

"RISKS AND LIES"

THANK YOU VERY MUCH...

**DRAFT**

IT IS AN HONOR AND A PLEASURE TO BE  
HERE THIS MORNING... TO BE HONORED IN  
THE SAME BREATH WITH JUDGE HIGGINBOTHAM  
AND PROFESSOR FRANKLIN...AND THE  
DISTINGUISHED CLASS OF 1989.

THE PLEASURE IS HEIGHTENED BY THE FACT  
THAT I KIND OF WENT TO S.M.U... NOT AS  
A STUDENT BUT AS A NEWSPAPER REPORTER.

I WAS HERE A LOT IN THE 60'S...  
INTERVIEWING STUDENTS AND PROFESSORS...  
VISITING HOT SHOTS AND BIG SHOTS OF  
VARIOUS KINDS FOR THE DALLAS NEWS OR  
THE TIMES HERALD.

FOR INSTANCE...

I WAS THE TIMES HERALD POLITICAL  
REPORTER... I COME IN TO WORK ONE  
MORNING... THE CITY EDITOR SAID...  
PROBLEM. THE SCIENCE REPORTER HAS  
CALLED IN SICK. THERE IS A BIG  
DEBRIEFING FROM THE FIRST PICTURES EVER  
TAKEN OF MARS GOING ON AT S.M.U. GET  
OUT THERE AND COVER IT... WE'RE SAVING  
A BIG HOLE ON PAGE ONE... CALL QUICKLY  
FOR THE SECOND EDITION.

I WALKED INTO THE AUDITORIUM AND  
MOVED DOWN TO THE FRONT. SAT DOWN, TOOK  
OUT MY NOTEBOOK... TO START TAKING  
NOTES.

IN A FEW MINUTES I REALIZED I DID NOT  
UNDERSTAND ONE THING THAT WAS BEING  
SAID. I HAD NOTHING TO WRITE DOWN. IT  
WAS SCIENTISTS TALKING FOR OTHER  
SCIENTISTS. LIKE IN A VERY FOREIGN  
LANGUAGE. I COULD NOT UNDERSTAND ONE  
SINGLE THING BEING SAID. I COULD SEE  
THAT HOLE ON PAGE ONE STAYING A HOLE...  
AND BIG BIG TROUBLE FOR ME. SO I GOT UP  
AND MOVED TOWARD THE BACK THE HALL,  
LOOKING DESPERATELY FOR A FRIENDLY FACE  
ON SOMEBODY WHO SEEMED TO KNOW WHAT WAS  
GOING ON.

I SPOTTED ONE... IT WAS A MAN NAMED  
JOHNSON. I WILL NEVER FORGET HIM. I SAT  
DOWN NEXT TO HIM. WHISPERED WHO I  
WAS... AND MY PROBLEM... AND ASKED IF  
HE WOULD ACT AS AN INTERPRETER... LIKE  
AT THE UNITED NATIONS WHEN THE  
RUSSIANS SPOKE.

HE DID... WONDERFUL MAN THAT HE WAS. IT  
WORKED.

I CALLED IN SOME THINGS TO THE RE-WRITE  
DESK... THE HOLE WAS FILLED... WITH MY  
BY-LINE ON THE STORY.

"GOSH," SAID ALL IN THE NEWSROOM AND  
ELSEWHERE... NEVER KNEW YOU WERE AN  
EXPERT ON MARS.

ANOTHER FOR INSTANCE... IT WAS A VERY  
DIFFERENT  
KIND OF OCCASION... I TELL THE STORY  
NOT TO MAKE TROUBLE BUT TO ILLUSTRATE  
HOW THINGS HAVE CHANGED IN OUR  
COUNTRY... AND HERE AT S.M.U.  
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING WAS INVITED BY A  
STUDENT GROUP TO SPEAK AT S.M.U. IT WAS  
AFTER HE HAD WON THE NOBEL PRIZE... BUT  
ALSO AFTER HE HAD SPOKEN OUT AGAINST  
THE VIETNAM WAR. IT HAPPENED TO  
COINCIDE WITH S.M.U.'S ANNUAL FUND  
RAISING SUSTENTATION DRIVE  
THE CIVIC LEADER BUSINESSMEN IN CHARGE  
WENT TO BOTH NEWSPAPERS... THE DALLAS  
NEWS AND THE TIMES HERALD AND GOT THE  
PUBLISHERS TO AGREE NOT TO PUBLICIZE  
KING'S VISIT TO S.M.U.... ON THE  
GROUNDS IT WOULD HURT FUND RAISING IN  
THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY.

