Jim, Howard and Gary, 7/17/77

With no reason to believe success is possible from what Gary has take the time to explain after several minor but characteristic offensive acts from Lil I have made the attached effort.

You do not have to read it. I am not keeping a carbon for myself. The reason is my uncertain future and the absolute certainty that without some effort to inspire of persuade to an effort there will be none.

Whether or not it will happen I am concerned that if I have a bad future the consequences on Lil can be very hard.

This means that in addition to what I may try I want others to be in a position to and to know what was in my mind, as from other means of the past you all know anyway.

Those of you who know me know that I try to look ahead to what can be ahead. Left to myself I never have to rush to catch a plane, for example.

The only time I have ever missed one it was by accident, as Gary may recall.

Intermittently now and throughout the end of the attached I was interrupted by the spontaneous and belated appearance of the man replacing the pool tiles. He again came without speaking to me and thus has not been able to finish. He'll have to return after he gets a tile cut, of all stupid things. This is in point because he also did not look ahead and try to conceive what could be ahead. Thus far he has not completed a simple job and has wasted four trips here from a simple failure to measure. It really means that to be sure it is done I'll have to go tomorrow and get the tile cut.

Perhaps some of this will not be clear. I will not self-flagellate by going over it. It has been a kind of catharsis. I believe it is at least for the most part because it represents another effort. I am aware of course that getting anything off the chest has great value - and of my having no other way of doing this. But as best I can sort out all the feelings of which I am aware and all that is and has been in my mind what I represent is the reality.

I have been and I am unhappy about all this. I am confident I am not bitter and have not been.

I guess it simplifies into if I am trying the impossible it is no more impossible from another effort and there is the chance, regardless of how slight, that there may be a benefit from the effort.