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Dear Dan,

It is always a pleasure to hear from you. The curious thing is I had just been thinking about you because I had been watching David Boies argue the different cases for Al Gore, and he reminds me of you. Not physically but in his grasp of the facts and law and his ability to set it all out simply and concisely in a kind of simple, conversational flow.

Unfortunately, it did not seem to have much affect on the Supreme Court which plunged like fools into the thicket where angels should fear to tread. I can't recall the Court acting in such an unrestrained and foolhardy manner, and if FF should be looking down from somewhere above, he must certainly be glad he is no longer here below. I fear the Court has inflicted considerable injury on itself. Only time can tell us just how much.

I did not know that Jan had Parkinson's and am very saddened to learn of it. It was not apparent when you visited us a few years ago. It certainly sounds like you both have had a difficult year, and you have certainly had more than your allotted share of life's shocks. Hopefully henceforth you will both be accorded some grace.

I read the article which you were kind enough to enclose with great interest. You made your points clearly and forcefully and convinced me.

I enjoyed Al Turnbull's letter to you. I did not know that I was so selective. I have written Al and enclose a blind copy of my letter.

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Should I conclude that the non-retirement portion of your life is presently devoted to the Oxford Companion piece or are you still writing fiction or engaged in other projects? Should you feel like putting your thoughts on paper about the various judicial proceedings that have ensued since the election, I would be most curious to know your views.

I am not presently writing anything as I have had quite a busy year with my practice plus the usual family matters, but I have a couple of ideas. One of them is to do a short book entitled something like "Great Lawyers of the 20th Century" modeled on Aubrey's *Brief Lives*. It would be limited to American lawyers. A few of my candidates are Brandeis, Darrow, John W. Davis, Ralph Nader, Thurgood Marshall, and Edward Bennett Williams. The problem is that I have never written a book like that and am not certain that I could pull it off. Then there are the practical problems of finding a publisher and time to write it. So I am not sure it will happen, but I think the idea may be a good one. What do you think?

Junko joins me in wishing you and Jan a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2001.

Sincerely,



Ronald P. Sokol

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