

4/7/77

Dear Mike,

Your timing - and your thought- were perfect!

There has not been a time when I was happier to have a day-before-my-birthday present. We sipped it after supper, with appreciation.

It was a day on which I was not able to do any of the work I want to do after 10:30 a.m.

There has been a change in the major media, I hope a permanent change, as they regard the story of the assassinations and the House committee. What some call a short course and a crash course takes time. Just about all afternoon today it was Ford Rowan. No, I did not raise the second subject because the one for which he came was a heavy enough dose. There will be time.

We had decided to get ourselves a faster copying machine. Today was delivery date for the demonstrator until the ordered one came in. I thought it was taking the salesman a long time to go 25 miles on a superhighway but I gave it little thought until he turned it on and it ran. He was relieved and he said so. Seems like he forgot to strap it to the carrying device and forgot to slow down for a cloverleaf. So, it slithered off and turned over.

But it worked well. He was teaching my wife the tricks with it when it started making noise. And then stopped making copies.

I had seen the machine demonstrated and knew one simple need was missing. He thought it merely slipped out on that turn. My wife thought it slipped up on that turn-~~slid~~ over. When he could not see it I got him a flashlight and he found it, deep in the works. It is a brush.

Apparently while it was kicking around in the works it caused an electrical failure, an arc that kept on arcing until it burned a small hole in an essential part.

The company was very nice. They had a machine of comparable quality that uses a special paper. They offered to substitute that and all the more costly paper I'll need until the ordered machine is in but I asked them if they'd not have to replace this part anyway and they said they would. So I said I'd do without it a day until they could do it.

This was our special birthday present to ourselves - my wife's birthday it in 10 days - but I guess a little more delay is nothing.

The rest of the day and some before it was press.

Just a few minutes before supper my wife told me the liquor store was on the phone asking how to make the delivery. Naturally I was surprised and though they had the wrong person. I do not get deliveries. When I'm in town I get what I want. But they had it all right so I knew there was no mistake. I asked why and by then the card had been sealed. (It was an attractive picture of a redstart.) The way it worked out this is the store farthest out of town on the Baltimore side and we are past the last store on the opposite side, away from Baltimore, to the west. But they were nice. The guy said all he needed to know is where we were on the road on which we are. He knew the road and how to get here. And he was here just as we finished supper, when we both enjoyed it.

It warmed too ways. The nicer way is from the thought, for which many thanks.

I'll be reminded many nights.

Ford does not have anything from the CIA I do not have. Once he gets a firm grasp on this assignment I'll ask him about the MK materials.

Best,