

Dear Mary,

10/20/72

Ten days is a short time, but the getting of those copies of FRAME-UP is much on my mind. So, my purpose in this short before-bed note is merely to ask you to let me know promptly if you get negatives. Then I'll have to try other things, I don't know what. When I mentioned that this was possible to Jim, without telling me he mentioned it to Bud. Bud's reaction is that "we" ought to get someone to do it as a gift. Nothing further.

I spoke to Bud for the first time in months today, then only because Jim was not there. There was a U.S. Court of Appeals decision in Washington yesterday that couldn't be more our way on one of the key points in the Ray habeas corpus petition. As I suspected, even though there was a long story in the paper on it, they didn't know.

There is little new, nothing good. Each of the mornings I can go for a walk I think of you when I see one tree in particular as I start, it is and has remained that beautiful. The dogwoods outside the house are as though painted, but as the color darkens, I know the leaves will soon be falling. Pine needles are so thick in the lane you can't feel the gravel in many places and there is no noise from them in walking. Soon it will be over and there will be winter. We had an early snow yesterday, but it melted. Good thing it did because it got down to an unseasonal 20° last night. Two days ago it was 80°!

Lil is putting tassels on an afghan she is making for a friend who plans to wear it! THAT will blow minds!

Hope some joy has come into your life, that some of the many problems have at least diminished.

I am troubled about Sylvia. The letter she wrote Ed Williams and seems to have put into general circulation is irrational, aside from what I pointed out, illogical. Unless she does something to prompt it, I plan no further correspondence. My hope was to get her to think. I do fear for her emotional stability if not more. The Sylvia I thought I knew would have been as incapable of such a letter as of some of the things she did before it. While I was worried about collapse after withdrawal from 20 years on the drug prescribed for her (in plain English, 20 years on speed), I don't think this can be attributed to that. I was in Wilmington over the weekend, for the dedication of my step-father's tombstone. That is only 25 miles from Howard. He phoned and we had a long talk, little about this. He was stunned by that letter, which he'd gotten from her. Because of it and because he understood that much of it was aimed at me, he did tell me what I ask you not to repeat, that she had really belabored him with an enormous and soul-rending campaign much of which was vilification of me. By phone and by mail. That bothers me little except as a reflection of her. This is not as new as Howard thinks.

Our best, Mary. We hope things are starting to work out for you, at least as much as is possible. You may get depressed for a while, but I think you are one of the few people with the inner resources to come through such trauma o.k.

Sincerely,