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Dear Harold:

I just got your 4/13/98 letter. I take no pride in discovering an occasional mis-attribution (Stevenson for Carroll). I see my role as re-typist, reader, and occasionally as helper. I hope your friend Bill Neichter was able to help you with your "messed-up and large" Ray file. Being out in Idaho, my resources to assist you are some what limited: the library at Idaho State University in Pocatello Idaho, libraries that I visit when away for work, and books I order through inter-library loan. Frequently my sources for checking your bibliographical references are a small collection (about 60 books) of used books I have picked up at used book stores. When I need something more recent, such as a newspaper article citation, I have to use the Internet search engines for specific newspapers which often give me the title, author and not much else with the exception of the New York Times which also gives me the page citations.

You can imagine how much I enjoy the researching of stray details like an accurate title with just an author's name a publication and a general publication time frame. While it may take hours of searching, the triumph of discovery is an award in itself. This quirk of personality has been underscored in multiple batteries of personality indicator tests that I have taken through professional development courses. It seems that my default mode of thinking is that of analyst/action when under stress and dead center of a triangle whose vertices are analysis/action/feeling. Note: these test attempt to encourage the Emergency Manager to recognize their personality type to encourage them to modify their behaviors (under stress) such that they don't drift far from where they are when not under stress.

Tell me about yourself. I believe that you are 85 and Lil (hope she's doing well) is now

86. I guess from what limited information you have conveyed, you are a first generation American. You were in the OSS and went overseas. At one point you were a Congressional investigator. I believe at one point you left that and became a "farmer" and raised geese and had some problems with the military that resulted in a settlement for damages. Do you and Lil' have children? What initiated your current interest in the Kennedy assassination? Purchasing the 26 volumes of the Warren Commission Report certainly wasn't what the average person did back in 1964. How do you sustain the psychological energy to sustain a life-long interest in the Kennedy and King assassinations? I find myself overwhelmed from time to time and have to walk away from reading about it because of the sheer volume of discordant supposition and counter-supposition. How do you keep the sheer volume of facts separate from the seductive temptation to put the facts into perspective with a theory? How can you afford to acquire all your reference materials (like Smith, Louis J., Ed., *Foreign Relations of the United States, 1961-3, Volume X, Cuba 1961-1962, United States State Department book, 1977*)? Do you mark all the books you read or do you make notes separately? Do publishers send you pre-publication copies and solicit your opinion?

No doubt these and more questions could be asked and I don't expect you to answer them all. I am just interested in who you are beyond your written word. I think there is a lesson to learn from your life and experiences. Clearly, as others have stated under oath, you have forgotten more than others know about the Kennedy and King assassinations. Surely you are more than the sum of your investigative efforts. Loving husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather? Forgive me please, if this is too personal. In the past three weeks I have stopped to wonder if I have not used you as a source of knowledge and not dialogued with you as a person. As Shakespeare and Plato pondered the worth of a man relative to his accomplishments, I have

begun to question the value I place on my own simple transactions at work and beyond.

Call it a funk or a mid-life crisis or male menopause, I have become more pensive as my wife reads the Alumni obituary pages while I read the Wall Street Journal's (my only source of national/international print news) Op Ed pages. I guess I am struggling with the sense of cavalier arbitrariness the printed press' coverage of local, national and international events. I am noting a convergence of perspective in the written, radio and television news media. Turn on any channel or look at any newspaper front page and you can see homogenized news: same stories, similar views and even fewer opinions on the Op Ed pages. It is like there is a standard format or a narrow polarizing filter that all stories must pass through to make it to the screen, the page or through the speaker. I keep wondering if the framers of the constitution really could have imagined the continued existence of freedom of the press when mega-corporations dominate the news gathering and dissemination? When did we lose respect for the dissenting opinion, the social heretic yelling from the back of the crowd that the Emperor has no clothes?

I am looking for answers that have sustained you through the years of vocal and printed harangues about your work on the Kennedy and King assassination investigations. Was it personal courage, belief in the righteousness of your belief system, internal rewards of doing the right thing? For almost 35 years you have played the role of a metaphorical salmon battling upstream toward what? An ideal? A particular goal? To achieve the Zen-state of becoming the action and not the result?

I close now before I rip this up and start all over again with a rewrite the whole letter and return to the more conventional: how are you? how's the weather? how's the writing coming along. If I have asked things to personal just indicate that they're personal and I'll understand.

Best wishes to you and Lil'. Thanks for reading and replying.

Clay O.