



John Silvi

Carter's writing: Insecure loner reaches out

The right-ward slant of Jimmy Carter's writing would indicate, of itself, an outgoing-ness that would be directed toward others.

However, the wide spacing between the words tells a story of a deep desire to keep to himself, with the resulting reluctance to "reach" to the "outside" world. This, of course, indicates an inner conflict.

We have here a basic "loner" who lives in an inner world that is occupied only by himself but who, at the same time, feels a need to establish a line of communication with his surrounding environment. This little-understood inner conflict would, by its very nature, be a source of painful distress. Jimmy Carter is not a truly happy man; he must wage a constant battle to fight off a feeling of insecurity that is a psychological result of a condition of inner conflict.

He wants to be alone, but at the same time he feels the need for the companionship of others.

I HAVE INTENTIONALLY refrained from any discussion of how any part of this analysis would affect Jimmy Carter's functioning as president of the United States. I leave it to the reader to formulate any conclusions on that point.

As in my analysis last month of Ronald Reagan's handwriting, this analysis has been structured only on an examination of the handwriting of Jimmy Carter the man. To the best of my ability, I have avoided any political implications.

If one could penetrate into the deepest recesses of Carter's mind, and if it were possible to isolate his real inner being, it would be found that the essence of his inner self is enclosed within a protective barrier that is self-imposed and within which he feels protected and secure.

The psychological barrier acts as an insulator that renders it impossible to really "get to" this man.

THOUSANDS of people may think they are very close to Carter. But in the final analysis, extremely few — perhaps only two or three — are allowed to penetrate the invisible psychological wall he has built around his inner self.

If and when such admission is allowed, it does not constitute a permanent stay but is instead a relatively temporary relaxing of the otherwise strict, rigid "guarding of the gate."

When Carter's desired result is accomplished, these individuals find they are once again outside the protective psychological fence that surrounds the inner, real Carter.

A great deal of his observable functioning is based on what some people call intuition. He has the ability to sense things. There are probably times when he can not explain precisely how or why he arrives at certain conclusions or makes certain decisions.

This could be a handicap, but is protected, to a

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certain extent, by an exceedingly sharp and analytical mind. The ability to analyze is there. The results are often derailed by some of the inner conflicts that plague him.

HE IS BASICALLY a very kind and considerate person. And yet his writing does not have any indications of true generosity.

This is indicated by the lack of final endings on his words. Note the particularly abrupt stops in the words "great," "campaign" and "need" — indeed, in all his words.

This lack of true generosity is not to be confused with stinginess. Carter is not stingy, but neither is he truly and sincerely generous.

Though it may appear logical to deduce that kindness is based on generosity, this need not be the case. This constitutes another inner conflict for him.

It is quite possible for a person to have experienced painful deprivation in his early years and later to become kind but not generous. In this case, the lack of generosity could be based on a deep and



Jimmy Carter's handwriting indicates he seeks popular approval though he personally operates as a "loner" who admits few others into his confidence.

The president is shown on a 1976 campaign swing through western Wayne County. (Staff photo by Art Emanuele)

unrecognized fear of being deprived while, at the same time, the kindness is developed through the living of life and learning the lesson of the need for human reciprocity.

This appears to be a possibility that is indicated in Carter's handwriting, and is a possible explanation of the contradictory results that are visible in the behavior.

IN CONFORMITY with some facets of this man's character and personality, he is extremely secretive.

The indications of secrecy are so strong in his writing that it would be safe to say that even those closest to him are not aware of many things concerning him.

One of Carter's strong points is the ability to tackle something that has to be done now. He is able to summon every ounce at his command and direct that force toward an immediate task.

He will display a driving force that bulldozes its way through obstacles and surmounts what might otherwise be impassable barriers.

There are indications in Carter's writing of a desire for approval. He wants to be admired and well-thought-of by others. Much of his behavior is aimed at eliciting expressions that would incorporate this response.

THERE ARE people who are happy and content with a behavior pattern that is based only on their own private feeling of self-satisfaction and fulfillment.

Carter is not one of these. He has a deep need to see and hear outside manifestations that convey the message of a task well done or of a project admirably completed. His pride requires that, in some way, the approval be expressed.

The writing tells a story of a pronounced vacillating of goals and purposes. Even a mediocre handwriting analyst would easily spot the indications of lofty, noble aspirations that may be weakened by areas of complete lack of self-confidence.

There are areas where Jimmy Carter wants to fly very high. At the same time, there are others where he lacks the self-confidence to leave the ground.

This preference for immediate security in some areas of his behavior results in an observable irresoluteness that tends to weaken any confidence others may have in him.

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