

Dear Harold,

31 March 1998

Got your packages yesterday. It brings to mind that relationships go through forming, storming, norming and performing phases. Our relationship seems to be shuttling between storming and performing. I attribute it to the time expended between communications and reading them (possibly out of sequence).

While you have been explicit regarding the physical environment in which you perform your work. You have not described the mechanical/mental approach to performing your reviews of the work I mail back to you. I was under the impression that you took the pages that I have re-worked and compared them to the pages that have your corrections. Apparently this was not the case. While I strive to ensure fidelity in what you submit for retyping, I am human and make mistakes when interpreting your desires. Thus, there is a lot of ambiguity for me to trip over. For example, you indicated that you wanted some foot notes removed and they got removed. Other foot notes you indicated that you were not inclined to acquire the data need in the foot notes at that time. (I interpreted that later the information would be acquired and provided later. Thus, the footnote was kept). Obviously my read was wrong as you pointed out. Regarding deletions left in: I deleted what I explicitly understood you wanted deleted nothing more nor less regardless of whether it made sense or not (thus the word "secretary" was left in the text that you wanted removed.). Regarding *Cuban vs Cuba*, your desire to express an fine point was lost on me as it was on *Assassins Committee* until you explained it was not a shorthand expression but a fine point you were making. Thought might be given to adding an author's note after these examples explaining your intent to the reader.

Clearly you have hot buttons as I do and we seemed to have leaned on each others hot buttons lately. My first reaction was to pack up the packages sent and mail them back via boat

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mail. I cooled off and set about doing as you requested. I have a lot of time and effort invested in this project for you and I want to see you succeed. I have spent hundreds of hours retyping your manuscripts, deciphering your handwriting (often taking three/four reads to decipher your intent), posting the results back and waiting anxiously for your comments so that I can do it all over again without compensation (nor do I desire any.). Nobody in their right mind would accept that job if they were being paid to do it. I have no secret agenda or backing from companies, governments or private organizations/ citizens for whom I work on this project other than you. I do it out of the goodness of my heart and expect no more recognition or compensation other than a kind word of appreciation from time to time. As you have recounted in your anecdotes of past attempts to get your manuscripts retyped, volunteers are not as reliable as you would like (the work is not done, lost, or butchered). If all you have to cite is a few miscues, amongst the thousands of retyped words (The "Lousy" manuscript alone is 65,823 words.), I think I've done quite well. When I don't, I have no fear that you'll point out my errors.

I have enclosed eight diskettes labeled *Lousiest Book* they are in the word processing format is WordPerfect 7.0 along with a printed copy of the manuscript. As stated earlier, I will accept no compensation and thus I provide no bill or accounting for them.

I am finding our communications of late to be monologues rather than an ongoing dialogue. I started out communicating with you because I wished to initiate a dialogue with a wise elder. It seems that our communications have degenerated to that of pedagogue and student. It saddens me. Nonetheless, I am willing to continue this relationship because I still learn more than I could otherwise. In my last note I suggested an alternative to consider for communicating your message: being the conductor rather than the player of all the instruments in the symphony. You have not explicitly acknowledged reading those lines in the note. I can only conclude one of

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the following: a) you did not read that line, b) you read it and chose not to respond, c) you read it and you did not want to consider such an option and chose not to respond, d) your read it and responded in a manner that I have not understood. This is not the first time I have posed questions or sent things which were not acknowledged (a box of Internet page print-outs from a JFK assassination Home page), so I will stop doing so and just respond to your requests to type or retype.

With regard to my health, the cardiologist, after interpreting the results, came to the conclusion that no significant heart damage was done. A change in exercise habits, stress reduction and some vitamin C and E and an aspirin a day should take care of the problem. At 46, I have quite a few more years to catch up to your age. I hope this material finds you and Lil in good health.

I'll end here before I say or do something that upsets you again.

Clay Ogilvie



P.S. I expect to have the Hersh manuscript in the mail in a couple days after incorporating your comments.