

29 April 1976

Dear Harold:

It's time I brought you up to date. Jenifer was released from the hospital on April 21, two weeks to the day after her operation. She already had established the irrigation routine before leaving the hospital, and it has continued without difficulty or any indication of change. What it amounts to, of course, is a daily enema which takes care of the situation until the next time 24 hours later. In between times she wears only a small 2-inch square of gauze over the stoma -- no bag or anything else. Her abdominal wounds have healed nicely and bother her only with residual stiffness and itching. The perineal wound, being so deep, will take longer to heal, but there is every indication thus far that it will be much less than the maximum six months which has been mentioned. Already it is draining far less than when she first came home, and aside from having to be careful about how she sits down it gives her little trouble. We've found a way to alleviate the sitting problem by using two tightly folded bath towels, one on either side, which suspend her from ordinary contact that would be painful. We had suggested an inflated rubber ring to the doctor, but he vetoed that because it could restrict circulation. When we tell him about the towels we intend to present it as an illustration of Chairman Mao's dictum: Learn from the people.

She called the doctor yesterday to report most of the above, as it had been agreed she would, and added that she was eating anything that didn't eat her first and getting away with it; that when she gets tired she simply goes to bed and rests until she feels like getting up again. She then asked him if there's anything she needs to do before reporting in again some ~~10~~ 10 days later. He said no, you know what to do and are going it. I don't need to tell you anything.

At long last, I believe, the Post has stopped coming, the latest received being the issue of April 20. Meanwhile the protection you and Lil have been providing is exactly what we like -- small unobtrusive items that the Chronicle would not likely reprint here, such as little things in the Personalities column about the Nixon family etc, by Maxine Cheshire et al. Also the photo you sent from the April 23 issue of Nixon's "soul of modesty" pose at the historical exhibit at San Clemente. The resurrection process is probably our main interest, the way Nixon always manages to get an item or a photo spotted just when everybody threatens to forget he ever existed. That and the good stuff you have been clipping on the whole China question.

Regarding your thoughtful suggestion of 4/14 about the Enquirer's interest in UFOs, they have a good working relationship with our friends in Tucson and it's not likely I could do them any good. What I did for Saga was a sort of "unified field theory" tying in UFO activity with ancient history from the perspective of what I believe to be a residual science, acupuncture. Saga paid for it but as far as I know never used it, so in effect still owns it. If I should run across a new angle, I'll of course remember your good suggestion.

Best from us both,


jdw