SO... ONE THREE INCH STORY ON PAGE 37  
OR SUCH IN EACH PAPER BARELY MENTIONED  
THE SPEECH AHEAD OF TIME.  
ON THE DAY OF HIS APPEARANCE HERE... I  
WAS ASSIGNED TO COVER IT. I WAS  
INSTRUCTED NOT TO ASK QUESTIONS AT A  
NEWS CONFERENCE THAT WOULD BE HELD AT  
THE STUDENT CENTER... TO REPORT ONLY ON  
HIS SPEECH AT MCFARLIN AUDITORIUM...  
BUT WRITE A STORY OF ONLY 300 WORDS.  
THERE WOULD BE NO PHOTOGRAPHS.  
I WAS TOLD THE DALLAS NEWS WOULD DO THE  
SAME. I WAS INCENSED... BUT I NEEDED  
WORK. I AM NOT PARTICULARLY PROUD TO SAY  
MY ONLY PROTEST WAS TO ASK SEVERAL  
QUESTIONS AT THE NEWS CONFERENCE... AND  
WRITE A STORY THAN RAN 3000 WORDS...  
FORCING THE EDITORS TO CUT IT TO 300.  
WHICH THEY DID.

ONE MORE FOR INSTANCE...  
AND I WILL GET ON WITH IT...  
I CAME OUT HERE TO SPEAK TO A CLASS  
TAUGHT BY A FRIEND OF MINE... THAT  
FABULOUS OLD MAN OF DALLAS LETTERS,  
MARSHALL TERRY.

A STUDENT ASKED ME... WHEN YOU LOOK  
DOWN AT YOUR TYPEWRITER AND YOU WRITE  
A STORY... WHO DO YOU SEE AS YOUR  
READER? YOUR WIFE? YOUR MOTHER? YOUR  
EDITOR? YOUR OLD JOURNALISM TEACHER? IS



IT SOMEBODY IN A WHITE COLLAR? A BLUE COLLAR? IS THE FACE WHITE OR BLACK OR BROWN? WHO ARE YOU DOING YOUR JOURNALISM FOR ANYHOW?

IT WAS A GREAT QUESTION. I DO NOT REMEMBER THE STUDENT'S NAME. I HAVE ASKED MARSH ABOUT IT... HE DOESN'T EITHER... PROBABLY BECAUSE HE WAS ASLEEP AT THE TIME.

AT ANY RATE... IT WAS A SMALL BUT IMPORTANT EVENT IN MY LIFE AS A JOURNALIST... BECAUSE IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I HAD EVER BEEN ASKED THE QUESTION... AND AS A RESULT OF IT I CONTINUALLY... TO THIS DAY... ASK MYSELF THAT SAME QUESTION AS I GO ABOUT MY DAILY BUSINESS AT THE WORD PROCESSOR... AND STUMBLE THROUGH AN ANSWER.

IT IS AS A JOURNALIST THAT I WANT TO SPEAK TO YOU FIRST THIS MORNING.

I HAVE DIVIDED MY REMARKS INTO TWO CATEGORIES... MORE OR LESS.

FIRST... I WILL VIEW SOMETHING WITH ALARM.

THEN... I WILL GIVE COUNSEL AND ADVICE.

AND I WILL BE BRIEF. SO THERE IS NO NEED TO PANIC.

I AM WELL AWARE THAT THE MOST IRRELEVANT PERSON INVOLVED IN THIS ENTERPRISE THIS MORNING IS THE COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER.

