

Dear Chris, for all-

6/5/76

There is no implication, no suggestion, no belief that you are "horrible and devious people." If we believed anything like this do you suppose we'd have wanted to be the godparents of your beautiful boy?

We also are aware of what financial problems mean. We've lived with them in varying degrees of acuteness since before you were able to be aware of them.

My complaint is about the needless waste of my time when I have none and virtually no uncomfortable moments and in a failing that at some point Robert simply must address. Neither a pen or pencil nor the post office is his enemy.

I know nothing about the financial condition of the college. I don't see the New York papers. I rarely take time to read any others. And I had been led to believe the payment would be prompt by the young man who phoned me. I followed Robert's good advice on this immediately and wrote the letter he suggested. Since then nothing but silence.

As I explained in New York, I then had an opportunity to perhaps do some good with those pictures. As I then promised, if Robert would tell me the approximate cost I would pay it promptly.

I have had to take a total of what amounts to about a day of work because I have not received these pictures or any word about them when a new and promising need developed. Because of this, if I didn't say it earlier, I'll need more than a single print. Probably I can get away with two where there will be negatives, three where there will not be because two will go out of my hands.

In my condition and the problems it means I do not get up at 5 a.m. and continue working into the night only to waste time. Can you understand that each thing I do is at the cost of something that will not get done and that there is much I want to do, much that will not get done unless I do it? When I do this and fight all the cases in court, too, with no ~~income~~ regular income or job and others know it, do you really think that expecting no more than the normal from others is making accusations against them?

A postcard would have obviated all of this and the torment I'm sure it means for you both. But in a month and a half no word about anything to me.

I'm sorry about what has happened to you all. I did what I could to indicate it was coming and to try to persuade Robert to a different course.

I did what I could to try to persuade him to avoid his excesses. When that failed I have taken steps to recapture what reputation these extremes cost. As of yesterday afternoon it was promising. In the end it will be successful, at least as a matter of public record. But I'm trying to give what they deserve to those officials who misused him. And that he was in this position at all is only because he didn't listen when I took time and warned him repeatedly. It turns out now that there is no question about my advice.

I'm genuinely sorry about your plight and that I could do nothing to forestall or relieve it. If you think back, for quite a few years and ~~your~~ cars, you should remember. If I could help you I would. But I now have what worried me, a roofer's bill for \$3,000. The only advantage of years is the experience on which it lets one draw. One of its aches is an inability to communicate the values of this experience to others so that they might be spared what that experience cost.

My question is not about your intent. It is about judgement and neglect. I regret I was unable to prevent what has happened to you and that in your anguish you have chosen to misinterpret what I did say. I did not say you steal. I do say that both of you can write and neither did and either should have.

There is a chance that a new invention may be able to do what we have not yet been able to do with pictures. If there are any Robert would like to be examined this way I'll advance the cost of prints if he tells me what to make the check out for. I will have to travel on this and I can't afford to. I will have a preliminary test with the shirt/face pictures, which I'll mail. We do hope for relief for you all,

Sincerely,



The **EQUITABLE** Life Assurance Society of the United States

HOME OFFICE NEW YORK, NEW YORK

ROBERT GRODEN
REPRESENTATIVE

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██████████:
██████████
RES: 201 - 324-1513

June 3, 1976

Dear Harold & Lil,

Please accept my apologies for not writing to you sooner. First of all let me say that I am very upset about the accusation that we are holding the money from you. I thought that you would be aware of the ~~state~~ close-down of CUNY. (City University of New York) There is no money in the school and they are presently waiting for the State Legislature to act on this matter. Robert was on the phone with the school 2-3 times a week prior to the closing last week. In fact the day before they closed down he spoke to Stephan who assured him that the money had been allocated to pay both you and Robert and that the check has already been written, but the only person who knew the whereabouts of the check was out sick. We have also spent the money and I've been having a very difficult time coping with this situation. Robert was trying to send a messenger over to pick up the check but they refused saying that the paper work wasn't finished. The news reports have hinted that in all probability the school will be opening next week. As soon as we get the news we'll let you know.



The **EQUITABLE** Life Assurance Society of the United States

HOME OFFICE NEW YORK, NEW YORK

ROBERT GRODEN
REPRESENTATIVE

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
RES: 201 - 324-1513

I'll get after Robert to take care of the pictures for you. Right now he's been so busy trying to find work and we are getting collection threats right and left.

I hope that you're both feeling well and taking good care of yourselves.

Harold I really wish that you would try to know us a little bit. We're really not such horrible and devious people.

*Our Very Best To
Both of You Always -
Chris*