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Harold Weisberg

Dear Harold:

Tell Lil that I am sorry our checks crossed in the mail. I enclose the balance. I have been distributing the autographed books and they are a big hit. I guess people think I really know you!

I am glad I came up a day early so we could talk. I am also glad that Gerry was there so he could show me around the archives in your basement. They are intimidating when you don't know where to start. I guess Gerry is also looking into the King murder. I had to order your MLK book from the state's largest bookstore, so I don't think they are doing a very good job of getting it on the shelf. I wanted a copy of that edition. Nice job.

One of my main concerns was getting some material on Sen. Russell. I succeeded. As one looks back at history through the fogs of time, we get a distorted view of the people involved. Largely because of his opposition to the Civil Rights law, I thought of him as a backward redneck. However, now I realize he was somewhat of an intellectual, and quite a sharp guy who tried to do right on the Warren Commission. This is the trouble when you judge a person on his views on just one issue. Rather like people who criticize Lincoln for being a railroad attorney. Sen. Cooper's aide, Bailey Guard, told me some stories about how careful Cooper was about being too sanctimonious on the Civil Rights issue, saying if he had been born farther south, he might have voted like Russell. I feel Epstein represents Russell as a lazy halfwit, which it seems Russell resented! I think it is great that you became friends with Russell.

Dick Cooper, the Senator's brother, is still alive in Somerset. I think I am going to write him a letter about my findings in the archive he gave UK this past spring. I'll play it pretty middle of the road. My father knows him pretty well, and he is married to a sister of one of our salesman. Perhaps I'll get lucky and get some interesting comments. He and his brother owned Somerset Stone, a huge rock quarry which we sold hundreds of thousands of dollars of equipment to. He is going blind, and would probably appreciate knowing about Ruby's psychiatric exam, the "depositions", and some of the Senator's comments. Cooper was ambassador to India, and not as outspoken as Russell.

One of the things that disturbs me<sup>is</sup> Katzenbach. What game was he playing? Did he think he was preventing WWII, or that he was judge and jury for America, or did he suspect the truth? It is hard to read his memo, etc. and just think that he had the best interests of justice at heart. Any comment you have would be appreciated.

By the time you get this letter we should be in Hawaii for our tenth anniversary. I hope to contact the Naval Archive about my theory on the Indianapolis. I think the US sunk its own ship and then lied about it. It is hard to believe we would have a cruiser carry the Hiroshima bomb unescorted, if the Japanese navy had any strength at all. I want a list of all ships in Pearl Harbor in July and August 1945. The Indy ran dark and radio silent. We may have accidentally sunk it with our own sub. I plan to low key it if I can get this info. Can a FOIA request be far behind? The above was the rumor on the docks. Dad was there. If I spent so much time in the library in college, no one would believe it! I got the Rose interview with Schlesinger, nothing there. Send it to you soon.

Sincerely,



WLN