I HAVE ATTENDED MANY GRADUATIONS... HUNDREDS... MAYBE THOUSANDS. I HAVE BEEN THERE AS A GRADUATE, AS A PARENT, AS AN UNCLE, AS A NEIGHBOR... AS A FRIEND...

AND I CAN SAY WITH ALL HONESTY THAT I CAN NOT REMEMBER WHAT ANY OF THE COMMENCEMENT SPEAKERS SAID... OR, FRANKLY, WHAT ANY OF THEM EVEN LOOKED LIKE.

I TRUST THE SAME WILL BE TRUE AFTER WE ARE THROUGH HERE THIS MORNING.

MY VIEWING WITH ALARM HAS TO DO WITH LYING. I THINK WE AMERICANS ARE BECOMING A NATIONS OF LIARS. I THINK IT'S AWFUL... AND I THINK WE JOURNALISTS MAY BE CONTRIBUTING TO IT'S COMING... PART OF IT, AT LEAST. ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE LIE ... PEOPLE IN GOVERNMENT... PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES... CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES... MEMBERS OF THE CABINET... SENATORS, MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES... GOVERNORS, MAYORS, STATE LEGISLATORS... PROFESSIONAL PEOPLE... LAWYERS, DOCTORS, STOCK BROKERS, ACCOUNTANTS, COLUMNISTS, CORPORATION PRESIDENTS, UNION LEADERS, COMMENTATORS, REPORTERS, ANCHORMEN... SO DO CAB DRIVERS AND AUTO MECHANICS... REAL ESTATE SALESMEN AND PLUMBERS... BUS DRIVERS AND SOCIAL WORKERS... PARKING LOT ATTENDANTS AND DENTAL TECHNICIANS.

SO DO YOU PROBABLY... SOMETIMES.  
SO DO I PROBABLY... SOMETIMES.

IT IS THE LYING AT THE TOP LEVELS OF OUR SOCIETY THAT CONCERNS ME THE MOST... BECAUSE MORALITY, LIKE WATER AND UNLIKE MONEY, REALLY DOES TRICKLE DOWN.

I AM CONCERNED THAT SOME AT THE TOP HAVE ADOPTED A CONCEPT THAT LYING FOR THE HIGHER GOOD IS ALLRIGHT... DISHONESTY IN THE NAME OF A RIGHTEOUSNESS IS JUST FINE...

I AM CONCERNED THAT OTHERS SEE EVASION IS AN ART FORM... A POLITICAL ART FORM. THE BETTER A POLITICAL CANDIDATE IS AT AVOIDING ANSWERING QUESTIONS HEAD-ON THE MORE ADMIRABLE AND ELECTABLE HE OR SHE IS...

I AM CONCERNED WHEN A REPORTER ON A MAJOR NEWSPAPER DOES A STORY ABOUT ALL OF THE POINTS THE PRESIDENT MADE IN A NEWS CONFERENCE OR SPEECH THAT STRAYED FROM THE TRUTH... AND THE REPORTER AND THE NEWSPAPER ARE CRITICIZED FOR BEING UNFAIR TO THE PRESIDENT... INSTEAD OF THE PRESIDENT'S BEING CRITICIZED FOR LYING.

I AM CONCERNED WHEN MEMBERS OF A WHITE HOUSE STAFF, AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE, AMONG OTHERS, ADMIT THEY LIED TO CONGRESS AND THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE IRAN-CONTRA AFFAIR... THEY SAID THEY DID IT BECAUSE IT WAS IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST... AND ARE CALLED HEROES BY THE PRESIDENT AND OTHERS FOR DOING SO.

I AM CONCERNED WHEN NEWS COMMENTATORS AND OTHER JOURNALIST-TYPES PRAISE POLITICAL CANDIDATES OR PUBLIC FIGURES FOR THEIR SKILLS IN PUBLIC RELATIONS PUFFERY AND IMAGE MAKING...

I AM CONCERNED WHEN WE OF THE PRESS BEAT THE BRAINS IN OF ANY POLITICAL FIGURE WHO REALLY DOES TELL THE TRUTH.

