

Sunday June the 12th 1983
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Dear Sylvia:

Please try to overlook the communications gap but we've both been busy as bees all spring. Everyone is essentially well and says hello.

Carol Anne and I, along with my children, Eric and Susannah, will be in New York at the 16th Street apartment from August 11th through the 21st or so. We assume you will have returned from Fire Island by then and look forward mightily to seeing you again. We hope to see Ted, too; Eric has talked of Ted quite a lot and remains sharply impressed by his wit, among other things. Eric will be a junior at Stanford in the fall and Susannah a junior in high school. It will be her first trip to the East, though she has been to California and Hawaii.

One political question puzzles ~~me~~ CA and me: Why will Reagan be re-elected, probably by a landslide, as things now stand? She throws up her hands but I grub around for some sort of an answer and all I can ferret out is that he symbolizes a known past, as opposed to a dangerous and uncertain future. People apparently would rather be comforted by his folksy, aw-shucks manner than buckle down to the hard decisions that are going to have to be made vis-a-vis Japan, France, Germany and the other leading industrial states which are carving up the future. I think Henry Miller hit the nail on the head when he called America the air-conditioned nightmare.

Reagan & Co seem bound and determined ~~to~~ to repeat Vietnam in Central America, hoping to get rid of Castro in the bargain. It's the old Christian Anti-Communist Crusade all over again, lacking only a young Nixon and a self-righteous John Foster Dulles to round out the cast of characters. Karl Marx must have been one hell of a fellow; larger than life, really.

Mary Ferrell is fine and of course says hello, as does Buck. Kevin Walsh visited them the other day; he's now living in Austin. No late word on Penn Jones and the Swedish beauty. The Texas School Book Depository and Dealey Plaza are still the No. 1 tourist attractions in Dallas. There's really very little else to see here.

Well, I'll chop this off, just wanted to send a belated hello and tell you of our plans. Be seeing you in a couple of months...

Best,

Tom Johnson →