

Dear Gerry,

1/22/96

If my typing is better than its usual terrible that is because of an enforced experiment<sup>ment</sup>. For the past ~~sever~~ several days my left foot and leg have been getting quite tight quite rapidly. This coincides with the protimes indicating a much reduced dosage of coumadin. While I usually have my legs horizontal, as I supposed you've noticed, when necessary I hold the left leg higher on the barstool next to where I sit in the living room. Now I have it in my office with my left leg close to the elevation of my heart. It will reduce the swelling and the tightness but it cures nothing. Think I may have to shop for a second barstool. The one at the copier is a bit heavy for me now. What a picture this would make!

Those Ensure puddings served another useful purpose! I hope they are on sale here soon. Lil's supply of the drink is adequate and she uses them. They are on sale locally. But we've not seen the pudding. *We still have enough of it.*

Several weeks ago suddenly a tooth started reacting to chewing pressure with slight pain. The dentist found nothing on X-ray and decided that an abscess was forming. He told me to take erythromycin 500 mg four times daily. I've been on it for years as premeditation before seeing the dentist and when an antibiotic was indicated. This time I reacted, nausea, etc. To complete the 10 days I was put on a slow-acting form and told to eat with it, every six hours. For 19 days I did not have any meal at any usual hour. And I had to take it at night, when I did not want to eat. So Lil suggested that I use ~~and~~ Ensure pudding with it and that worked.

Meanwhile that tooth will require a root canal nine days hence.

Sorry that all the SOB's get a chance to be real SOB's with the <sup>gingering</sup> engineering of the country and what it means for Hanh-Trang and patients. I hope she holds out <sup>and her caring.</sup> because maybe the bad one will get what he deserves. And I'm sure the patients need her!

We had 38 inches. A neighbor, an artisan, came unmasked at least once a day and when we were snowed in it was not because of our lane. He got it down to the blacktop and kept it there. It was the blocking of the end of the driveway when the county plowed the road. One time the fuel oil man came with that big and heavy truck, with the lane clear, and he had to shovel his way in!!!

The cludburst atop all those snow made for the floods of which you are aware. Here it caused the <sup>loch fu birds</sup> laocer <sup>3/2</sup> of the lane to turn to ice, as much as 3-4" when the runoff from uphill hit it and could not go anywhere. The lane gets no sun so we hope for a thaw before it gets snow on it again and freezes deeper. Fortunately no trouble getting in or out. But the warmest it has been any night for a month on more than has been about 20. <sup>us</sup> usually it is lower. We have been ~~making~~ making out OK, though, only it has not been safe for us to go anywhere to walk. I have when I could early mornings,

to the supermarket at the mall, three mornings a week. After not getting there for a period of time I could not ~~alk~~ walk half as long or half as well Saturday. But I'll be there in the early a.m. I can walk better with a grocery cart than with a cane or a walker. I'd planned to walk at the mall this afternoon but decided to keep the left leg elevated instead. I can feel it working, too.

Your reference to being held in Chicago by snow reminds me of the one time I almost was. It was the day of Jack Ruby's funeral and I spent several hours of it with Elmer Hertz and his wife. They'd just gotten to the TV studio from the funeral and the show we were both to be on was delayed. The blizzard hit before my plane got there and I had a show to do in Washington that night that I did not want to miss, with that bastard of a scavenger, Larry Schiller. When the show was over I grabbed a cab and we set off. It took two hours to get to O'hare. I was quite late when we got there but I rushed to check in and lo! the delays were such that plane has not yet left to take its place in the single takeoff line. I was the last on on it, that 707, last seat, too. It was the roughest ride I'd had until then and the best chicken Kiev. Some of which ended up on the fine slipover sweater I had just made me.

I sat next to a young soldier just back from Viet Nam. He told me the first of the horror stories I heard of what some of our boys were doing.

And when Schiller heard that I was to be on the show with him with him advertising that awful records, he refused. He said he'd do it alone or not at all. I was <sup>able</sup> to hear part of it and let him have it after he left.

Give you an idea how cold the ice is: I drove down for the mail about 1. The sun has been up an for several hours it has been about 40. I saw no water anywhere.

Bill had his picture taken with a fine big fish-that Betsy caught!

1/23: If I did not tell you I rushed <sup>best to you allk,</sup> *Hard*  
 about 80,000 words on Mark Brown's very bad book. I sent the original to Dennis and a copy to Bill. I do not know if you have the time or interest but I asked him to send it to you after he reads it, with the last chapter first to Dave for a special reason. I've read and have 20-25,000 words on paper on the Hosty atrocity. I've not been able to find a local bookstore that even has a computer record of Lifton's Oswald that I believe Dave has. I plan to go over it next. Brown and Hosty are worse than a waste of time. Both also are subject-matter ignoramuses. In Brown's book he claims to have read the 26 four times and displays world-class ignorance of the evidence itself. His book is based on the presumption the cops were the actual killers. Indecent!

Dear Harold,

Jan. 17, 1996

I hope this letter finds you and Lillian ok after what must have been a terrible blizzard and snowstorm last week. Judging from reports from the Weather Channel, you must have gotten between 30-40 inches. The last major blizzard I was stuck in was in Chicago when I slept at O'Hare Field two nights waiting to catch a plane out. That time they only got 22 inches. We got about an inch of ice and 3 inches of snow on top of it. That was enough to bring much of the city to a halt for several days. The kids were out of school the whole week! And during that week both Claire and Nick managed to come down with the flu. Things are getting back to normal now (and even above normal - it was 66 and sunny two days ago).

We had a good visit in Wisconsin over Christmas with my family. Unfortunately, we weren't able to get to Stevens Point to see the Wrones.

Since coming back I have been busy preparing for a couple interviews I gave on Martin Luther King, Jr., one for a local cable TV program which is aimed mainly at the Black community and the other for a local radio program. Both went very well. There were only a couple questions about the assassination. The local paper ran a newswire story that focused on Pepper's new book.

Hanh-Trang has been having a very rough time at the dialysis clinic where she works. They have a new administrator whose main task appears to be cutting costs. He has already fired several people, some for no good cause other than they may have had too high a salary. We believe he was looking to replace Hanh-Trang as well, until she wrote to his superior complaining of his lack of professionalism in dealing with her yearly evaluation -- translation: the guy is a real jerk. So it appears Hanh-Trang will resign before too long. Unfortunately, it is the patients who are going to lose the most.

Again I hope you both are well and coping with this terrible weather.

Best,