DEFENSE SECRETARY RICHARD CHENEY WAS THE LATEST VICTIM... SAYING HE BELIEVED GORBACHOV WOULD FAIL IN HIS REFORMS. CHASTISED BY EVERYONE, HE LATER ADMITTED HE WAS GUILTY OF TOO MUCH CANDOR.

GUILTY OF TOO MUCH CANDOR. THINK ABOUT THAT, PLEASE.

THINK ABOUT WHAT THAT SAYS ABOUT THE WAY WE'RE RUNNING THINGS IN THIS COUNTRY RIGHT NOW... AND WHEN I SAY, WE, I MEAN WE... ME AND MY COLLEAGUES IN JOURNALISM, YOU AND YOUR COLLEAGUES IN WHATEVER YOU DO, YOU AND ME AND ALL OF OUR COLLEAGUES AS AMERICANS TRYING TO MAKE OUR SYSTEM WORK.

IT IS A CONCERN OF MINE... I HAVE SHARED IT WITH YOU...  
END OF SERMON.



AND THAT BRINGS ME TO THE ADVICE AND COUNSEL SECTION...

AND SOME WORDS DIRECTED SOLELY AT THE CLASS OF 89.

FIRST AND FOREMOST... I URGE YOU TO PLEASE KEEP IN MIND WHAT THE THE DIPLOMA YOU ARE ABOUT TO RECEIVE DOES NOT MEAN.

IT DOES NOT MEAN YOU ARE WELL-EDUCATED... QUITE THE CONTRARY. HOPEFULLY, IT MEANS YOU HAVE BEEN OPENED UP TO PERPETUAL STATE OF IGNORANCE... AND THUS A LIFE-LONG HUNGER FOR MORE... FOR MORE IDEAS, MORE GOOD WORDS, MORE KNOWLEDGE, MORE GOOD THOUGHTS, MORE CHALLENGES, MORE OF EVERYTHING... I MUST TELL YOU THAT SOME OF THE DUMBEST PEOPLE I KNOW WENT TO GREAT, PRESTIGIOUS COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES LIKE S.M.U.

THEY WALKED ACROSS A STAGE LIKE THIS... TOOK DIPLOMA IN HOT LITTLE HAND... PRONOUNCED THEMSELVES WELL-EDUCATED... THEN WALKED OFF THE OTHER SIDE AND PROCEEDED TO NEVER READ ANOTHER BOOK, ENTERTAIN ANOTHER FRESH IDEA... OR TAX THEIR MINDS IN ANY WAY BEYOND THE MINIMUM LIMITS REQUIRED TO MAKE A LIVING OR MAKE IT SOCIALLY... OR BOTH.

I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO SAY TO YOU ABOUT THOSE SO-CALLED PRACTICAL MATTERS OF LIFE... THEY DO HAVE A WAY OF TAKING CARE OF THEMSELVES... BECAUSE NECESSITY OFTEN REQUIRES IT.

BESIDES, NONE OF YOU...NOBODY IN THE CLASS OF 89, SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY, NEEDS ANY INSPIRATION FROM ME OR ANYONE ELSE TO GET OUT THERE AND ACHIEVE...

YOU ALL KNOW WHAT THAT KIND OF ACHIEVEMENT IS ALL ABOUT... OR YOU WOULDN'T BE SITTING OUT THERE TODAY.

I THINK WHERE WE ALL REALLY NEED HELP... IS APPRECIATING THE LESS PRACTICAL MATTERS AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN LIFE.

I'M TALKING ABOUT THE THRILL OF SMELLING A CARNATION IN A GARDEN... OF SEEING A SMALL CHILD SWINGING IN A NEIGHBORHOOD PARK... OF FEELING THE WARMTH OF A NEW SUN ON A NEW MAY MORNING... OF SMELLING AND FEELING THE SPRAY FROM A RAIN SHOWER ON A NEW OCTOBER MORNING... OF HEARING AND

FEELING THE CRUNCH OF SNOW UNDER YOUR  
FEET ON A NEW DECEMBER MORNING...

