

7/22/77

Dear Floyd,

Fine that you have the job. And thanks for the check.

It is also good that you show an awareness of some of your problems and a desire to them something. This is the essential of a real beginning.

I'd have written you sooner about this except that the past month has not been an easy one. I've been unsettled by the medical uncertainty, the reduction in activity and in capability. I've also been working all the time I could, with deadlines in courts.

Although your letter is dated the 15 (I don't look at the postmark) it did not come until today. Today had been my best one recently until I suddenly was taken faint as I reached the cellar looking for a box to make a package. It has mostly worn off but I'm not trusting myself for the other work. That can await tomorrow.

So, second-fiddle, my belief is that you should seek professional help.

I don't know if it is a good sign or not a good sign that you express awareness of hurting others. That you are aware is good. That you seem not to be aware of the hurt you are doing yourself seems to me not to be good.

But for either one, wrapped up in other things, it would probably be good to have some professional advice.

I don't know if the VA is available. Might try to find out.

You have been very good to me so I know what you can be. You have done very well in projects of which I have knowledge so I know what you can do. I'm not just saying this to be encouraging. It is encouraging.

We all have limitations. Learning them and learning to live with them is never easy or much fun. But it is generally worth more than the effort.

Probably going out and getting the job is the most important thing you could now do. It should help in every way. It is in the area where I've observed you function very, very well. But you would do well at the outset to realize that this is to you a new area, a new specialty. Expect that for a while it may be difficult. Once you learn your way around you'll do it well. But in this be patient with yourself. Don't expect to move into something new and to be its master overnight. Life isn't that way.

For a long time I've had no transportation problems. But the good friend who was taking me when he went to and from work had his shift changed to night. While I've eliminated all but absolutely essential trips to DC, I still have to go there from time to time. But I'll not let you take time from work to drive me. Maybe this situation will straighten out soon. Hope so, before I have real need again. But if I know of a need I'll let you know.

Louisa drove the van well. Only think that worried me is that she was more used to the gas pedal of her car and yours is lighter, so she eased over the limit from time to time. I did not want her to get a ticket.

Thanks and best to you all,