most unwise to make predictions about the war in S.E. Asia.¹ There are too many changing factors & those people who have made flat-footed assertions have had to eat their words.

Best wishes,

Dorsey

Since the Congressman had left Washington by the time this letter arrived, I wrote Dorsey:

"My own best wishes for the holiday...."

December 21, 1967

Dear Mr. Dorsey,

We relayed the contents of your letter of December 18th to the Congressman this morning (he is back in Houston). He asked me to write and thank you for your thoughtful suggestions about his Viet Nam trip. It really is good of you to take such an interest in his welfare.

CINCPAC is on his schedule, as well as Tokyo; however, as ingenious as he is, I doubt he could get by with bringing back a geisha girl for you!

Why don't you give the Congressman a call at the Houston office, CA 7-1489, or at home, NA 2-8979.....I know he would like to have a chance to exchange holiday greetings with you...he leaves the day after Christmas for Viet Nam.

My own best wishes for the holiday--if it can't be "merry", let's hope it will be joyous in the truest sense of the word.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Smith-Brown

¹ Referring to an attached clipping from HOUSTON POST about speech the Congressman made at luncheon meeting of Houston Leukemia Society in which he predicted the war would go away "when Hanoi feels we're not going away."

Fortunately, for the Congressman and the Bush staff, we didn't know that this letter, received on Christmas Eve, would be the last time we heard from our one-time severest critic, turned good friend. After receiving the letter, we asked our Houston office to make an investigation for Mr. Bush who was in Viet Nam. We were told ~~###~~ by the Veterans Administration that Dorsey's pension, beginning December 1st, the day he was discharged from the V. A. Hospital, was the maximum of \$179.00---no information on Dorsey's statement that it had been cut back to \$30 a month. This might have been a misunderstanding of Dorsey's brought about by prolonged medication. The Veterans Administration also gave us these depressing details: "Widespread cancer of lungs; 30% blind in one eye; cancer of face and listed as 50% disfigured; throat operation; skin condition traceable to face cancer; barely able to walk; bedridden or in wheelchair."

"1967 has not been a vintage year."

Dec. 19/67

Dear George -

Apropos of nothing in particular except that he seems hell bent to ruin our economy, why doesn't our State Department tell Charlie Big Nose that no more French imports shall reach these shores until he commences making token payments on the many hundred millions which are long past due.

Also, along the same line, let's impose a \$100 visa fee for entry into France. They are willing enough to accept tourist dollars & since he seems inclined to play a dirty game of pool let's give him a dose of his own medicine.

Your political image improves with each passing day, and since my self appointed task is to find chinks in the armor I suspect that a weak point is a reluctance on your part to say a final & decisive no to projects espoused by personal & business friends. Along this line, I cite the TSU riots & the pipeline safety proposal.

You Republicans have a heaven sent opportunity to make a (undecipherable) in the next elections. However you are certainly doomed to failure unless strong changes are made at the state & natl levels.

Sorry about the mix-up in addresses. I was disch from Veterans on Dec. 1st & classified as totally disabled with a substantial increase in pension. Today I recd a letter from Veterans Bureau in the Federal Bldg stating that since I was now able to work my pension had been cut back from \$119 to \$30 a month.

It seems to be H&sp policy now not to send mail to a forwarding address. The P. O. Box # is permanent & shall be the only one I shall use in the future.

I'm on heavy narcotic hypos round the clock so if at any point there seems to be a repetition of ideas the fault lies not with me but those lousy mariquan cigrets (sic). 1967 has not been a vintage year. My best wishes to you and the family in the years which lie ahead -

Dorsey

The final letter in the correspondence came from Dorsey's friend, Herman Kleinknecht. There were three enclosures.

..."his personally written obituary...."

January 24, 1968

Dear Congressman Bush,

Thanks for your letter and offer of help. It was kind of you to write.

I met Paul after his first battle with cancer in 1957. Being an amateur photographer myself I respected and admired Paul and his work. In my opinion he was a "man's" man and would stand on principle even if it meant personal loss. Needless to say his death is a tremendous loss to me.

Paul was able to work at his beloved profession of Photography until 3 years ago, when his health would no longer permit him to do so. At this point he seemed to lose his zest for living.

I think it is a basic need of all human beings to feel they are wanted, needed and can contribute something of themselves to society. Paul, being the man he was, needed this desperately.

Approximately eighteen months ago, you started filling this need for him, by listening to him and taking the time to exchange ideas. You have no idea how happy you made the "old man," even though you both had differences at times. Thanks so very, very much.

I am now in the process of being appointed administrator of his estate, which is quite small after a ten year battle with cancer. While going through some of his personal files, I found these old magazine articles and his personally written obituary and thought you might like to have them. In my opinion, this old U. S. Camera Magazine article is a very accurate description of our deceased friend. I also have quite a few of Paul's old oil field pictures, if you would like to have any of them, please write and I'll be more than happy to send you some.

I am deeply indebted to you and if I can ever be of any service to you, don't hesitate to call on me.

Thanks again,

Herman Kleinknecht, Jr.

The first of the three enclosures was the "personally written obituary":

OBITUARY - PAUL DORSEY

Expired - January 16, 1968

Paul Dorsey, 65, veteran news and industrial photographer, died at Veterans Hospital in Houston, Texas, after a long illness, and numerous operations.

