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## **Letter from Fred Strebeigh to Ann Hopkins, May 6, 1995**

Fred Strebrigh

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# Fred Strebeigh

May 6, 1995

Ann Hopkins  
2134 Cathedral Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20008

Dear Ann Hopkins:

I'm packing for a trip to the west coast, so this letter won't be as long as I would like. (Having just read So Ordered, I'm embarrassed to make any such excuse, but I have to admit my time-management skills do not approach yours. Was the title partly chosen because your work & life are so well ordered?)

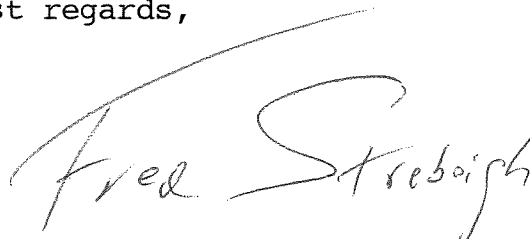
I just want to say, albeit in haste, that I think you've written a wonderful book. For one thing, it exudes a mix of warmth & wit & savvy that (without apparently trying) makes all the short-form talk about interpersonal skills seem very short indeed.

Readers are certainly going to leave your book relieved that you're the one who fought their battles for them. The thanks you once felt you owed to Betsy Hishon only begin, I think, to suggest the appreciation others are likely to feel toward you. I think this is true because the book does what the case can't. The case starts as a crisis, and readers rarely imagine themselves in crisis. The book starts simply as a good person doing good work — much as we would like to imagine ourselves. And then something goes really wrong. And then you decide to try to find out just why the wrong decision got made. And the answer is remarkable, an odd mix of absolutely astonishing and absolutely everyday: people make important decisions unthinkingly. (Don't we all?)

I think we can all see ourselves to an extent in the book you've written. I think it will lead many people to think more clearly about the way they see and are seen.

I can't tell you how much I appreciate the chance to read So Ordered. Now I've got to gather my gear for the plane, and I apologize for this haste. What I would most appreciate is the chance to be so ordered.

Best regards,



Mail:	53 Edgehill Road	New Haven, CT 06511	203-495-8749
Campus:	804 Branford College	Yale University	203-432-0529
Email: fred.strebeigh@yale.edu	Forestry & Environmental Studies	fax: 203-432-5942	English dept. fax: 203-432-7066