

Dear Mary,

8/8/82

Next time one of the many in those two stories of law offices who clamor for your services whenever your boss is away holler, please ask him to hold back on his hollering so you'll have time to give us a word on how all your ill are. And the couple who we hope are NOT ill.

By now you know Lil well enough to know she says little and means every word of what little she says. My own part of the invitation was by no means unselfish. Lil likes you, and that I can't say about as many people as I'd like. Unfortunately, she has only too much reason for not liking and trusting so many. And the conduct of those to whom we'd become quite attached has hurt her more than it has me.

Insofar as the crazies leave him alone and permit him to work, Howard is revising his book, shortening it to what is restricted to the good title, Presumed Guilty. This means he is having to edit our some of his work and some of line that he used. The result will be a book with greater unity. I haven't read it and don't propose to until it is printed. I think there is a fair chance it now will be, unless this new Cyril et al ploy backfires, and with his concept, I think that won't hurt much, so I'm permissive for him. He is a rare young one, and the campaign that verges on the obscene waged against him to make him become part of something he regards as misbegotten has matured him enormously. He has not refused, a point not of disagreement between us, because I have pressed upon him the need for doing what at any time he considers right, but on which we disagree. He has stipulated his own conditions as prerequisite to any help he might provide. I know the sick egos involved and they'll not be honorable, so they'll freeze him out. Which will be better for him. And as I think you can realize from the thing you call arithmetic, which in a way it really is, ~~hark~~ what is afoot is one of the larger-scale larcenies. Current plans, which Lil overheard by accident, call for this big deal to be the week of the 24st, with the "experts" Bob Smith, Jerry (whose doesn't even know the names of the personnel involved and has yet to ~~read~~ read the basic works) and that towering intellect and soul of probity, that most rational of all seers, Sprague! Your word "ludicrous" describes the concept in its kinder aspect. We'll just have to sweat it out, getting not what we could from the risk that has not decreased since I explained it to you, is in no sense decreased by the addition of Shriver to the Demo ticket.

Little new and that little bad from our point of view. Saw Bud Friday to confer on the rather inadequate job on a Ray habeas corpus petition a criticism of ~~what~~ which I did in a rush being longer than it. Bud got as close as he has to answering my demands of several years that he return my things he was never to have let get into the looney-bin of the CIA: You ought to work by yourself, he said. In my own good, of course. This consists for the moment of redoing their legal work on a case I delivered to them 100% and then, after Jim left yesterday (He spent the day here on it and will again tomorrow), going over what they had withheld from me that they had gotten from Ray, having to call Jim up to tell him what they'd missed and to get Bud to give him more time because he now has more work to do including what Bud didn't understand. Of ushc, I suppose, is the only kingdom we'll know on earth.

Mary, as I think you know, adversity does not depress me. If it did, I'd have quit long ago. What tends to is stupidity and incompetence. I have given Bud so solid a Ray case, believe me, your lawyers would dream of having such solid cases to take to court. He faces corruptions and power, but all the courts are not yet corrupt. I have built the faith of the client I also delivered in him to the point where he cooperates as he never did in the past. This is the case we CAN win, and if we don't the credit will be 100% Bud's. He doesn't even do the legal thinking and hasn't from the first. I find I am still giving them legal doctrine, as recently as this past Friday solving the newest legal problem (you realize this is not praise of me but damning of them) that existed only because of neglect and delay. I wish I could how out of that, but in good conscience I can't, so the non-lawyer has to do the legal work, current revising the habeas corpus petition (do you think I've even seen one before?), having done all the work included in it. Is it any wonder we have accomplished as little as we have....I didn't blow my stack Friday when Bud told me, now that everyone has stolen what he could lay hands on, that I should work by myself. Instead I decided to make notes for a future book I may write and I'll be sending him a copy of what this means. Hope you are all better than when you last commented. Our best,