

Dear Dick,

4/14/93

Helen has been important, really recently invaluable to us. I'm sure you know we do appreciate it, very much. Yesterday she did us a small favor that took only a couple of minutes but it reminded me again that as I grow weaker and less stable as I move how important she is.

With the advance warning of "the storm of the century" Lil brought a kerosene heater we've not used in years up from the basement. Prior to that I'd driven into town to get the kerosene. Lifting a two-gallon container out of the trunk of the car was actually too much for me so Lil would not let me bring the heater up. She was also worried that a month ago, the last time until yesterday that I was in the basement, I fell at the bottom step. That heater has been in the middle of the livingroom floor since the storm, unused. And we have company coming. The Weichters, who I refer to in Never Again! Bill is a lawyer. Betsy is a medical records expert. I quote her; used records she provided, and got a chapter title from her. So, Helen took the heater down for us. Less than five minutes but we could not do it and for years the local boys and young men have been worthless or worse.

Before cold weather a friend had brought two garden-wart loads of firewood into the house for any emergency. I'm not allowed to do that any more and now probably could not in any event. One was in the living room. Last week, when no men had come for a while, Helen pulled them into the woods behind the pool for me. So, the place is a little less of a mess.

Good young people reminds me of what pleased me most on my 80th birthday, after getting there, I ^{share} ~~share~~ it with you.

You and David probably never heard of Howard Roffman. His Presumed Guilty is the best simplification of the JFK assassination books. Fairleigh Dickinson did nothing with it. Howard's interest in the JFK assassination began when he was a teen-ager, in high school, ^{that} which is when he drafted his book. He was then spending summers with us. He did pretty much also when he was at the Univ. of Penn. Less when he was in law school in Florida but he then did spend part of every summer with us. We liked him very much and treated him as though he were our son.

Howard is the brightest of the innumerable young people we have known. He was professionally very successful beginning with graduation from law school. He then went to work for a federal appeals court judge in Jacksonville and when the judge was taken ill even wrote his decisions. Then he was recruited by a very large Philadelphia law firm for its quite large Washington office. After a year or so there he was recruited by Lucas Films, to begin as its assistant general counsel. He stayed busy and we heard less and less from him until he phoned me last Thursday to wish me a happy 80th. I then learned that he had given up being general counsel seven years ago and now manages three divisions and has also become a professional photographer.

What please me most of all was his saying that he wanted us to know, how important we were to him, how much he learned from us about so much and that as he deals with the people under him, of whom there are now quite a few, how it helps him to help them be all they can be and become what they can become. He put it much better and with more detail and recall but it made us feel very good.

He will be 40 this coming Sunday. When Lil will be 81.

Knowing that we have helped young people become more of what they can gives us a very good feeling. Lil even taught Howard how to cook and bake, for which his mother, who also worked, did not have time.

Helen said something similar when she returned from the summer break. Her father is a fireman. The family makes out but can't help her much. She has spent summers working for a law firm in the rural area of the Bay's western shore near where the family lives. Last year the judge required a case summary none of the lawyers was in a position to prepare. She did it. And the judge praised it in open court. When she told me about it she said simply, "You helped."

I have always had in mind what older people had done that was so helpful to me and that began when I was in high school. Rather the year I graduated. It continued when I worked for the Senate, where the grey heads not on the committee's staff appreciated a hardworking young man who wanted to do well and helped him do it.

Once again, thank you very much!

Howard