

Dear Mary,

9/16/72

Before reincarnation, you must have been Griselde!

I was uneasy, I am uneasy, but I think you did what you had to. We all have breaking points. That yours didn't come is a ~~mirac~~ miracle. However, it is all tragic, the way life sometimes work. I am particularly sorry that Buck didn't hold out. I have just finished a book on The Pursuit of Intoxication, really on drugs so used, and I guess it enables me to understand it a bit better.

Lil read your letter as soon as I did. The only other one in the mail today was from John Ray, a short one. She just shook her head when she read yours. I was watching when I finished John's. They she said as I do, you had no choice.

She has just made her first comment, "Maybe it would do her some good to get away for a while." Pause. Then, "Completely, physically separated. It would do her good." What she means is come here. Do. Almost any time. You must have some vacation coming. I'll meet you at any airport and there is much here you haven't read and I think might want to. I'll even take you on my morning walks up the mountain.

We have so many trouble I think it would actually be good for Lil to have others' on her mind. I won't go into all of them. Some you don't know of. And worse financially than you do.

Watergate: Much more here than I sent. I stopped sending memos to those who didn't respond, figuring they had no time (in some cases perhaps interest). I forecast all with accuracy, including what would not be covered in indictment and who was. It was easy. The surprising thing is how the Democrats muffled everything. Realist and Freep: Forget. I have. These dedicated people make things up and in so doing ruin what little they have, in this case the legitimate thing Tackwood had. The tragedy is that including Sprague they are all serious, no takeoffs.

I've not had any word from any of those whose positions and actions I opposed except for some letters from Jerry, who is unknown to you. What I got from Gary I sent you. I have written him further, without response. It seems that the African-American Foundation on which Ned Crosby sits with Katzenbach has CIA ties! No conclusion, merely fact reported. I did send him this. I wrote a round-robbing letter to some of them telling them to enjoy the new blood they let but asking how it helps. No single answer. Cyril is not yet through hurting us, but I'll not take time for details. The more I think of it the more I conclude that all those of doctrinaire political views blind themselves with them and make dispassionate analysis impossible. I think I can do it because I hold no such strict views, being a registered Democrat who can't remember the last time he voted for a Democrat for Congress. Ditto for Lil. We almost invariably split out tickets, never voting a straight one. I don't think I have since FDR. So, with what I think is political independence I think

I can think straighter. Thus these forecasts are not the result of my genius but they seem more than they are because others don't think clearly and don't see them or are captive of their own emotions, etc. I also wrote Wecht warning him about his new demands. No answer. I worry about Sylvia's health, so I've not sent her things I have in an envelope for her. I won't until I know she is not depressed or anything else....I'm not complaining about the ungraciousness of those who are not honest enough to say they now see. I am worried that I think Jerry speak for them in saying the Kennedys had it coming, so good! without regard to what this means, in context.

What I don't understand is how you could doubt that you could make out without having all the problems of all of your family bearing you down. You must make out better now. They are all mature and your obligation is past. You may want to volunteer, but if you are tempted you may have to ask yourself if you dare. You now have some independence and you must cherish it and nurture it, or you'll be like an overloaded ark again.

If you are worried about threat, one of the more obvious things to do is to get all the locks changed. Maybe you should. Any carpenter can have it done for you on a day you are home by removing the works, taking them to a locksmith who can reset the tumblers, and you can use the same locks. Or, it may, as the carpenter can tell you, be easier and cheaper to buy identical locks and just change the whole thing. Arch should be able to supply one. I would hope he would be willing. It wouldn't make a serious dent in what he plans to take with him (may it be years in the future!).

With the problems we have, Lil's health just can't improve, so I won't kid you on that.

Worse, Monday we were hit in the back while stopped at a light by an uninsured driver who was lighting a cigarette instead of paying attention. She was whiplashed. It seems to have eased and never confined her, but discomfort remains and we'll have to sweat out a couple of ~~xxx~~ weeks to be sure. There is some of you in her. I can forgive those who have added to our troubles. I am without any bitterness at all, really. But not Lil. She is the mother Bandy hen. Gary in particular hurts her. She was fond est of him. The whole story is worse than you know.

Why don't you, instead of having to not answer the phone, which is an inhibition and a strain you should not impose upon yourself, have the number changed? Or do you think those you don't want to talk to would learn it anyway?

Mary, with Buck please try to understand that his concept of manhood may be very much involved. I don't think he would, in his right mind, consciously do anything to hurt you. He can't face his failure and still consider himself a man. Thus he says he'll "help" if you'll be patient (how much more patient can anyone be?), transferring, in his own mind, part of the responsibility to you. I think it is also a manhood-concept involvement because at each of the many family crises of the past when you have had to you have assumed the entire burden. I don't think you did because there was any alternative. Had he performed, you'd not have had to, and it couldn't have taken you long to know that you had to. This must go back to your earlier years. So, he is burdened by his own failures and abdications and seeks, in his own mind at least, to transfer them. Now, if his employer has decent insurance on him or if he has any, he may be able to get psychiatric help. Would he consider it?

Your kinds, Mary, are the victims of their era, not their parents. But this may bug him. I hope it doesn't you.

Gotta stop for lunch. We are having welcome company after it and for supper, a correspondent and his wife. Lil is particularly fond of her. She's good for Lil and I also like them both very much. If he has gotten the Watergate indictment, he'll bring it. He is getting it, one way or another, and will give it or a copy to me, if you want it.

If you mailed your letter the day you wrote it, it is one of the few recent cases of delay. It is dated 9/12 but didn't come until today, 9/16. The stamp was uncanceled. I'll use it on this. The cancellation is on the wrong edge of the envelope and says nothing. Just a few wavy lines. No Ballas, no date, etc.

Mary, we are both sincere in wanting you to get away and to come here. A bit selfish in it, too. So, for all of us, try it.

Until then, our best.