7/6/82 Diff in people #2

I do not know. But it would be helpful if a young person could find out matters

·

like this and see what areas he ought to develop.

Perhaps it is also part of the fact that I seem to take things in sometimes much more easily through the ears than through the eyes. [I forget how I intended

to finish that sentence]

Despite the fact that I seem to take things in more easily through the ears than through the eyes, it is very strange that, starting even when I was a little boy I had absolutely no difficulty with spelling. Even in the lowest grades I found that if I wondered how to spell a word I wait would simply write it down and it usually looked wrong to me if it was not spelled correctly. XMINE A misspelled word is has often been to me like a blot on a page. When I think of the great absurdity of the English spelling system with its many contradictions, and irregulatities, it is is inedeed strange that I have al 1 my life had this ability to recognize so quickly by the appearance of a word, whether written or printed, whether it was spelled correctly or not. I don't quite know how to fit this quality in with other qualities.

I have never been much good at remembering numbers. One time when I visited Chicago I mentioned to Pjillip Vivian a number that I read to Phillip Vivian off from a slip of paper, a number that _ had been asked to call when I arrived far there-in order to talk with a friend of someone I knew in Los Angeles. So Vivian dialed the number for me, and I got the person and we went out and spent an evening with (?) them (one person or more than one?) I never saw them again or heard of them again. But the year imm later, when I visited Phillip he said, "Are you going again to call?-- " and then he gave the whole number. I would not have remembered a single part of it. I said, "Oh, have you seen these people since last year?" "No," he said, "I never saw them again or thought of the number again till this time." But he remembered the number all that time. But if I'm phoning anyone I nearly always look at the number written just before I call, dial three figures numerals, look at it again, and so on. I never had much mix success with remembering numbers. On the other hand I never

4527000