

Dear Jim,

2/21/77

Carville Downs, Dell, etc.

Downs is with the law firm that was originally Mac Mathias'. You appear to have forgotten that I spoke to you about him several weeks ago, being co-counsel.

After Mac gave up his interest in the firm and his father died it was really the firm of his brother-in-law, Glenn ("Mike") Michel, a retired Navy officer and in every way a truly superior human being. "Lil and I are very fond of him. "Lil in the past has helped him in emergencies in his office. The firm combined with another old, established local general-practise firm several years ago. They still have separate offices. The space at Michel's charming old spot right downtown and a half-block from the courthouse is too limited. Downs is with the other half, which does the kind of work that prompted Mike Michel to send Lil there in trying to help Mike Miao. In the course of this Lil has formed a high opinion of Downs. I never met him before today.

He was in successful practise in Baltimore when he had a heart attack and after recovery decided to live a more relaxed life in the country. He lives outside the city, on 3 1/2 acres at the town of Middletown, about 10-14 minutes from here.

He is satisfied that the Bair 4/26/76 letter is ample acknowledgement. I could not find the note it refers to but that was enough for him.

We discussed other related matters briefly, including my background, the FOIA cases, Harper & Row and even Prentice-Hall, which he says he knows does business in Maryland. Even the case against the government for intrusions into my life, which he thinks will be fascinating.

Instead of going through the Dell file now for him when I could not find that one particular record I suggested that I do this after we all have a meeting. "Lil is willing to go there but I suggested in Frederick might be better and after you get over the immediate problems. I said I'd know later this week but possibly it could be in a couple of weeks. Then when he got the benefit of your knowledge and research as you talked it over we could make a list of what is needed. I feared giving him the fat files would be too much of a load and waste too much time for him. He agreed and we left it that I would let him know after I see you later this week.

"Lil likes him, I know. He seems like a nice guy to me.

Best,