

July 12, 1993

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Mr. Brian Lomb
400 N. Capital St., N.W., Suite 650
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Mr. Lomb:

In the discussion of the fifties last evening on Booknotes, I hoped that the impact of Sputnik would be mentioned.

I took a master's in journalism at UCLA in 1960. It was the last semester for the discipline. Three of the five newspapers had closed. Many holding degrees from UCLA were out of work.

In 1962, I was elected to the Alumni Council of UCLA. Here one learned facts not generally known. There were two big problems. Students proved they were college material for two years and dropped out in members the third year. As graduates of the good starts resigned and took slow boats to China. Sputnik had dashed their hopes.

I was offended by the checkers speech. It was such an emotional response to a serious charge. It could be called the Coq and Coat speech.

I considered Pat Nixon an ideal First Lady and wrote to tell her so. In April 1972, Women in Communications honored Mrs. Nixon at the Beverly Hilton. The Nixon popularity was at its peak because of the China trip. Helen Thomas spoke at length and gave a detailed account of China.

Mrs. Nixon said her suit was from Easter the previous year by Geoffrey Beene. It was arched. A reporter wrote that she was attractive and youthful. He said only her voice was old.

Since her death of throat cancer, it has been published that she was a heavy smoker.

The same evening that Mrs. Nixon had appeared in Beverly Hills, Mr. Nixon was on TV from the East Coast. His suit was archaic.

In the spring of 1963, there was a program that included a prize-winning film made in England about the 1960 election. It opened with the statement "Richard Nixon was not defeated in 1960. He threw the election away when he promised to campaign in every state. He wore himself out while John F. Kennedy went to fourteen cities when he believed most of the voters."

We saw Nixon at whistle stops. We saw him trudging in the snow. We saw him speaking to the people.

Lyndon Johnson as vice President was there. He was introduced by Mr. Paulley who said, "FDR once told me that Lyndon Johnson would one day be President."

I thought that he was campaigning. He was much more slender then.

In 1973, I retired from the Los Angeles schools, and purchased my home here. It was a Northridge-area, built in 1924 in the days of the great craftsmen. But the neighborhood was gone.

Dec. 14, 1974, I had been in my Claremont home one year and had open house. One of the guests was Richard Nixon's Aunt May Nixon. She sat in front of a fireplace for a long time and spoke of her love of fireplaces.

She was back during the summer of 1975. I served in the backyard. There was one step down from the family room to the yard. Mrs. Nixon stood

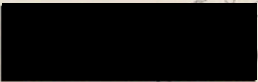
sheel, telling everyone about the step.
She was the most gracious, considerate
person. She is now deceased.

Former President Nixon visited in
Southern California. He said that he would
be back with Pat for the opening of the
Reagan Library, and we would see how
young looking she still was. That day,
she was flanked by First Ladies Ford
and Bush, looking very frail.

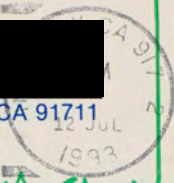
Henry Kissinger said at the time of
Mrs. Nixon's death that her husband
would not have been President without
her.

One more note. Women in Communi-
cation was formerly Delta Sigma Phi.
When the name was changed, the members
of the L.G. chapter objected, but were
outweighed. Lady Bird Johnson was a
member. I suggested that she be
honored when our national convention was held.
The Texas members were outraged. It
didn't happen. She belongs to them.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]



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