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Friday Night

Dear Harold,

I picked next weekend to come up there because all was quiet on the domestic and legal front. However, the worm has turned.

Betsy's father is scheduled to have open heart surgery Monday. She is flying up there tomorrow, back here on Wednesday, and then back up to Chicago on next Saturday to stay with her father for two or three weeks in his recovery. Apparently Dick has a weak valve, and they are going to do a bypass and a valve replacement.

Needless to say we are upset and in bad humour. I of course can keep my nerves under control with strong drink, but it has not been much fun.

Assuming all works out well, I will still be in Frederick on ~~Friday~~ <sup>Thursday</sup> night. I will probably call you sometime this week to be sure we hook up for breakfast or whatever.

We have had better days. We just had Dick down here last week. He went to the doctor and had a treadmill test, and they did not like what they saw.

Of course, I feel bad for Betsy, who is a nervous wreck, along with the rest of us. But I feel everything will work out okay. It is just if I had refundable airplane tickets, I would cancel.

However, I really am looking forward to getting up to see you and Lil. And the mystery phone noises.

How's this for an opening for an article: "I've been to the Daytona 500. I've seen the Indy 500, the Derby. I've fished for barracuda, shark and tarpon. So why am I spending my vacation in the basement of an 82 year old man in Frederick, Maryland?" Sounds snappy to me!

So I do intend to come up like my original plan. But if you notice me drinking a few brewskis, believe me, the FBI and the CIA will be a picnic compared to this emotional runaway train. I know you know how this feels, since you have been through it. But I have been lucky, when my father had a heart attack, we did not have to endure surgery. So I think all will work out, I just wanted you to know the background if I did have to cancel at the last minute. We shall put our faith in God and modern medicine. Hope to see you Friday <sup>morning</sup>.

Love,  
Bill

