1/16/71

Dear Gary,

Glad to hear from you, appreciate the check very much, and am delighted that it was late, for I'd have spent it and now, when I have to leave twon for two days and have but $20.00 in cash, with travel costs taking half of that, it sure will help. We got cleaned out making the quarterly interest payment and I had to get the brakes relined. I'd had the rear ones relined- rather, I paid for this - about 15,000 miles ago. It appears this was not done and I got screwed.

I had pretty much of a notion of what you said, save for some of the details, from the very brief deport Jerry gave me of his phone conversation with you, In fact, not knowing of the extra work, I've been resisting for a week writing to ask if you had some problems of your own that you might want to talk over...I'm also sorrt you didn't get here because sometimes we get relief from our own troubles by association with those of others. We have a varied and full set. Maybe you can get here Easter?

From what you had said earlier, I thought you regarded the Marion thing as dead. I also thought that all you were trying to do was help her....If you think, as yousay, that "at least I have now worked out my feelings about her", reconsider this in the conext of the immediately-preceeding sentence, " As a final coup de gras (I think it is coup de crace), Marion ended the vacation by getting engaged to another guy." However, if as this seems to suggest possible, you lingered with unrecognized feelings and desires, I would add that whether or not you have sorted things out, she has eliminated all choices and it is in any event all over. From what you earlier said, excuse the bluntness of the opinion, "good!" Despite your training, from what I know of you I'd consider it not impossible that you may have confused a requiting mixture of sex and sympathy for love.

I do not press you on what you have learned from theraphy, but if there is anything you'd care to say, I'm interested. Not just curious. I had earlier suggested on, remember?

By the way, if you ever get to Phila and want to come down here, it is easy by Greyhound, which Howard always does. There is an express to Frederick and one from there, which I meet about noon. He has less than an hour layover in Balt., and have you not plenty to read?

I do hope that what did not go well with your parents is not something that will interfere with your relationship with them. I knew your mother was on valium (my consumption os down by 3/4-most days I take none, and few do I take the two prescribed).. Most of what I take is in anticipation. But I do take about two glasses of wine a day, and often a bit of brandy before bed. And I'm a Scotch man.

On overall estimate of your letter: when the unpleasantness has faded, on balance you will believe that if unpleasant at the time, in the long run it was worthwhile.

On the accumulated mail from me: no rush, but first try and background me on Ned, who I liked and who should have been in touch with you by now, but who has made me feel a bit uneasy. I know that can be no more than his way. But as of today's mail, the check, for example did not come, and I have committed myself to this expense, getting copies of the documents.

Besides getting ready to leave, the government has complicated my life with a belated, real chickenshit but long motion in court. Fortunately, without so intending, I disproved most of it in a motion of my own, intended for a different purpose, at about the time they were hoking this one up. But it will tie me up after I return.

Warmest from both, both sorry you didn't get here,