10/18/69

Dear Gary,

Momentarily I expect people who are driving several hundred miles to be here. I hope I can get to make a few comments about the MMPI, which I have just completed, while still in mind.

I delayed taking it hoping to find a time when I might feel more relaxed or with fewer chores in the back of my mind. However, I also wanted to complete it shortly before your return home. I have been feeling okay lately, for the way I've been feeling, perhaps a bit better. But for the past few days I have had increasing difficulty with my knees. When I awakened this morning they were and remained stiffer than usual. I feel this was bothering me still when I began. It had been eons since I've taken any kinds of test. I believe every change is 10% a mechanical error. It might have been betted had I used a soft pencil rather than a felt-tipped pen, but I was motivated in the choice by the desire for the marking to be black. I hope the Whiteout did the job well enough.

This must have been a tough one for those who conceived and phrased it. I believe, however, that had they included an experienced writer, the phrasing would have been better. I realize that ambiguities may be intended. However, I feel that for man minds they are present when not intended. These are among the items alongside which I have placed a dot, in the event you desire to discuss any of them with me. Other reasons will, I think, be apparent to you.

I have answered every question because this was desired. I believe many are not applicable. In these cases I have tried to project a correct answer. For example, on dreams. I am confident I dream, for I understand we all do. However, on awakening I am usually unaware of having dreamed. Other of the answers are influenced by the rather unusual conditions of my life. Here I have attempted to give the honest answer, but I suggest where you find answers you perhaps do not expect, you ask if from what you know of my life, this is the correct answer, but under other circumstances, a different answer might be it. In other cases, I found no applicability to me.

There are some answers I might honestly have answered both ways. Example, 362. I do not mean here I am more prone to take offense. I mean I believe I am more likely to detect, anticipate or comprehend. There are other cases. This is the sort of thing that occurred to me might be unintended ambiguity. This is not intended as adverse criticism. Drafting one of these must be an enormous and extremely complicated problem. However, if you have any questions, especially about those where I've placed a dot, I am confident I'll recall my reason in each case.

I wentthrough this just once. I did not read it first, and I stopped only for necessities. I noted that the combination of 174-5 might be misread. I have fainted but twice in 56 years, once for a reason I do not know, at Matt's last December, when my exhuastion was extreme and the tension was great, the other time when I saw Jill after 5½ hours of surgery, pale as death, tubes sticking out & I over her, etc. I do not have what are generally described as dizzy spells but I do, apparently, have an inner-ear problem (unless this is a long-standing manifestation of anxiety not diagnosed as such). It affects my sense of balance more than anything else. The affirmative answer to 194 relates to such things, never to speechlessness. I do not anticipate the purpose of these questions, but because I consider a misreading possible, especially of the combination, I made notes of these numbers as I did it.

I have answered 281 as I did because generally I am unaware of it. However, I do have a hearing defect which results in a constant ringing to which I've

adjusted. Unusually, it is unnoted. It was originally disgnosed as presbycusis. About 10 years or more ago. Last year there was a new testing. The diagnosis was changed, but I haven't the slightest idea what it is. All that concerned me understood, there is nothing I or anyone else can do, so I ignore it.

I have marked 290 false because I took the meaning to be feeling a great deal of tension. I do not have to tell you the tensions I have and have had in my work. However, ~~xxxy~~ I do not feel under tension when writing, as I think my output adequately reflects.

I have marked 337 affirmatively because I have anxiety. However, I do not feel anxious about something or some one, not consciously. Infrewuently I am concerned about some of the things ~~Bil~~ suffers. I am not anxious about the physical problems I have developed, although I believe I am about their potential consequences and perhaps most of all by the absence of specific diagnosis, as with the knees. But in the sense of the question, I believe the opposite answer could have been given, perhaps with more accuracy.

As I came to them I noted these numbers. I also became aware of what I presume to be a series of questions fashioned to detect paranoia. Anyone not knowning me I believe would regard what I consider honest and factual answers in my case as galloping paranoia. In each case I think you know enough to know whether or not these things are genuinely true. I noted the following numbers as I did this: 200,244,~~xxx~~ 322,338,364,383,390,404,426,469, and 544. There may be others. But I was hurrying to get this done before anyone comes to interrupt.

The possibility of other, undetected mechanical error exists. If you question any of the responses that seem unlikely to you, please ask me again. I have not made a copy of the text, so you'll have to repeat the question. I am returning the test and the answer-sheet because my doubts about proper understanding or interpretation of some questions and suggestions as to which might be rephrased are indicated on it.

There are also enclosed several hasty memos on a few documents. I have not made copies because I wanted to get them and this done before my company arrives and because my paper supply is getting low and the machine is still unrepaired, although there was a service call. If you want any, just ask.

I look forward to your getting enough time to tell me about your trip and then any special knowledge you may gain from this test.

Best regards,