

Tom Johnson

Wednesday Feb the 8th 84
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Dear Sylvia:

Please overlook the delay in my writing but 1984 has had a very chaotic beginning for us. The move itself from Dallas was fraught with just about every type of problem Mayflower could come up with but it finally got accomplished. Nothing lost & nothing broken but a lot of angst heaped on an already sizeable permanent store.

We like SF a whole lot and it stands as a very close second to NY in our ranking of US places. I have always abhorred California and all it stands for but it must be kept in mind that SF is not really California, it is rather more like an independent city-state answering only to itself. That's an exaggeration of course course but it's sort of the case still. We very much revel in the fact that we don't have a car here; the public transportation (MUNI) is quite adequate. That might not mean much to a New Yorker but it means worlds to folks from Texas, who have had to have cars all their lives just for basic existence.

Carol Anne seems close to ecstatic about her job with the Bank of America. She's in a key position (no surprise there) and is in on the cutting edge of the electronic transformation of banking via the computer. BA and Citicorp seem to be the world wide leaders in this endeavor.

I'm going to be doing some teaching at SF community college, will probably work on an MA for more teaching and will continue to freelance. It's taking some time to get the lay of the land out here and identify the players etc.

Eric visits from Stanford often and is well, apparently, though sometimes in some ways it's hard to tell. The three of us speak often and well of you and Ted (to whom please forward warmest regards).

I assume you ^{saw} the Wicker piece about Fritz Hollings and the Reagan deficits last week. It's the only analysis that makes any sense: Reagan and his neanderthal clique are engineering a monstrous deficit to break the back of the federal government and thus roll back 50 years of social progress. The tragedy darkens and yet the American people are still smiling as they stand tall on the way to the slaughter. I see very sharp structural parallels between Reagan and Hitler.

More later as things develop. I'm still waiting for tearsheets of my JFK piece from Dallas, which I'll send you. Mightn't you visit us in this beautiful city?

Best,

Tom

And love from C. M.