Born in Washington DC he made his newspaper debut on the Washington Daily News. Assigned to the police beat as a combination photographer-reporter, his work came to the attention of the Picture Editor of The New York Times. The next five years were spent in covering important news events over the entire country.

Settling down in California he worked several years on the Los Angeles Herald-Express (now Herald-Examiner) and in 1937 went on the staff of Time Inc. In 1938-39 he was attached to the advance echelon of the Japanese Army in China. Most of his atrocity pictures were seized by Japanese Intelligence but he succeeded in bringing out the first uncensored photographs depicting the Japanese Army in action. For this and for other military information he was given a "Well Done" by Washington military authorities.

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor he tried to enlist. He was turned down by all branches of the service. He was finally accepted by the Army Signal Corps but was refused because of physical disabilities. Finally, six months later, he was offer^{ed} a choice: Captain, Army Signal Corps; Lieutenant, U. S. Navy; or Private, U. S. Marine Corps. He chose the latter, was assigned to a desk job in San Francisco, went AWOL and stowed away on a transport loading for the South Pacific, was apprehended and court martialed. In January, 1943, he was promoted to Sgt. and went overseas with the Third Marine Div. * Shortly thereafter he was commissioned a Second Lt., assigned to the office of the Chief of Naval Operations and successively photographed the Marines as they fought their way to victory. He participated in the Saipan, Guam, Peleliu, Iwo Jima and Okinawa operations, spent several months on the USS Essex as an aerial photo-gunner and made one short submarine patrol.

Following the war Dorsey was hired by Henry Ford II as a roving plant photographer, later was promoted to head of his department and left the company the same day his department was taken over by one of the Whiz Kids who decided that Ink Blot tests were the best criterion of photographic ability. Coming to Houston in 1948 Dorsey spent most of his working time in the oil fields and established a reputation as a specialist in this line of work. To learn his job better he laid aside his camera for three months and worked as a roughneck and derrickman.

* got into a friendly argument with his Commanding Officer, was again court-martialed, given five days bread & water.

The second enclosure was a page from LIFE MAGAZINE titled "Photographer of the Month, Lt. Paul Dorsey." There is a 9" x 9" inch picture of Dorsey beside a wrecked Japanese plane on Guam and shots by Dorsey of Marines taking Guam as they advance behind tanks and of Marines helping wounded, with this caption: "Lt. Paul Dorsey, of Los Angeles, Calif., is a Marine Corps photographer attached to Commander Steichen's Naval Aviation Photographic Unit. In 1939 Dorsey went to Japan on a photographic assignment for LIFE. While there, a Japanese officer spat in his face. Prevented at the time from retaliation, Dorsey never got over it. At Saipan and Guam, he had his first chance to even the score. In addition to photographing the operations there, he personally accounted for seven Japs and made darn sure they were dead."

The most penetrating insight into the man we had been corresponding with for fifteen months was the ^{five-page} story "PAUL DORSEY" in U.S. CAMERA. Along with the story were pictures Dorsey had taken of Camp Roberts (California) soldiers enjoying entertainment by Charlie McCarthy for LIFE; "Neophyte at a dude ranch" for LOOK; story on home life of Max Baer for LOOK; Marlene Dietrich for LOOK; Charles Chaplin cooling off after a tennis game; W. C. Fields, shot on a movie set in Hollywood for the NEW YORK DAILY NEWS; John Barrymore in an Orson Welles broadcast; Gene Kruppa, drummer, for Columbia Broadcasting System.

The parts we liked best, the ones which reminded us most of the Dorsey we had come to know, were: "His faculty for seeing individuals in each situation for what they really are, without any false association with situations of their own making, is one of Dorsey's potent characteristics -- and one of his greatest assets.

"He is fabulous, this Paul Bunyan of photo-journalism. The tales about him would fill a book. At mention of his name, eyes light -- "Why, that so-and-so, did you ever hear what he did for (or to) me--"

"He does his best to hide it and he will blush like hell to read it, but he has a heart. Nevertheless the boys who delight in his big heartedness know

he's tough. They don't presume on Dorsey, the gentleman; they are too busy keeping up with Dorsey the photographer.

"Everyone who has worked for him has a fight story to tell. He's demanding and exacting, will not accept an alibi."

And the conclusion of the story:

"When he is working on a story there is no past and no future job on his mind. He stops worrying over the present one when he ships it and a new story becomes the present interest -- and worry. He wastes no time or energy over the past and crosses no bridges until he comes to them. The present story, from the moment he begins to worry over the idea, has its full quota of bridges and Paul Dorsey worries over them enough for ten men. He's the best worrier in the game. Maybe that's also why he's one of the best."

So, at last, we understood why Dorsey had so many critical comments about photographs used in the Bush Newsletter. In a way, I think we were glad we didn't know Dorsey was a famous photographer-journalist. We might never have known Paul Dorsey, constituent.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

This is Aleene Smith's first book. Her only previous writing experience was as Editor of THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT, a weekly newspaper in a town of about 3500 sixty-five miles west of Houston, Texas. A native Texan, she compiled this book in Belleair Bluffs (also a town of about 3500) on the West Coast of Florida where she and her husband retired in 1972 from New York City, where she was secretary to then U. S. Ambassador to the United Nations, George Bush. The Smiths have two sons and four grandsons, half of them in Miami and the other half in Houston.