3/16/71

Dear Bud and Jim,

Jim will remember that last Thursday, 3/11, when he was with me and I put my car in the L St parking lot near your office, I went to the ticket window to report to the manager the theft from my car of a set of 8 new sparkplugs and the long-handled ice scraper and snow brush the previous time I'd left the car there. He signalled me to go through a doorway to where we could talk face to face. Jim will recall that once one opened this door, there was an unmarked step down and that because I was unaware of it, I stumbled. It turns out that this caused me to sprain my left foot.

To this moment, it is getting steadily more uncomfortable. Jim knows I had trouble walking yesterday. Last night was sleepless. You know what is ahead of me beginning tomorrow, and that this will slow me down to the point where much of what I'd planned doing in NYC will be impossible and all, like everything I now do, painful. I can't wear shoes, for example, and will have to kep overlarge ones for which I'll have no other use, special bedroom slippers, perhaps sandals to relieve the pressure, etc. I do not know how long this will last, or how long it will continue to interfere with my work, how long now painful, or what exceptional expenses will be required. If I am tomorrow a.m. as I was this a.m., I may have to consider renting a wheelchair. It is quite disagreeable, aside from being annoying and painful.

So, I'm asking that as soon as you can, you both go there, ascertain for yourselves (unless they've added it) that there is no warning, and tell the manager so that he can tell his insurance comapny. If I have no intention of trying to hold them up, I also do not believe that these costs, this pain and this interference with my work at a time when I have so much to do should be at my cost when it comes from their negligence.

You might also tell him, as Jim will recall, that a set of three rather good stainless-steel teaspoons, each individually wrapped, which I'd intended to give someone, disappeared from my car while in that lot 3/11.

Thanks,