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Dear Harold:

I thought you might have been a little hard on Carol Deck. But from the rather humble tone of her last letter, I guess you were right. If she has a FBI boyfriend, that might explain the problems.

Thank you very, very much for the article on Jim Garrison. Very little has been written on him, and nobody can understand the subject like you.

Last week I sent a copy of Sen. Russell Dissents to Harry Merritt, the biographer of Sen. Cooper. I have probably overwhelmed Merritt with material, but he seems like a nice guy. Some time back, he wrote me a note with a tone that seemed a little harsh. I shrugged it off. Then he wrote me a note apologizing for his harshness, saying his dad had been ill, and he was sorry. Which I thought was nice.

Merritt is very busy as a political editor for the Lexington paper. He does not hold out much hope for finishing Cooper's biography in the near future. He is overworked and has had some family problems, I think sick parents et al.

Betsy's father Dick is visiting us and has recovered from his heart bypass. Just as you said he would. Last week, I carried a heavy motorized recliner up my 92 year old grandmother's steep steps, with my 73 year old father. Sort of a stress test! My parents are doing well.

I hope the New Year finds both you and Lil in good health. I am so happy to have met you two late in life. I have always been so interested in JFK and Dr. King, and Garrison, that it is just a dream come true to have had the chance to know you two.

If I ever write my book, tentatively titled "Things I have Plagiarized From Harold Weisberg", your letters alone will be one hell of an outline!

I saw two things the last couple of days that I find amazing.

1. Yassir Arafat praising Jesus Christ in I think Jerusalem.
2. A Richard Nixon stamp on a letter from Harold Weisberg.

Are both of you getting soft in this Christmas season?

When I was at the post office, when the Nixon stamps came out, I asked them if this was the first in their Famous War Criminal series. One of the clerks said, "Look, pal, we don't approve them we just sell them. I didn't like him either!"

Betsy gave me a copy of Pepper's Orders to Kill about MLKing. Am reading it now. I think one of the most valuable things I have learned from you is to separate the truth from the BS. Which I get the chance to do when I read this book, I believe.

I have been debating this for a while, because I don't like to interrogate you all the time, but I have two questions I would like you to address if you have the time.

1. Do you have an opinion exactly the relationship Lee Harvey Oswald had with the FBI, CIA and military intelligence. I know many writers have opinions they cannot support with facts.

2. Do you believe Richard Nixon knew about the Watergate breakins in advance? I suspect he did.

I enclose some Nixon movie articles. Of all the movies I have seen, the only one I think married Hollywood with the truth was "Patton". Gen. Bradley's memoirs read like a screenplay for the movie. In both JFK and Nixon, Oliver Stone does not seem to realize that truth is stranger than fiction.

By the way, we do bury our dead farm animals in Kentucky. I guess the good doctor in the article you sent me has slandered our fine state once again! Next thing, he'll be saying we don't know how to play basketball.

Well, I better do some work. If I don't get the chance to write you before the New Year, have a great one!

Bill

PS I have always thought it was too bad that your new books are in paperback instead of hardcover. But when I saw that they were getting \$28 for Oswald and the CIA, I changed my mind. If someone like me hesitates to lay out that kind of money, who does buy that expensive of a book. I think it is good yours is in paperback, so it is available to more people. Our local indepent store, Hawley-Cooke, has all three of your books. B. Dalton, Waldenbooks and some other chain had either Oswald and the CIA, Orders to Kill, or both, but not your books. Carroll and Graf are an odd damn bunch. It is possible even if one is interested in the subject to miss all three of your books. Have you ever had an intelligent conversation with anyone in the marketing department of C&G?

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RE:Auto Heat

Dear Harold:

K-cars like yours and mine have excellent heaters. Your thermostat is surely worn out. It is made of a cheap spring and it gets "lazy" after a few thousand heat cycles. I had to replace one in my Chrysler ^{1992 model}.

Have a garage replace the thermostat with a new one, being sure to use the correct temp.= Also, while you are at it, replace your antifreeze. Makes the radiator last longer.

Also, have them check and fill the differential housing. It is a little hard to get to and unlike most cars, it is not filled from the transmission. Mine ran dry and I could hear it whine.

I have a 1981 Dodge Aries in my fleet. When the thermostat gets lazy, the car will never heat up. But it happens gradually, and you don't realize it. I have even taken the old thermostats and put them in hot water with a thermometer to prove to myself they are bad.

This should fix your heater problem. I know what I am talking about. After, all, I am a junior master mechanic!

Cost of replacement should be about \$40. And spend the bucks and get new antifreeze.