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Dear Harold:

I just received- your latest letter. I don't like you saying you might be gone next year. You better not! For God's sake, try to have a positive attitude. I keep my old vans running, and we keep my 74 year old father going, and my 92 year old grandmother, and we want you to keep going!

I agree with you and the press' poor coverage. For example, I believe I sent you the Bernard Goldberg piece in the Wall Street Journal saying CBS has a liberal bias, and that Steve Forbes had not proposed any new spending programs. Well, I think they let Reagan get away with his ill considered tax cuts and defense buildup, when not one competent economist thought it would have any effect except raise the deficit. I told every body if Reagan balanced the budget by 1984, I'd vote for him. People seem to ignore the fact that most of our current budget deficit is the interest on the debt run up under Reagan.

And as far as Steve Forbes not proposing any spending programs, what does Goldberg call an antiballistic missile program? That would call for damn near a Trillion dollar expenditure. And M. Thatcher just called for the same thing. What are we going to pay for it with, Monopoly money?

And another thing! I used to think Steve Forbes was smart, I've read his columns for years and his dad's too. Now I am convinced that they are ghost written. If Forbes has any high intelligence, he has hidden it well during the campaign.

You probably don't realize Caspar Weinberger is chairman of Forbes Mag. Also, Forbes owns American Heritage magazine. Forbes is a good business magazine, but they have some pretty reactionary ideas. Malcolm Forbes was less rigid sometimes almost liberal, possibly as a result of his being homosexual and knowing that nobody is perfect and we all have our secrets.

I recently had a funny situation. In a case I had, Felonies, the judge, my fellow attorney representing the other defendant (I hooked them up, better to have codefendants with two lawyers who can get along), and the prosecutor (I think) were all gay. Lesbian judge, and prosecutor, gay man defense attorney. I was thinking, Louisville is kind of a nice get along, go along type of town, in a good way. At one time, about 20 years ago, the New York bar asked if you were gay when you took the bar exam. If you told the truth, it was considered a moral defect. If you lied and they found out later you were gay, they would take away your license! Glad they outgrew that crap. Kentucky has always had its share of eccentrics, Kentucky is sruprisingly liberal in many ways. You don't know this, but Lexington is considered one of the gay capitols of the USA, along with Atlanta, Miami and Key West. UK was one of the leaders in sex change operations! Now that is something to be proud of!

I'm pretty liberal, have gay friends, but I don't know about sex changes! Too weird for me.

As you probably know, most cities have a pretty active gay bar scene, and it is kind of an unwritten rule that you don't rat on your fellow gays. That is how they kept it surprisingly secret that our mayor, Jerry Abramson, is apparently bisexual. Kept it secret for years, but apparently some truth to it, will prevent him from running for U.S. Senate. Funny, he is kind of a macho guy, runs marathons, dated pretty women, etc. But when the city tried to pass a gay rights ordinance, he kept totally quiet. He is a pretty good guy, I don't really know him, but he appears at the end of the line in his political career. He is friends with Clinton, went with him to Rabin's funeral-he is Jewish and head of the Mayors group- we expect him to join Clinton's cabinet if he wins reelection.

As sort of a political payoff, they put his paralegal (show?) wife on the board of directors of a local savings and loan before it went public, and she got options she converted to \$600,000. Similar to Lamar Alexander turning \$1 to \$620,000. I tell you, this town is like a Faulkner novel, but I guess they all are. Really the whole state. Once, the tractor dealer dad and I ran got a \$1,000,000 sales tax bill. We hired a state tax man who for some reason was on the outs with the John Y. Brown administration, and got the bill reduced to about \$100,000. We have been known to wheel and deal!

I probably made a mistake opening up this office. If I had gone about it correctly, I should have become a consultant to other machinery dealers. There are so many tricks to running a dealership-pension, payroll reduction without layoffs, rebuilt parts, sales tax, rentals, inventory control-but at the time I wasn't sure how dad's health was going to be, and I was so mad at being fired that it is probably lucky I didn't shoot somebody. But those murder trials are so exhausting!

I kind of like being home and not on the road all the time. I spent 6 years with at least 2 nights a week out of town. I guess what made me maddest is I had just wrapped up some problems that had kept me out of town when they fired me. One thing I did appreciate is the average employee liked me, many told me "You don't act like a boss's son!" Just about the ultimate blue collar compliment. Last time I went down to the company one of them gave me a big hug! Fortunately, a pretty girl. But I tell you, I do hold a grudge! I'm not one of those long suffering in silence types, I'm the bitch, bitch -bitch type!

Really, the only good thing that came out of all that is my dad recovered his health, I got total control over my own time, and I got to meet you and Lil. I do think your work is important, and I hope in my own way to carry it on. I try to look at it like, since we still own part of the company, those guys work for me! Which they do. But sometimes I think I am more of a businessman than a lawyer. Maybe a little of both.

At least they did not shoot me in the head like JFK. That poor guy and his family is such a tragedy that I don't see how Jackie did it. And John and Caroline seem pretty normal and well adjusted. I always think it is so sad the way Jackie was personally attacked for marrying Onassis, chased by photographers, nude pics published, etc. I doubt either of the kids will ever run for office. Who can blame them?

Bill