

11/22/68

Dear wonderfuls,

LA's note arrived this morning as I was leaving for DC. The torture is over for the nonce, the future will decide whether I loose one or more perfect teeth from whatever is bugging me from below the gum line, and I am delighted that for the day at least that exploration of man's most sensitive nerves is over.

I will not know until on or right after 11/26 whether I will be home 12/11. Bud Fensterwald asked me, before leaving for Europe, if I would spend the first two weeks of December working with him in N.O. I agreed, and there is now the most urgent need for my being there - for entirely different reasons. Bud has the bread I do not. He is to pay the expenses - otherwise I cannot go. I would not have gone there this time had he not reached into his pocket and given me the cost of the extra fare for the stopover. He wanted me to go there. He ought to be a woman, for it may turn out to have been one of the more important accidents about which I cannot now - and so publicly - say more. One of Jim's closest last night credited me (his exaggeration, but I love it!) with saving the whole blooming thing. It is possible we have uncovered the operation of the department of disinformation. Whether or not departmentalized, we have just stopped one of them. Sorry to be elliptical, but there is, until you get here, no other choice.

Vince, who really did the necessary, is going down 12/4. If Bud is not back, or if he has changed his mind, I must somehow get the cost of the ticket somewhere, for it is vital. I would then go with Vince. Today I checked and found there is a plane he can get in Phila that I can get in Balt and we can be in N.O. two hours later, before lunch. If I go this way, I'd want to return the end of that week, doing this one thing that must be done only, for Vince cannot handle it alone.

Why not, tentatively, keep the 11th open. If Bud comes back ~~xtaxx~~ and hasn't changed his mind, why not then make it for the next week, the 18th, which will still have you back well before Xmas. I had this in mind in lining up my next two dental appointments, which will be the day before you would come, either time, and the postponed medical one, which will not be until after Xmas. I want very much for you to get away and relax for a while, to show Penn some of my unpublished stuff, and for Lil to meet both of you. At the same time, we can go to the Archives and you can see Zap. And you can see the beauty of the north in the winter. By the way, there is an early a.m. nonstop plane, I believe American, from Dallas to Baltimore. Be certain to go to Friendship or Dulles, otherwise you cannot get a nonstop plane, and that saves much time. I'll meet you at either place, one being about the same distance and time as the other. You can also leave from either, of course.

I was unaware of the holiday until Lil told me, so Penn is not alone.

Nothing else really new. Hope your Lubbock thing went well.

We are both looking forward to your coming. There is another alternative: that I cut my New Orleans stay short, we meet there, then go on to Baltimore together. I'll have my car there. If we do this, there is a nonstop Delta noon flight to Balt. and an evening, about 6:30, Eastern flight. There is a Delta flight in the evening about the same time, but I like the Eastern plane and cuisine better. They serve a very nice meal on that flight. If you want to use the evening flight, which, with no unusual delays with baggage, would get us to my home between 11 p.m. and midnight, and want to come in to N.O. earlier in the day, I will meet you at the airport, or someone will. I will have a car there. I'll be in touch as soon as I hear from Bud. Best from both,

Midlothian - Nov. 20, 1968

Dear Lillian and Harold,

We will not be able to visit you on the date we had planned. Instead, it will be Dec. 11 - if that is convenient with you.

Penn did not realize that he was setting our visit up right in the Thanksgiving holidays, which would be rough getting in and out of here. Also the last day on Thursday.

*and
there!*

If the Dec. 11 date is OK, Penn will also see J. R. Freeman at that time while J. R. is in Washington. You remember him. Penn refers to him as "My disciple." Which is OK except for that capital "M". True though after the two fellows met, J. R. quit the DALLAS NEWS and struck out for the rather terrible livelihood as a weekly editor.

I am terribly excited about our visit with you two. I already am counting the days, although with this delay I am having to count a few more.

Harold, do hope your dentist got you all fixed up. I know you did not feel well when you were here, but you were very cheerful about the discomfort.

Love to both,

H.A.