

12/29/72

Dear Harvey,

We have both been laid low by a bug despite having gotten flu shots. I'm coming out of it better than my wife, who is sicker and voiceless. Sorry the enclosed got piled over on my desk.

I have gone over all my diaries through 1970. They do not seem to add much to what I have written you, except that I am surprised at the continuing large number of visits I made to the Williams office. I have not heard from him.

In the course of seeking what records we might have I found a stack of 4 1/2 inches of cards relating to our Xmas present business. I had these cards made to avoid duplication. I have no idea how complete they are, although I presume that it was my intent to have them complete as I could, to include the names of recipients where we knew them.

They indicate that as I experimented and made changes to adjust to the stresses, I was able to increase this business until it couldn't be coped with.

The records I found for 1956, or the second year of helicopters, show Xmas-present sales of the small birds alone of 769, whereas in 1957 I was able to increase this to 1542. But then I had to virtually abandon it because the imposed conditions left no real choice. I find no cards for after 1957 and presume this meant the volume was that small. I think I probably collected this for Peter Taft, who then did not want it.

This translates into about \$2,700 of income over our weekly business. It would not be reflected in our 1957 income because we would have been paid in 1958.

I know this is for an earlier period than is covered by this suit, or I presume so. However, it bears on the potential of the business and I think it shows that while to a degree I was able to overcome the adverse effects of the helicopters it just was not possible to survive them.

After I get the letter I asked of you, I'll get in touch with Shafner and Quigley. The more I think of their adverse reaction to the extensiveness of what Peter Taft wanted from them and their chagrin at Silard not keeping his word, the more I think this is important. You said to tell them you would give them the questions you would ask in advance and in writing. I don't think it is necessary to do that now, but saying that you will and indicating briefly the area you will cover will be helpful, especially if the political situation at the University is unchanged.

I told you the University and Beltsville referred people to me. I made a couple of entries in the diary on these things, by no means all.. This was as late as more than a year after they knew I was no longer farming.

I was in touch with Horse by phone as late as 8/23/65. I saw or tried to see Taft and Williams 10 times in 1966, Williams three times. But 1967 shows only one time.

This has been slowed down by some rather serious problems with the publisher of my last book. Since October he has been supposed to deliver what is called the "remainders" to me. I bought them under our contract. Instead, he has been selling them to others to use as loss leaders. We still don't have one book. It is a serious problem for us and can be costly. It is worse because I have no New York lawyer. The potential loss to me so far can be as much as \$10,00 from the disposition he admits.

I'd still like to hear from your writer friend or know how to get in touch with him.

Sincerely,