

Lear Mike,

1/19/78

Thanks for your note and the obits on Charlie Clift. I'd known he was in a rest home but after I learned that was not able to drive to Washington any more so I'd did not get around once there. Lil does not drive.

If you are on touch with Kitty please give her this explanation and the word that I did try to phone several times when I was there but getting no daytime answer figured she was spending days with him.

I think we saw them both when I was still driving down and after I was hospitalized for acute thrombophlebitis (10/75). By the time the doctors paid heed it was too late. Main veins blocked, etc. I'd been getting along pretty well with that and then ¹⁹⁸¹ this year an arterial blockage neatly termed an arterial steal- and that explained as an "embarrassment" to the circulation - also was diagnosed.

While I can't do as much as the enclosed shows I can still function and have not improved my popularity with the FBI or DJ.

We've been cleaning out the cellar to make room for these records. Lil found some of our prize recipes so I'm using the backs in writing to friends who also like to eat.

Hope that you and Ruth will take a drive up here some day when the weather has moderated. We'd like to see you again.

Lil sends her best.

13 JAN 78

DEAR HAROLD -

ENCLOSED CLIPS ABOUT
DONA THAT YOU MIGHT
HAVE MISSED.

THE OTHER ONE I HAD
INTENDED TO SEND TO
LAF. COMM. ALUMNI 2
YEARS AGO - BUT DIDN'T
GET AROUND TO.

OUR BEST TO
YOU + LIL.

LUKE + RUTH

Charles E. Clift Jr., FCC Aide

Charles E. Clift Jr., 68, a retired Federal Communications Commission official and a former journalist, died of Alzheimer's disease Monday at Washington Hospital Center.

Mr. Clift began work with the FCC in 1940, and retired in 1973. During this time he investigated conflicts of interest in broadcast ownership as an official in the economic section. He then was a broadcast specialist, working on studies of newspaper-broadcast co-ownership.

From the mid to late 1950s, he was on the staff of *The Reporter*, where he worked on a number of articles on wire-tapping and the China lobby. His work was instrumental in the magazine's winning a special George Polk Memorial Award.

Mr. Clift was born in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., and earned a bachelor's degree at Princeton University.

After spending four years as an investigator with the American Civil Liberties Union in New York City, he moved to Washington in the mid-1930s and joined the staff of the La Follette Senate committee that held hearings on labor practices and violence in California.

He served in the Army in Europe during World War II.

Mr. Clift was a member of the National Press Club.

He is survived by his wife, Kathleen

R., of the home in Washington; two daughters, Alice C. Giles, of Watertown, N.Y., and Dorothy Ann, of Washington; a son, Charles E. III, of Athens, Ohio; a brother, Arthur H., of New York City; two sisters, Mrs. Lansing Carpenter, of Haddam, Conn., and Grace Clift, of Central Valley, N.Y., and five grandchildren.

WASH. STAR 6 JAN.
Charles E. Clift Jr. 78

Charles E. Clift Jr., 68, a former investigator for the Federal Communications Commission and an assistant to a commissioner of the FCC, died Monday in Washington Hospital Center, after a long illness.

Clift, a native of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., and a 1932 graduate of Princeton University, worked for the American Civil Liberties Union in New York before becoming an investigator for the Senate Committee on Education and Labor. He worked for the FCC for about 30 years.

During World War II he worked for the Board of Economic Warfare before serving in the Army in France and the Netherlands. In the late 1950s, Clift was an investigative reporter for *The Reporter* magazine. He was a recipient of the George Polk Award of the Overseas Press Club.

He leaves his wife, Kathleen R., at the home on Cathedral Avenue NW; two daughters, Alice Giles of Watertown, N.Y., and Dorothy Ann, of the District; a son, Charles E. III; of Athens, Ohio; a brother; two sisters; and five grandchildren.

WASH. POST Charles Clift 8 JAN 78

Charles Clift, who died here a few days ago—shortly after the death in New York of his old boss, Max Ascoli, publisher of *The Reporter* magazine—was a superb investigative reporter in the years before that phrase had come into general use.

Clift did major portions of the research and writing on three series of articles that greatly enhanced the reputation of *The Reporter*: on the China lobby, on wiretapping and listening devices, and on lie-detector equipment. To all of these subjects he brought an inquisitive mind, an irritation with humbug and a pervasive philosophy of civil liberties and the right of an individual to enjoy some measure of privacy in an era of burgeoning technol-

ogy and intensive government concern with security.

As he had in previous jobs with the American Civil Liberties Union and then Sen. Robert La Follette's Senate Civil Liberties Committee, Clift worked with intensity; but he never permitted his own attitudes to take command of the facts that he was researching.

Charlie Clift was indeed a "happy warrior"; his sense of optimism and his ability to see the funny or the ridiculous in the most somber array of facts and situations endeared him to a host of friends, whose memories of him will long remain both bright and full of cheer.

HENRY C. FLEISHER

Washington