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Dear Harold:

It is either work on a probate case or write you so you win! I can only take so much boredom in one week.

Thanks for the article on George Stephawhatisname. Much different than the story I heard. Typical police BS.

I enclose an article from the Wall Street Journal. They are about the most hateful bunch of bastards to ever come down the pike. Also they just make up stuff. I don't think I have ever read one thing good about a Kennedy in that newspaper. I'm surprised they forget to mention that JFK Jr. flunked his first couple of bar exams.

I went to lunch with my dad and a guy we used to work with. He was telling me what a great job Reagan did, and what an idiot Clinton is. I said, "Ernie, don't you remember that early 80's recession? You know, the one where our volume dropped \$100 million dollars and Caterpillar lost over a billion dollars? The one where tractor and car dealers were committing suicide? Its been a hell of a lot better under Clinton, hasn't it?" Of course, that is considered radicalism in business circles!

It is a hell of a note when Arlen Specter is considered the voice of reason. Compared to Newt Gingrich. I hoped you liked that article on Newt. Some of these Republicans family values must be for other people. Like Bob Packwood.

The next political year should be very interesting. I still think Clinton will win, I think some of the Rush Limbaugh criticism is starting to backfire. About the only possibility of a Republican win is if they can persuade Colin Powell to run as VP. Which would not be a bad idea for him, he needs some political experience. But I think he will remain on the sidelines.

Saw the Rev. Pat Robertson interview Yasser Arafat on TV the other day. Thought I was being the victim of a CIA LSD experiment! What a pair. Robertson is brilliant, he has parlayed that bible thumping station of his into a virtual veto of the Republican Presidential candidate. By doing his own news show, he has combined his views with legit news. Where does the news end and his preaching begin?

I hope you get a chance to read that article on Diane Sawyer and Michael Jackson. This is a fascinating case of the blending of the news division with the entertainment. Jackson is a pervert and we all know it. You don't pay a \$20 million settlement unless you are afraid of a trial. Then he marries Elvis Presley's daughter in a sham marriage to get everyone to forget he is a child molester. Makes ABC look pretty bad.

We had a similar case of news manipulation the other day in Louisville. One of the newsmags on TV did a critical story on the abuses of auto leasing. You make payments just like a car loan, but at the end of the lease you have a choice of buying a car for its residual value of say \$5,000 or turning it in. But it is pushed on people like it is a conventional car loan. Just another confusing way to rip off the car buyer. The show was accurate, I know of similar situations.

So, when it was due to be rerun, the local auto dealers pressured them not to run it. So they didn't! Threatened to not buy any more commercials. Of course, the proper thing to have done is to let the auto dealers have a rebuttal on the news, after the show. Some car leases are a scam, and some are not.

What bothers me, is I think we are seeing more of this censorship by business. For example, our views on the JFK assassination and the ML King case are not especially popular with some people. There is going to be more pressure to homogenize the news. No one wants to talk about the banks redlining poor neighborhoods, or that our state lottery is a cesspool of nepotism, or that some of our judges were appointed because of their father making a political donation. Or that shock probation is granted mostly to white people. Middle class. Or that the food concessions and airport parking lot contract is with the Buffalo mob. These things get ignored. When the Bingham's ran the local paper, they told it like it is. Although I must admit we once pressured them not to run a story about a tax problem we had! Turns out the newspaper had the same problem, and they did not run the story, although it ran on the local TV station they also owned! So, I know how that works!

I think that is how we end up with a situation where welfare is blamed for everything but original sin. But build those B2 bombers!

Besides the military, the biggest welfare checks go to those who own expensive houses. If you pay \$50,000 a year for a mortgage payment, about \$48,000 of that is for interest. Tax deductible. So, if you are in the top bracket, you get about a \$19,000 tax break or more. So the government pays for more than a third of your mortgage payment. So, if you buy a mansion, you get more welfare than some welfare mother with two kids who maybe gets total benefits of \$10,000 or so.

Now that is plain not fair and we all know it. But those are the Republican bastards who want to throw some poor kid off the school lunch program. Oh, I forget the scam where you get a credit card secured by a second mortgage so that is also tax deductible, but is not for the guy who just has a conventional credit card.

These are some of the things that Clinton should be talking about, but he seems oddly silent. If the Democrats are afraid to speak the truth, the Republicans are going to be the majority for the next 50 years.

So, color me a cynic! Which makes me a colorful cynic. Take care, hope Lil is better. How she has put up with you and all those like me over the years is perhaps America's greatest Unsolved Mystery!

Bill

