

1/9 /71

Dear Mary,

I was away two days, Bud and Jim worked here all day today, so I'm ever farther behind and more than usually tired, and it is past bedtime. I was glad to get your letter because your long silence worried me.

Thanks for trying with Paul, but I guess the best thing it is to forget about it and hope to be able to resist a later longing for retribution. Sick or not, he's a bastard; and L.A. is not a pauper. Or impotent.

We've made more cooperative arrangements on the declassified papers, and all declassifications are not as spontaneous or as natural as they seem. I wish everyone would just do his own thing and not help anyone else to any, but I know the futility of this as well as I know its urgency. Paul made an awful blunder that seems so innocent. And Arch can be censured for keeping his willingness to buy all of them from us. This goddamned stupid political insanity is self-destructive.

Mary, I'm just too tired to go into it. But believe me, please, this stuff is loaded with all sorts of booby-traps and if we can't keep the facts and irresponsible from getting and missing it (not being able to know they are), the least we can do is not help them. Let them get what they can on their own. How they may not get what they can kill by meaningless use or misuse, cannot hurt in the many other possible ways, including in court.

Wish I was up to more.

Great news about Jimmy Lee. Maybe it is the beginning?

Aside from Bill's refusal to fly not being psychological, this is the only time of the year we have any income, slight as it is. She can't take a day off if she would.

But I wish we could.

Let us hope this is the beginning of the change for the better for all of you.

Sincerely,

January 5, 1971

Dear Lil and Harold:

Well, I finally have a minute to write. We have been in a big closing (a financing) here at the office which should have been completed before the end of 1970. The men all flew into Dallas December 28th and we worked right through the New Year and even Saturday and Sunday. We didn't finish until last night. I didn't even get to go to the plane yesterday morning when Jimmy Lee left to go back to Fort Ord.

My job is usually so slow and boring that I surprised myself that I was able to keep up the long hours and hard work.

We have been in the midst of remodeling at home... actually just major repairs... We built a big room at the back for my books and had the bathroom completely done over. We tore out the old tile and put in new tile and a new shower, lavatory, etc...

I have five typewriters at home and all of them have been buried under papers and books. I didn't want anyone trying to "help me" to move things to the new room because I can only find things if I place them myself. I hope to take a few days off from work in a week or ten days and try to move the books, papers, files, etc. The way it is now, I can't find the kitchen sink and stove...

Harold, I can't even reach Penn Jones by phone (I haven't tried since the 28th of December) but I did try up until Christmas Eve. I got L.A. one time and she said she would have Penn call me but he didn't. I asked her if she couldn't persuade Penn to send you the money he owes you. She said she would try. (You remember, one time last year, she was at my house and just begged him to go ahead and send it to you.) The Midlothian Mirror has had absolutely nothing on the assassinations in the last eight or nine months.

We have ordered all the declassified documents (Arch has)... I haven't talked to him since the Sunday after Christmas. He came over to bring some things and told me he had ordered the documents.

Jimmy Lee came home the 18th of December. He looks great and his attitude is wonderful. We are so pleased. He is in a Clerk's School right now but the prospects for Language School are very good. He wants to study Russian. He called Buck last night when he got back to Fort Ord to say that he arrived safely and in time. I was still at the office and didn't get to talk to him but Buck said he sounded fine.

I do wish you two would come visit us now that we have everything so "handy." Can you imagine a room as big as Lil's "office" with nothing but floor-to-ceiling bookcases all around and down the middle??? It's great!!! Lil, please try a hypnotist for your fear of flying and then COME... Love,

*Mary*