OF SEEING AND TALKING WITH AN OLD  
FRIEND...

OF EXCHANGING SMILES WITH A PERFECT  
STRANGER WHO HAS JUST DONE SOMETHING  
NICE FOR YOU...

OF ADMIRING THE DESIGN OF A DOOR IN AN  
OLD HOUSE DOWN THE BLOCK YOU'VE NEVER  
NOTICED BEFORE... OF HEARING A  
BEAUTIFUL SOPRANO VOICE SING AN  
ARIA FROM MADAME BUTTERFLY...  
OR A RAUNCHY MALE BARITONE DO JUSTICE  
TO "GEORGIA ON MY MIND"...  
OR A TINY LITTLE VOICE SING "TWINKLE,  
TWINKLE LITTLE STAR"...

OF WATCHING SOMEBODY... ANYBODY  
DO SOMETHING... ANYTHING... WELL. LIKE  
DRIVING A BASEBALL OR DRIVING A BUS OR  
DRIVING A NAIL INTO A PIECE OF WOOD...

SLICING TOMATOES IN A SHORT-ORDER  
RESTAURANT...  
TEACHING AUTISTIC CHILDREN HOW TO  
SPEAK...

TYPING A LETTER ON A TYPEWRITER QUICKLY  
AND FLAWLESSLY...

SWEEPING UP TRASH FROM A STADIUM  
FLOOR... DELIVERING A LECTURE ON  
ELIZABETHAN LITERATURE...  
PLAYING SANTA CLAUS TO THE KIDS AT  
CHURCH...  
MAKING POPCORN AT THE MOVIE  
THEATER... CHOPPING COTTON WITH A BOLO  
KNIFE IN 95-DEGREE HEAT...  
CARRYING LITTLE CHILDREN OUT OF A  
BURNING BUILDING IN 10-DEGREE BELOW  
ZERO COLD...  
DIRECTING TRAFFIC AT A BUSY, SNARLED  
INTERSECTION... IN EITHER 95-DEGREE HEAT  
OR 10-DEGREE BELOW ZERO COLD....  
RECITING FROM THE KORAN...  
READING FROM THE EPISCOPAL BOOK OF  
COMMON PRAYER...  
SINGING "BRINGING IN THE SHEAVES" AT A  
BAPTIST REVIVAL... CATCHING A PASS  
GOING AWAY OVER THE LEFT SHOULDER...  
RETURNING A RED-HOT TENNIS SERVE...  
COOKING CHILI SO HOT IT MAKES YOUR EYES  
WATER...  
EATING CHILI SO HOT IT MAKES YOUR EYES  
WATER...

DRIVING AN AMBULANCE THROUGH HEAVY  
TRAFFIC...

HOLDING A SCARED, DYING PERSON'S HAND  
IN A HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM...

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HUMAN BEINGS... WHETHER AS FRIENDS OR  
LOVERS OR SPOUSES OR WHATEVER... WITH  
FULL GUSTO AND COMMITMENT. SOME OF THE  
UNHAPPIEST PEOPLE I KNOW ARE THOSE WHO  
HAVE SPENT THEIR LIFE STANDING OFF...  
KEEPING OTHERS AWAY...  
PROTECTING THEMSELVES FROM EMOTIONAL  
COMMITMENTS...  
ALL IN THE MISTAKEN... MISTAKEN  
ACCORDING TO MY EXPERIENCE AND OPINION,  
AT LEAST... THAT TO EXPOSE THE NERVES  
AND THE SOUL IS TO BE HURT... AND WHO  
NEEDS THAT?

HURT IS PART OF BEING A FULL HUMAN  
BEING... THE EMOTIONAL PEAKS AND  
VALLEYS ARE WHAT BEING MENTALLY HEALTHY  
ARE ALL ABOUT.  
IT'S ALL RIGHT TO CRY AND TO LAUGH  
UNTIL YOU CRY... AND TO LIVE THAT PART  
OF LIFE TO THE HILT AS WELL...  
TO YELL AND SCREAM...

