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Dear Harold:

Betsy's gone and I have the typewriter! I should be working, but I figure this at least qualifies as typewriting practice.

I have a story to tell you. Last year, actually Christmas 93, I sent Whitewash, WWII, and Oswald in New Orleans that I had you autograph to Ted Gordon, an attorney who knows Russian and was my old cross country coach, a few pounds ago. He is a nice guy who I have discussed the JFK case with, and who laughed at the notion that Oswald could have taught himself Russian by reading Soviet newspapers. But I did not see Ted for the last few months, and forgot about it.

I saw him last week, and asked him if he liked the books. He said he did not get them. I told him to look again. He found them in an unopened box in a corner of his office. So it is Christmas in February.

I'm trying to wrap things up so I can go to Daytona and see the races. No pit passes this year, my brother Larry and our race driver friend don't have a car this year. Larry does the PR. The year we had pit passes was great, got to talk to A.J. Foyt and other drivers. Another goal in my life accomplished. I may be the only guy whose lifelong desire was to get in the Daytona pits and study the JFK murder. What a combo!

They now have jetties where the Halifax River runs into the Atlantic. They have made a park out of the end of the beach, so it is not as commercial as the rest of Daytona. It is now high rises and hotels as far as the eye can see. I have spent probably 18 months of my life in Daytona, it is almost a second hometown for me.

I enjoyed your answer to the FBI spying on your love life. I hate to even ask someone a question like that. I would like to talk to Lane and Epstein sometime, to see what makes them tick. It is hard to say which one is crazier. Epstein's Legend is so full of crap that I find it as nutty as other nut books. Lane's Plausible Denial has almost nothing about the JFK assassination. I do think Rush to Judgment is pretty good, although I understand from Dr. Ginocchio that it has quite a few inaccurate parts. And I guess if I have learned anything from you, if a book is full of lies, it is impossible to pick out the truth from the lies!

I learned some interesting things recently. Paul Harvey referred to the Urban League as a "left wing special interest group." I guess getting black people jobs is sort of a special interest, like the Red Cross. A friend of mine who is on loan to the Urban League from

that well known commie front Kroger's really got a kick from that. I call him Comrade.

Rush Limbaugh stated that except for the editorial page, the Wall Street Journal is a liberal newspaper. Well! The only thing that would make the Wall Street Journal a liberal paper is that it is fairly accurate and not a wholly owned subsidiary of the Republican party, such as the Washington Times, sort of a Moonie-Repub thing.

I think we are seeing a return to Redbaiting. I especially like Gingrich referring to foxholes, the only foxhole he ever saw was on TV. I think it is funny that the Republicans are by and large the biggest bunch of draftdodgers to ever come down the pike. Betsy says that the best thing is for Gingrich to be on TV, then his crackpot ideas can be exposed to the light of day, and he will be seen for the mean tempered hypocrite he really is.

I was saddened to hear that Chris Perkins, who took Carl's Eastern Kentucky seat on his death, was caught up in the House checkwriting scandal. He has been disbarred, and is going to prison, albeit one of the country club variety. We went to law school together, I didn't really know him but about the worst thing he ever did there was to play in a bluegrass band. He was a pretty shy guy, I think maybe he developed a drinking problem or something. As a native Eastern Kentuckian, it is truly sad. I was in Corbin at the airport the day of his funeral, Ted Kennedy, Bill Natcher and Tip O'neil flew in the fog to attend Carl's funeral. I'll never forget seeing them walk across the tarmac. They seem like Washington, Lincoln and Jefferson compared to this new bunch in Washington.

I hope my letter to Zuckerman of U.S News was okay. If I get published or a response I swear I will keel over from shock.

This Mexican financial fiasco is interesting. I attribute much of it to the assassination of the leading candidate. He was even called the JFK of Mexico, since they don't have a democracy and the same party always wins, his reformist ideas had a good chance of passing muster and improving the country. I have never been to Mexico, but I think one of the main problems is the lack of a broad middle class. He was their main hope.

I have never read one good article on the Mexican situation. I do know their version of the Warren Commission resigned, and they have 5 guys in prison, although they insist there is no conspiracy. Sort of reminds me of Blakey's assertion that the mafia was involved in JFK's death, but there was no conspiracy. Seeing Mexico's situation reminds us how devastating that the death of one man can have. There is a little remembered story that in 1929, there was one man in the Federal Reserve that might be called a modern economist. He understood the relation of the money supply to the health of the economy, something Hoover did not

ever comprehend, like most pols and economists of his day. His writings were some of the first to relate the money supply to the overall economy. Unfortunately, at the dawn of the Depression, he died. The remaining economists decided to crush inflation out of the economy, by shrinking the money supply, and the Depression resulted. Many today believe that if the Federal Reserve had been more modern and less doctrinaire Republican, the Depression would not have been as deep and long lasting. As you recall, most home loans then were 5 year with a balloon. This also led to a lack of stability. I forget the man's name, I don't know if you have ever heard that story. But I believe it, because the graphs I have seen of the money supply free fall in 1929-1932 is astounding. If the Fed had stabilized the money supply or let it rise, the Depression might have been a footnote in history, with all the other Panics.

When a leader dies or is killed, a chain of events may take place that cannot be seen in advance. I believe that JFK's death led to some of these events, Vietnam for sure but also the inflation. Although if you look at the charts, really LBJ did a pretty good job, the problems really took place after Nixon took over. His wage and price controls in my opinion came back to haunt Carter, and much of the late 1970's inflation was in my opinion companies raising prices so as not to get caught short as in the Nixon price freeze. For example, a Caterpillar 613 scraper cost \$35,000 at the time of the freeze, after it was lifted, 18 months later the cost was \$70,000. I know Cat did not plan to get caught in 1980, they raised prices every three months to avoid it.

Of course, Carter did not help things like having his crazy excess profits tax. Which I can tell you from personal experience can be avoided by proper attention to inventory manipulation.

I met Art Laffer, Reagan's economic guru, and Walter Heller, JFK's economist. Heller is now dead, but I found him charming and very intelligent-sort of like Dave Wrone, he is so smart it was scary. To my surprise, in answer to my question of the greatest economic mistakes of the post war era, he said Carter's ignoring the rise of inflation was one of the big ones. He said Carter did not put much faith in the JFK era economists, although in my opinion they were the only ones worth a damn in my lifetime. And it destroyed Carter's political career; If Carter had a brain, he would have had Walter Heller and his sidekicks run the economy, because he did not have a clue himself. As for Laffer, I found him to be a friendly bullshit artist!

Enough of my ramblings. My new friend the striper fisherman stopped by yesterday and gave me a lure. Now I'll have to go fishing. Striper is a hybrid of the white bass and the landlocked striped bass. A white bass is nothing but a striped bass that ran up the Mississippi river 10,000 years ago. It adapted to fresh water. The landlocked striped bass were caught in the Santee-Cooper area when the dams were closed, they reproduce down there. I need to catch some fish closer to home, these 2600 mile round trips for three days of fishing is a little crazy!

Say HI to Lil, and don't let any Broadway showgirls around!

Bill

PS the Santee-Cooper area was the last known sighting of the Carolina parakeet, which may have lived into the 30's. A parrot sized bird, green. Now extinct, they have some mounted in the Smithsonian.