

Dear Jim,

8/1/75

This is to acknowledge a nice fat mailing of clips only in today's mail. Yesterday's had several dupes from the NYTimes, if this identified. Postmark illegible. Many thanks. These are different accounts or unseen stories.

The work and the problems proliferate. No matter how much I get done I slip a bit behind on what I want to do each day.

You've probably a notion of the time trying to be fireman has taken. I keep saying I have to stop and I've curtailed it enormously but there remains some I can't ignore.

Now our friends the Maos are terribly depressed, about to give up, and we'd like to be able to go comfort them over the newest tragedy, the death of a grubstaking relative. We are both unable to settle down this p.m. because I have to be here for a call and our friends the Harpers are coming at an unspecified time for dinner, with my having suggested that they come earlier for a swim.

If there were a Chinese Sholem Aleichem he'd have to write about poor Mike, those kinds of troubles in which he is innocent except for the ways of the Aleichem characters never end. Next to the most recent he developed by not listening to me and of course I can't warn him of this kind of thing for the future except with taxing tact. Taxing to conceive and formulate.

Because I'm not remembering as well I feel I have to make notes of indications of possibly unwanted developments. Like the Scott/Harris memo enclosed. That takes time and so do the new struggles for what has been suppressed. Five pages of answers from the Archives today, each requiring consultation with previous records and the documents parts of which were withheld means so much work! And I'd gotten started on editing what I'd written for PM. Now I'll have to lay that aside.

The battle has too many fronts.

WxPost carried nothing on the Atlanta statement that there was nothing to the foolishness into which they plunged without the obvious preliminary checking. Hope your locals did. I'd like the record.

Some are not easy to have repeating themselves. I'll be doing a Ray memo not on this Atlanta dogression.

We have been having beautiful and unhealthy weather, which led me to do something with your recent overpayment kindness.

After exceptional rains suddenly exception heat, with air stagnation and the resultant hazardous pollution. Until yesterday I'd walked morning and worked up a good sweat and worked hard afternoons trying to off the weeds and save the trees from poison and honeysuckle. Had I not been weary from a 20hour day yesterday I'd have gone for a walk this a.m. but I've decided no heavy exertion until the air clears after the days get hot. Just playing safe.

Lil's typewriter needed a repair so when I had to go for it I decided to get what I can't avoid, a block and tackle for straightening the still-rooted but blown-over evergreens. Could get at hardware wholesaler's. So, having seen an ad in the paper for a table-top broiler/roaster that uses less than half the current of the oven, when I could get it wholesale it became your/my wedding anniversary present to Lil. (Sunday) We thank you.

We are now so adjusted to living on so thin an edge and conserving every penny for work needs I neverthink of even what can save us money, like this device with what has happened to energy costs, without some windfall to remind or suggest. Now it is conserving for the coming printing. But in the past two months I've given the Archives \$150.00. That much copying. (Some pretty good stuff, too.)

Thanks for everything and our best,