

Mrs. Mary Ferrell
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Dear Mary,

Thanks for your my-birthday letter to Peggy and me. I do hope that the source of the bleeding can be pinpointed and that it can be ended. It was nothing like that that got me to where I did not know when I wrote that roundbobbin letter. If I understood the John Hopkins surgeon, they have decided against removing the polyp it is known I have and to do what I'd anticipated from what I was told to expect locally, a flexible sigmoidoscopic examination of I think the lower six inches. I go there for it 5/3. It is outpatient and I suppose that if anything is discovered they'll confer on that and make future arrangements.

I have not asked any questions because I have reason to believe that they have balanced the risks. One may well be what my body will not take. I've had two operations I was not expected to survive but I would not have survived without them. The last was my 1989 heart surgery. I was not told what was learned during it and I had no reason to ask. But when I saw a chest X-ray the nurse exclaimed that I ^{enough} have enough metal in it to set airport alarms off. And when I took the cardiologist's records that he had never discussed with me to the Hopkins sleep disturbance center which appraised and admitted me for overnight testing relating to the sleep apnea I also have, I then learned a scientific term I do not understand and made no effort to learn more about. It means that there is not the good connections between the two halves of the heart on one side and that if one has to have it my problem is the better side to have it on.

One of the consequences of these and too many other problems is that I cannot now take excitement as I used to, it used to make me more effective. Now I shake and my heart beats too rapidly. And I get unsteady. So to the degree I can I just avoid it.

It wasn't Revill. It was Leavelle. The barbecue was by Waybright, not Saulsbury. Richard invited me and I did not go. For one thing it has not been safe for me to drive out of Frederick since 1977 and I haven't. Because a simple accident that would be of no consequence to others can be fatal to me, I do not go out of town for other than medical reasons, when I am drive. Richard visited Leavelle at his daughters a number of times. I asked him to extend an invitation for Leavelle to come and look at the files I have.

It is my understanding that Harry did not "bring Rick and David Saulsbury to Dallas," that they travelled without Harry. ^{on that first trip} Leavelle's opinion of Rick is not that far from Lil's, but stupid is not the right word. He does dumb things but not from stupidity. Lil says he is a boy in a man's body.

Your recollection of Rothermel's departure from the ^{Hunt} company is influenced by the passing of time. Paul; I think Currington and some others were fired and charged with theft by the sons. The last time I saw the old man, and he did see me when I just walked in off the street, he was still well disposed toward Paul. He asked me to call him in his presence.

But not from the phone on his desk. He took me into a connecting room where he had a hospital ^{bed} room, with an old phone next to it. Obviously, that was before the old man died. Paul caught the wiretappers the sons had hired and that ended with what the old man told me was a very generous settlement ^{if he made} with Paul.

You can get those records back if you want them. They did not, at least not in my day, become the property of the Congress. They remained yours. You might write Stokes and if that gets you nowhere the speaker or the clerk of the house. Your Congressman might get it all done if he is not unfriendly toward you.

I'm glad Leavelle liked David, as we did and do. Expect a visit from him, his wife and their two really remarkable boys. They are natural boys, going down to our pond and catching bullfrogs and crayfish and gather ⁱⁿ quartz of various kinds and they also bring books with them to read. Books advanced for their years.

I don't know whether I ever told you but one of the wiretappers, a kid, had a young cousin for his lawyer. There was a real conspiracy in which Percy Foreman did take money, \$100,000, to take care of this kid, to keep him from making trouble. Immediately the Hunts and chums got the kid a nightwatchman job where he was told to be sure nothing was left on any desk at night and where to lock anything he found up. He found enough records to establish that there was such a conspiracy and where he locked them up was in his pockets as he took them to ~~at~~ this lawyer who gave me copies. You may recall that Foreman was convicted in federal court but served no time. He was owed favors! Oh Foreman this young lawyer looked me up at the Hay evidentiary hearings. He then gave me copies of the evidence of the conspiracy and of the payoff. That guy really did need a watchman!

We hope all is going as well with you all as it can,

love,

cc Peggy