

*Phoned
11 pm - 11:50 pm
4/22/71*

4406 Holland
Dallas, Texas 75219
April 20, 1971

Dearest Sylvia:

After all I've been through in the past couple of months, your invitation to come and spend a few days this summer really is enticing. I shall probably come for a few days in July, August or October... It will have to be on a weekend if it is either July or October, but could be in the middle of a week if it is during my vacation in August...

Larry broke his leg in March while playing Rugby in Austin... He is still in a cast. Bobbie thought she was pregnant in late March and went to the doctor and they said she had many tumors and they would have to operate immediately. They thought they were malignant. She was operated on the 2nd of April. It was not malignant but she had been pregnant and, of course, lost the baby. This made them both very sad.

Bud Fensterwald invited me and Arch to Washington for a meeting of his Committee on April 17th... Arch wrote him and told him that he did not want to become a member of the Committee but would like to sit in on the meeting. I told Bud I would join and be there. We were planning to go. I bought a new car because Buck is in a hospital in Memphis and he had taken my green Dodge when he made the trip to Memphis which ended up with him in the hospital (he will be there until July 15th). I had no way to get my car back so I bought a new 1971 Mercury Marquis, four-door, powder blue with a white top--beautiful, on April 10th. I took it over to Arch's to show to him. We had a light snack there on that Saturday afternoon. We discussed our plans. Arch was going to leave Dallas early in the morning of Tuesday, April 13th, drive to Nashville and visit with Mayhew, then on to Knoxville to talk with TVA people about Albert Osborne, and on to Washington and meet me on Friday night when I flew up...

On Sunday night, April 11th, Arch and Ann came over to my house. We were discussing the declassified documents (there is nothing in them... most of them are already printed... and the pages are so faint, it will be impossible to recopy them. Also, you can buy the whole pack from Bud for \$82.00. I am enclosing your \$100. check. The one or two pages with anything interesting on them, I'll Xerox or send the original if it won't stand another reproduction, and then I'll bring the whole thing for you to see how ridiculous it all is when I come this summer, if you haven't ordered the whole thing from Bud in the meantime.) That night, Sunday night, April 11th, Arch and I discussed all our plans. He told me he wouldn't talk to me again until we reached D.C. However, on Monday night, April 12th, quite late for Arch, and he said he had changed his plans. He was not going to drive after all. He was going to fly on Thursday to Nashville, on Friday morning to Knoxville and then on to D.C. on Friday night. He said, "I just wanted you to know in case you need me."

he called me

At 3:00 a.m. that morning, Tuesday morning, April 13th, Arch had a severe heart attack-- a massive occlusion. He has been in intensive care at Presbyterian Hospital since that time... He insisted that I go on to Washington to the meeting whether he lived or died. Of course, if he had died in the meantime, I couldn't have gone. But, I did go. I was very impressed with a couple of new men they have, one a vice president of a D.C. bank...

When I returned to Dallas Sunday night, Arch seemed to be doing pretty well but he had another attack yesterday morning, a fibrillation, and it looks pretty hopeless now. They say there has been extensive heart damage.

I don't know of anyone except you who could understand that if I lose Arch it will be like a part of me going... I have worked so closely with him for so long now and, to say he is like a brother would be grossly understating it. In some ways, Arch is a very strange person but I have absolutely unlimited admiration for him. He is probably the finest man I've ever known. I have lived in fear for Buck's life for so long now-- he seems to do everything to excess-- smoking, drinking, eating, temper, etc. etc. Arch has never smoked a cigarette in his life. He can make a glass of sherry last an entire evening at a cocktail party. He eats properly, gets proper exercise, is the picture of health. I think it is the shock that has just about finished me off...

If you are not in apoplexy by this time, I'll tell you I'm very sorry about Allegra and hope that she recovers completely.

Please forgive this outpouring and try to understand. I'm really in quite a state...

Love,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mary". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed word "Love,".