TO CARE ABOUT SOMEONE ELSE AS MUCH AS  
YOU DO YOURSELF...  
TRY IT... AND YOU MAY EVEN LIKE IT.  
IT'LL CERTAINLY MAKE THINGS MORE  
INTERESTING.  
THAT I GUARANTEE...  
AND THAT... MY FRIENDS... IS IT.  
THAT IS WHAT I HAVE TO SAY THIS MORNING.

AGAIN, I AM WELL AWARE THAT MOST... IF  
NOT ALL OF YOU WILL NOT REMEMBER A WORD  
OF ANY OF IT...  
THAT'S FINE. THE IMPORTANT THINGS TO  
REMEMBER ABOUT THIS MORNING ARE WHAT  
THE AIR SMELLED LIKE...  
WHO WAS SITTING NEXT TO YOU AND SO ON.  
BUT IF BY CHANCE YOU SHOULD REMEMBER  
ANYTHING AT ALL ABOUT THE COMMENCEMENT  
SPEAKER, I FERVENTLY HOPE THAT IT  
WAS... A GUY WHOSE NAME I CAN'T QUITE  
REMEMBER... KEPT SAYING... LYING IS  
BAD... AND TAKE RISKS.  
RISK... RISK. THE WAY TO HAPPINESS IS  
RISK.  
RISK.

AGAIN... MY CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU  
GRADUATES OF THE CLASS OF 1989...  
MY CONGRATULATIONS ALSO TO YOUR PARENTS  
WHOSE CASH FLOW PROBLEMS ARE, AS OF  
TODAY, REMARKABLY IMPROVED...  
AND A SPECIAL THANKS ON BEHALF OF THOSE  
PARENTS TO THE EXCELLENT PEOPLE WHO RUN  
AND TEACH AT THIS SCHOOL...  
FOR THE FINE EDUCATION YOU HAVE  
RENDERED IN THE DIRECTION OF THEIR

CHILDREN.

YOU HAVE NOT WELL-EDUCATED THEM...  
THANK GOODNESS... BUT YOU'VE GOTTEN THE  
LIFELONG PROCESS OFF TO A GREAT START.

THANK YOU SO MUCH.

THE VIETNAM WAR AND WAS IN AN AREA WHERE THERE WAS HEAVY SPRAYING OF THE DEFOLIANT AGENT ORANGE... NOW, YEARS LATER, HE HAS LYMPHOMA... A DEADLY FORM OF CANCER. OUR REPORTER ASKED HIM IF HE WAS BITTER ABOUT IT ALL. "NO," HE SAID... HE VOLUNTEERED FOR THE NAVY, VIETNAM DUTY, AND ALL THE REST... HE WAS A GROWN MAN... QUOTE: "I CREATED MY OWN RISKS"...

THOSE ARE POWERFUL WORDS. I CAN THINK OF NO MORE POWERFUL ONES TO DROP ON YOU THIS SATURDAY MORNING IN MAY, BECAUSE YOU CREATE YOUR OWN RISKS BY BEING IN CHARGE OF YOUR OWN LIFE... BY SETTING YOUR OWN STANDARDS... SATISFYING YOUR OWN IDEALS.

FOR YEARS WE ALL WROTE SENTENCES IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND THEN GAVE THEM TO SOMEBODY... PARENTS, TEACHERS AND OTHERS... TO JUDGE... THAT'S WONDERFUL, ELIZABETH ANN... THAT'S LOUSY, ELIZABETH ANN... THAT WAS WHAT IT WAS ALL ABOUT... THE JUDGMENT OF ANOTHER. BUT THEN SOMEWHERE ALONG THE WAY IT DIDN'T MATTER AS MUCH... BECAUSE WE CAME TO KNOW OURSELVES WHEN WE HAD WRITTEN A GOOD SENTENCE... OR A LOUSY ONE. AND WHILE IT WAS GREAT TO HAVE THE PRAISE... LESS GREAT, MAYBE TO HAVE THE CRITICISM... IT JUST WASN'T AS IMPORTANT.

