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Dear Harold and Lil:

As you probably know from my March 31 letter, Betsy's father is to undergo open heart surgery this afternoon. By the time you get this letter, we hope all is well and we can relax a little.

Betsy insisted that I go to Frederick if all works out. So that is what I am still planning. Actually, the timing could be pretty good. She will leave town to go back to Chicago Saturday, while I come back Sunday. And then I will probably go up to Chicago on Good Friday, to see them both.

Hope all is well with you two. I am looking forward to seeing you. By the time I get up there, it will be like a vacation. We can celebrate a successful operation.

Of course, this type of thing makes it almost impossible to concentrate. So I thought I would write you to relax. And typing does improve with practice! Your problem is that you should have learned on a typewriter with a correcting feature!

Saw Newt Gingrich on David Brinkley yesterday. Boy, he is a smarmy little pseudointellectual. Some of these boy geniuses, I wonder if he has read two books in the last five years. Cokie Roberts made a good point when she noted that the Democrats are giving the Republicans victory by default, because the Democrat well of original ideas seems dry. I always felt we should be building more transportation. Frederick is a perfect example of a place where they need light rail transportation. A commuter line right into Washington is a crying need, yet nothing is ever done to improve these things. I think largely a failure of the heavy equipment business to lobby hard. Heck, we got em to raise the gasoline tax a nickle during the Reagan administration. Surely they could do something like that today.

I enclose an article from Kevin Phillips. He used to be considered one of the Republican brain trust, until he criticized some of the more radical Reagan policies. He is about as astute an observer of the political scene as anyone. Made his name writing "The Emerging Republican Majority" many years ago. Lived long enough to see his prediction come true.

Hope spring is as pretty up there as it is here. I will call you before I come up, but right now we are just hoping all is successful. See you soon.

Love,

Bill

