

1724 Santa Barbara St.
Santa Barbara, CA. 93101
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TO: Scott Wilson
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Scott, I'm sorry we missed seeing each other a few weeks ago. Since then I've been doing a lot of traveling -- to Israel, to Prague, and, last week and over the weekend, to northern California to participate in several commemorations of the end of the Vietnam War. In Israel I had opportunity to meet with several people in government, all arranged by the Israel Consulate, and to talk with various reporters and citizens about the situation there. We (Lois and I went together) traveled in the West Bank, visited Jericho (currently under the authority of the PLO), and other critical areas.... As a sidelight, we had the pleasure of visiting the Temple in Tel Aviv that local resident, Bill Daniel and his brother, helped establish.... In Prague, we enjoyed very productive time at the Center for the Study of Nationalism at the new Central European University -- the research center that is monitoring political, social and cultural developments in the countries formerly owing allegiance to the Soviet Union. There have been some fascinating changes there, but the challenges and problems remain large.... I have a special interest in Vaclav Havel, the president of the Czech Republic, who, as you know, is not only politician, but also author and philosopher -- who has been extraordinarily successful in inserting real depth and substance into political discussion and debate. I covet more of the same quality here. We also met and talked to a lot of people who were part of the "velvet revolution" that occurred there in 1989....

I'm finishing a book-length study in religious studies, which will be published next month....

Daughter Laura was recently appointed executive assistant to George Stephanopoulos in the White House.....

And on the political front, in response to the hundreds of people who have been so supportive and encouraging since last fall, we do intend to run in 1996, though the official announcement will come later. Lois and I have been talking with our family and friends about continuing the work we started and fulfilling the desire of this community to have truly representative leadership in an era of divisive politics. After the tragedy of Oklahoma City, the country is painfully aware of the need to restore civil discourse, and to reconnect the people to our government: how will the line be drawn between legitimate criticism of authority and the penchant to take authority into one's own hands?... There will be lots to think and talk about.

