

Dear George,

7/20/80

Thanks for the effort with Cronkite, particularly when you were so busy.

There is something else you may want to remember, in the event your friends have sons or daughters in graduate school and looking for a thesis.

My files are loaded with them and are unique because they are all primary materials from which they can draw their own opinions and conclusions and not have to worry about any prejudices added by scholars or preconceptions.

Not whodunits but what combines scholarship with excitement for the mind and in many instances might yield worthwhile books.

If there are those of black interests, by which I mean neither to limit to nor exclude the children of black staffers like Bradley, remember that I have about 50,000 pages of FBI records on the King assassination. I'm the one who broke them loose and has them, not the House assassins committee. In one narrow area peripheral to the assassination a college professor is working on a paper he expects to expand into a book.

And I'm breaking more loose, with strong opposition from the FBI. I've just received notice of 2364 pages on the SOIC, part of a much larger political file. Only the FBI, which in 1967 decided it had to "stop" me, its word, is making a new effort by cancelling a fee waiver I'd won. The cost of these pages equals a month's Social Security, my only regular income. Now I've got to fight that, over these and other records promised without fee in 1977.

I have one FBI inventory of King records that is more than 400 pages. Can you imagine the fortune in time and money that represents? And I can fill in gaps in it.

A youngster looking to a career in journalism and working on an advanced degree will find here what can't be gotten in college. Without charge.

Again thanks and best wishes,

CBS NEWS

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Dear Harold;

You catch me just as I finish packing for Detroit and a dull session with the Republicans, so I don't have time to do more than send you a quick note. Actually, I don't know what to suggest. I am sending a copy of your note, minus the Gee Whiz paragraph, to Walter Cronkite. I just don't seem to be able to stir up any interest elsewhere in this organization.

Walter is off to Detroit too, but this will reach him in time (I may not see him there since I am working radio, which is a whole different kingdom), and I'll let you know if he reacts.

best regards and thanks for your many kind attentions and invitations.



George E. Herman