

Dear Bill,

10/18/96

I hope this for you/<sup>N</sup>long silence means that your business is keeping you that busy, not that you have any special problems of any kind.

The past couple of weeks have been a bit more difficult here. My blood pressure, which for more than 32 years was never any problem, has continued erratic. When that happened last month when I was at Hopkins the cardiologist there ~~said~~ told me to increase one of the medications for it. <sup>Now</sup> locally the cardiologist told me to double another one for it. Since then mostly it has not been as high when checked. And some of the time it has been excellent.

I'd not had any word from the level on which it counts from Hood since the new president took over. Had a pleasant visit from the v.p. in charge of properties,

I think his title is, and he was impressed with everything. Hood will make out books available when Bill and I cannot do it and is very interested in the unpublished manuscripts. The retyping of which is inconsistent and continues to be a problem. Even with the good ones. One of whom just got out of the hospital. (I paid him what he estimates the final retyping of Honorable Men will come to so he could put that on his hospital bill. They never did find out what was wrong with him, either!)

When the young woman who in more than a year had not finished retyping the Mailer ms. and I had one who was willing and I got it back from the first one, I discovered that she'd used a program nobody around here has. If she does not do what can be done for the new one to finish it up it will ~~cost~~ cost, I understand, about \$100 for that program! All of which is worse than Greek to me!

Seems to me I asked if you or Charles would like Hosty's Pudding and you did not reppond. I had a copy xeroxed so I can lend it to you if you'd like. It has been retyped.

I friend in Baltimore, near it, rather, a businessman, seems to think it might be possible to get some of the new manuscripts published. While I do not share his optimism I'm more than merely happy that he is trying!!

That last box you sent came just in time! I have some that are larger and will let the paper slide around, which does not keep it in good shape. But the original ms. of Honorable Men fills that box up. Again thanks! When it is retyped each chapter will be in a file folder and I have a larger box awaiting that day.

I wish it had been possible for me to keep a record on all this work, of who has what and has done what with it, but I can't do what I really must so I could not do that. Lately I've had to sleep more, too. I do. I do listen to my body. But many days it does shorten the working day by much. I've not taken in the baseball playoffs. Save for an Orioles day game.

I am not sure but I think I have three manuscripts to be retyped that nobody has started. The one I had to take back and find no program like it by anyone who can do the retyping is the Hailer one. The last page retyped is as I recall 588. With about a third of it undone and all the corrections still to be made in what has been done.

I have the impression that the Hood v.p. may find some students looking for work. I hope so! Weak as I've gotten I want very much to be able to go over what is retyped and correct errors, leave it clean. Or as clean as I can.

The COPA annual Washington meeting is now. Hal Verb phoned from the airport. we'll be glad to see him the day he ~~returns~~ returns, when it is over. I do not now know if any of the others we know who will be there will have time to come up but much as we like to see some of them this time I'd rather be able to keep working because I do not know how long I'll be able to.

I would like to hear that you are all OK, that no illness or trouble accounts for your relatively long silence.

Best to you all,