TO BE PERSONAL AGAIN... I KNOW EVERY EVENING WHEN THE RED LIGHT GOES OFF AND SOMEBODY SAYS, "THANK YOU AND GOOD NIGHT"... WHETHER I'VE DONE WELL OR NOT ON THAT PARTICULAR TV BROADCAST... IT IS INSTRUCTIVE... AND ALWAYS INTERESTING... TO HAVE COMMENTS FROM OTHERS... INCLUDING MY COLLEAGUES. BUT IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, ALL OF THE PRAISE IN THE WORLD CAN NOT CHANGE MY OPINION IF I BELIEVE I HAVE DONE SOMETHING POORLY... AND I MUST CONFESS, THE REVERSE IS ALSO TRUE... IF I THINK I'VE DONE SOMETHING THAT IS PURE DYNAMITE... IT STAYS DYNAMITE TO ME DESPITE ALL COMMENT AND EVIDENCE TO THE CONTRARY.

BE NOT AFRAID TO RISK IT ALL IN A PERSONAL WAY EITHER... TO ENTER INTO RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER



JUST SOME OF THE THINGS THAT I WOULD  
URGE YOU TO BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR... TO  
PAY ATTENTION TO.  
JUST SOME OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF LIFE  
THAT CAN BE MISSED IF YOU STAY TOO BUSY  
GETTING AND HOLDING A JOB...  
GETTING IN AND HOLDING A PLACE IN  
THE SOCIAL WORLD...  
THAT BRINGS ME TO THE REAL ADVICE I  
HAVE FOR YOU THIS MORNING...

I HEREBY ADVISE YOU TO... TAKE RISKS.  
TO BE WILLING TO PUT YOUR MIND AND  
YOUR SPIRIT... YOUR TIME AND YOUR  
ENERGY... YOUR STOMACH AND YOUR  
EMOTIONS... ON THE LINE.  
TO SEARCH FOR A SAFE PLACE...  
IS TO SEARCH FOR AN END TO A RAINBOW  
THAT YOU WILL HATE ONCE YOU FIND IT.  
IT IS FROM EXPERIENCE I SPEAK.  
IT IS NEITHER MODEST NOR IMMODEST FOR  
ME TO SAY THAT THROUGHOUT MY  
PROFESSIONAL LIFE, FOR INSTANCE, I HAVE  
TAKEN RISKS...

I QUIT A JOB ON A NEWSPAPER... WITH NO  
OTHER PLACE TO GO TO... BECAUSE THAT  
NEWSPAPER WOULD NOT PRINT A STORY I HAD  
WRITTEN... A STORY I FELT WAS IMPORTANT.

SOME YEARS LATER... SIX YEARS AGO TO BE  
EXACT... ROBERT MACNEIL AND I BEGAN A  
NEW PROJECT CALLED THE MACNEIL-LEHRER  
NEWSHOUR... AMIDST FEARFUL WARNINGS AND  
CRIES THAT IT WON'T WORK... BUT EVEN IF  
IT DOES, WHY RISK EVERYTHING BECAUSE  
YOU CAN KEEP WHAT YOU'RE DOING... A  
QUIET LITTLE HALF-HOUR PROGRAM...

TO FIND ANOTHER JOB.  
FORTUNATELY, NOW THE ONE-HOUR IS  
PERKING ALONG FINE. BUT NO MATTER HOW  
THEY HAD TURNED OUT, I FERVENTLY  
BELIEVE IF I HAD NOT TAKEN THOSE  
RISKS... AND OTHERS OF VARIOUS KINDS IN  
BETWEEN... MY SOUL WOULDN'T BE THAT  
FINE NOW. AND THE SOUL MUST BE  
NOURISHED... ALONG WITH THE BANK  
ACCOUNT AND THE RESUME. THE BEST  
NOURISHMENT FOR ANY SOUL, OF COURSE, IS  
IN THE WORDS OF A MAN ON OUR PROGRAM  
WHILE AGO... "TO CREATE YOUR OWN  
RISKS." HE HAD BEEN A NAVAL OFFICER IN