

June 10, 1970

Dear Harold (copy to Gary):

Well, you almost had a visitor this weekend! I made plane reservations for Washington for Thursday night, thinking I would just get away from Dallas for a couple of days and then I had to cancel them because Carol Anne, my daughter, has chosen this weekend to move. She is moving from four blocks "down the street" to "three blocks up the ~~xxx~~ street"... I promised to help her. Harold, I was planning to call you tonight if I hadn't changed my plans.

I could have stayed at a hotel in D. C. or in a chicken coop at your place, if you'd wanted to put me there. Gary can assure you that I'm not choicy about a place to stay. But, Harold, even if I slept with the chickens, I'd pay you and Lil just as I would at a hotel. I certainly would not want to just "drop in on you" and add to the burdens you already have.

If you tell me that this conduct on my part wouldn't have thrown you off balance, I may just fly up for a few days one weekend before too long.

I have been a "little under the weather" and have been going to a doctor. Gary, the doctor is wonderful. I'm sure I think he is great because he tells me I must concentrate on myself for a while and ~~quite~~ quit worrying so much about my family. I know this sounds selfish but it really seems I've been able to help them in more constructive ways since I've been to this doctor who says "Help yourself!"

Bud Fensterwald stayed with Arch from last Saturday until Tuesday (last week) and we really enjoyed his visit. Arch and I are still "plugging away" at the police tapes and the Dallas map (tracing each individual officer's movements on the 22nd). We should finish before too long and I'll send you copies of our work on it.

I was late getting to the office this morning and my boss is already here. I'll have to cut this short for the time being...

With much love to Harold, Lil and Gary,

Mary

8/12/70

Dear Mary,

We have thousands and thousands of square feet of unused chicken-crap space, but they are 15 miles away. However, we have a not-inferior tool shed 20 feet from the house if you find an air-conditioned room unsuitable!

Lil and I would be delighted if you came.

We are also delighted you did not come this weekend, for someone else is. And next weekend, 19 and 20, someone else is, the young man who once acted as my agent in the Bell deal, is coming for important confabs. So, please make it the weekend of the week of the 21st, Father's day. Stay there long enough to let Buck know he is father, then get here as soon as you can!

I know there is at least one direct flight from Dallas to Friendship, for I was booked on it 11/68, when I was there. Stay away from national, which is crowded and carries decent direct jets from last Houstona. Dallas and Friendship are both better and, I suppose both have direct flights, which also are better. You can, in fact, come via one and return via the other. The time to either from here is about one hour, about an hour, and I'll meet and deliver you.

Bring a bathing suit, too, for although I've not yet been able to get quite all the leaves out of the pool, I hope to this weekend and the water is already chemically more than safe enough. As soon as I get a little help, to operate both ends of the vacuum-cleaning device, we'll be using it.

I hope you will understand what follows as I meant it. I have been waiting for something like you wrote, for when there are serious family problems, it is usually the woman who is the tower of strength, especially when a son is involved, from my own observation over the years because the father very often develops either a guilt or an inadequacy complex (often without any basis at all), feeling that whatever happened is all his fault, and only too often, under the impact is immobilized, leaving the poor mother the limited choices of shouldering all of it or letting everything crumble. In such cases, the burden on the mother-wife is enormous, for sometimes she also has to help the husband-father. I have never met Buck, but if he is as decently-motivated a man as I presume, I am inclined to think he has taken all of this very hard and very personally, the result being Mary has had to be Mary plus... Besides, with serious problems the every-day fare, it is often good for there to be brief separations, so both can have a few moments without confrontations with mutual problems. And I think Buck will feel better when he knows you'll have a short while to shed some of the burdens, to get a change of scene and other things on and in your mind. Then, as we discussed earlier, perhaps you can both come later. We are both looking forward to your coming here, not even going to Washington, living like an attractive bum in the isolation we can provide (to which Bud and Pat can drive in an hour if you want them)

Make it longer than a day or two, at least a long weekend or a day before and one after, huh? Can't be too long! Sincerely,