12/26/69

Dear Gary,

We're snowed in, something that didn't happen last winter but was not uncommon the winter before. Without drifting (and there are drifts) the snow was to the top of my boots. I went out twice, first time to clear a path to where I could feed the birds and then five clear spaces around the house where I fed them. I kept putting this off, hoping the snow would help, but it didn't. When the quail started perching on the roof, I went out, but they did not come back for feed. Then I decided to fathom the lane and put mail in the box in case the postman came. He couldn't. The plow got through late in the afternoon, a mixed blessing since it threw a four-foot-wide bank three feet deep accross the end of the lane. If my neighbor doesn't clear that in the morning I'll have to, for tomorrow is the day the fuel-oil truck comes. Not only do I need the oil, but he can break a track out for me. He can just clear the snow's depth (unless the high winds tonight make worse drifts, which will make a problem. (If I ever get any money, I'll get a snow blower!) Anyhow, aside from having used up all the wood for the fireplace it is not really unpleasant. But how funny it feels to have had no mail for four days. I shudder to think of the volume there can be, unless the holiday held it down.

Lil is relaxing with an old movie, Anna and the King of Siam, so I am not botnering her to type appendix captions. I've gotten as many done as I safely can without confusion, so no more for tonight.

The real reason I'm writing is to ask you if there can be any significance in something I've noted recently. Since I started working on the appendix I've been getting up early again, often earlier, when I can go back to sleep and do, and usually about 5, when I do not feel like and don't. Today I became aware of the fact that, apparently with this change in routine, I've been forgetting to take the meprobamate and usually haven't, afterward, felt the need for it. Once or twice, when I have, I've taken it. The correlation between less apparent need for it and longer hours (or more intense work?) cannot be missed, whether or not there is or can be a real relationship. I wonder, so I ask.

During this period I also read Brener's book, which interested me much, as you've gathered from the memo and letters. Soo to a degree, even when doing other things, that, partly, occupied my mind.

We've had a quiet Christmas. Anne has been working late, so Lil invited them to dinner night before last, knowing she'd be tired, to save her the work. We went there for dinner yesterday, leaving early because the snow was several inches thick then and you may recall the steepness of the hill on which they live. Phone's been quiet, too.

Had a Christmas card from Art Kevin on which he wrote "See you soon". His parents live in Boston. I've a hunch he may go there over the holidays. If he does, or if he has a Washington assignment, like the opening of Congress, I may weal see him-and I'd like to, for I like him much. I mention this because he is the one person in the LA area from whom I might expect something if there is something we want. He is a good (but busy) reporter. Is there anything? I've already asked him if he'll check the list of names I gave you and Paul with Howard, Hemming and, if he can find him, Hall. I've mentioned Thorpe only to you because I've not been able to look further. Thorpe's business is close to where the camps were (Brener was real cute on these).

Best,