



The HALL Syndicate, Inc.

842 MADISON AVENUE - NEW YORK 17, N.Y. · TELEPHONE MURRAY HILL 2-5560

WASHINGTON BUREAU:
ROBERT S. ALLEN
1292 NATIONAL PRESS BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004

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Dear Senator:

It was extremely gracious and thoughtful of you to write, and I am profoundly grateful -- particularly under the circumstances. It was characteristically considerate of you to do that, and I only hope it wasn't too much of a nuisance.

It was a most disturbing jolt to learn that you were in the hospital, although I was greatly relieved to be told that the examination disclosed nothing serious -- knock wood and whistle. I haven't said anything about it to you, but I have been concerned for some time about the chest condition you complained about. That's not a trivial matter, so I fervently trust that the examination showed you were all right. At our stage in life, it doesn't pay to take chances with anything, especially a persistent distress of some kind.

It will be most kind of you if you can let me know when you will be available, at your convenience, of course. I'll be around all this week and the next, too, as I am not going to the Democratic convention. I see no purpose in going there. It's going to amount to little more than a sort of deification of JFK and a pontification of LBJ. That's putting it rather crudely, but that's just about the way it's adding up.

I heard pretty authoritatively this morning that Humphrey is going to be the running mate. I was told that he has been given the signal to open up headquarters in Atlantic City, and that he and his people are getting everything set for a lot of hooplah, starting Sunday. Apparently the President is going to make it more or less official Saturday night at the big shindig he is giving for the Democratic governors. Exactly how he is going about it is still not clear, but the word has been leaked that this occasion will be used for the laying on of hands on Hubert. That's going to be a big disappointment to quite a number of hopefuls, but if it doesn't go to Humphrey, it will be one of the biggest letdowns in political history.

Take care of yourself, and here's earnestly hoping that you're getting a good rest. You sure can use one after all the

... and stresses you have been through the past eight months.

With warmest esteem,



Robert S. Allen

PS: I don't want to disturb you, but you may already know that the New York Journal-American is publishing the full text of Jack Ruby's testimony before the commission. According to the paper's account, Dorothy Kilgallen got this transcript "from a source close to the commission." That sure is a strange one, if it's true. There sure have been some curious leaks in recent weeks.