

Dear Jim,

5/4?
4/5/83

Relatively bad as this 0322/0420 affidavit and its exhibits look, they do not begin to indicate the underlying problems.

For a long time we had perfect service from Idl's Hermes ball typewriter. Then it developed real problems. We had two service calls from the local company. Hermes treated them so badly they discontinued handling Hermes. And the machine was not much better. So, Idl got in touch with the Hagerstown distributor, who sent his servicemen down and for a few days the machine worked better. But then it started acting up again. That serviceman, anticipating the possibility, told her that if it happened, he'd have to take it back to the shop. So, he did. Weeks ago, saying it wouldn't take too long. But as soon as tax season was over, Idl dropped them a note asking that they return it. They said they would, but didn't. So she phoned last week and was told "a few days." She phoned again this evening and they say they will, real soon. But as you can see, the affidavit is done.

We've also had service calls on the copier. The serviceman is fascinated each time because he's never heard of this particular model of a rather good machine making as many copies as this has. Aside from the drum, which is something like \$200 plus the service call, it needs a major part completely overhauled. For a while Idl was able to make fairly decent copies by stirring the toner by hand, but it is past that now. So, she's asked them to come and give it the works. Which will cost and perhaps take some time.

She had nothing but the old Royal on which she did all but the first of my books. And so much else! We hung onto it when we got the ball machine for any emergencies. When she first had trouble with the Hermes I had the Royal overhauled. When she had to use it, it didn't work. So back it went for another repair. Two times. She had much trouble with it as she did this affidavit, worse on the penultimate page, when the machine just started spewing out fffffs whether she touched anything or not and regardless of the key she struck. And only a few lines of the affidavit remaining. I thought of the Hermes Rocket I have in the basement for those who come to use the records, but that is small type, like this. Then I thought of the old Royal portable I had in college, which is broken and no parts are now available. But it is pica type. So, she dusted that off, and in order to use it at all she had to strike a key and stop, otherwise it jumps. So, she did the rest with one finger of one hand striking one key at a time.

In her exasperation she spilled a cup of coffee, and it got on some of the pages. She can't now retype. And I can't now make better copies of the exhibits. Just don't use the stained copy of the exhibits with what you file. Copy them and return them separately for subject filing here, OK? On the xeroxing, what caused any mark won't be apparent. Matter of fact, with the stains they are better than some of what the FBI and CIA provide me. I can't make a black enough copy without toning the entire page grey and you can't use that.

By the time Idl finally finished the typing, it was too late for the only outgoing Frederick mail, so there was no point in taking it to the P.O. which I'll do tomorrow because I'm tired tonight. It will, at least, be complete. And it can be filed as it is. I've seen worse and I'm sure the Judge has. I'd not be surprised if such things happened from time to time in the clerk's office.

Oh, yes. All of North Market Street in Frederick is and has been torn up while all the overhead wires are put underground, in large tunnels. So, I can't get near enough to where I get my typewriter ribbons to be able to walk the rest of the way. That's why this is so pale. But things'll look up soon enough!

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