

Dear Jim,

12/12/72

Your very pleasant and pleasing letters of 12/6 and 7, with copious enclosures, could not have come at a better time for many reasons. It is always good to know of the sense of well-being of friends, and they give a bit of relief from the depressing in which we are so immersed and on which I've spent the whole damned day, save for the conversation with Larry and the note of it. I've quit at 5 because it was getting too unpleasant. I didn't even go out for the mail until 2 p.m.!

Before long I'll be exchanging this second-hand ribbon for one a bit blacker and just as second-hand. They are those on which Caesar did the "ay habeas corpus drafts. He also has a Hermes.

Your letters gave us both a pleasant break. I enjoyed hearing Lil laugh. She doesn't often and doesn't really have much legitimate occasion for laughter.

No, what we send is not any real time drain. It takes little time to clip those things and my notes are as respite, a change of pace. However, I have wondered if I am more inclusive than you'd prefer. Often recently I've not taken time to read the stories, esp. on SEAsia. With the odd developments I've gone on the assumption that first ST, and now one of you could more readily tell whether the Post's own reporting tells you what you have not gotten from other sources. As a general thing, if you come to these things that are not of interest, I'm sure Howard would like them. His address is Howard Roffman, 357 Craid, Univ. Penna., 37 & Spruce Sts., Phila., Pa. 19104. He is a history major, has the finest mind I've ever seen in one of his years (I think he is now 19, a junior, and taking graduate courses while doing so many things and maintaining a scholarship-retaining average).

Don't worry about returning my tapes. I think I've sent only one recently, again not certain you'd want to take the time, of the lawyers on the Herv Griffin show. I think it reflects, except with Foreman, the influence of the kids. It is also a rather good reflection of the dedication of lawyers, their attitudes. These are prominent.

If I'm more than usually disjointed, I'm keeping an ear on NPR "news", indistinguishable to commercial to now, and starting an evening fire in the fireplace, for pleasure and reduction of the fuel-oil bill. I burn no brush. I chop all but the crookedest and finest branches up with a machete. The stuff I don't cart to the house makes piles that make wild-animal homes until they compost themselves. But burning stuff as small as a finger means frequent tending. I use a large, dry backlog and a smaller, green front. So, with a raised stone heart, I'm up and down often.

...The legal situation may not be good. Williams, the famous, did file the Complaint late. Whether in so doing he wasted most of our claims is yet to be seen. I believe there was continuing negotiation, which meant there need have been no complaint because there was an agreement I did negotiate in 1962, to reach an amicable settlement and a mechanism for it. I did abide by it, The Department of Defense would have, and the Army was determined to kibosh it and did, relentlessly, on the higher levels only. I had to find yesterday what I'd given the lawyer and had forgotten about years ago, what he'd missed in going over these same files recently. He had a conference in chambers today. I guess with no call, no emergency. This explains my letter to Williams, for if he did waste out rights, there is a fairly clear malpractice suit, not in my mind. It may, however, activate him a bit.

However, he seems amenable to my suggestions, although there remains a considerable negativism, probably in part based on the total lack of funds for legal needs, like experts. My today's work addressed some of his areas of concern. How the hell could I keep a record of every meat chicken, for example, of what I sold when I sold, whether eggs or chickens, and what size chickens at what price? These are important facts in establishing loss and the potential of the business, complicated by what is called a continuing tort, the troubles never stopped and we have no base for comparison. His finding that I'd gotten about 4,000 chicks from my own breeding flock in a six-month period and that after the troubles began does establish what I had, regardless of the helicopter toll, and a minimum they could have returned. We actually did sell 12 ozs for \$1.75 when chickens were 29¢ an lb. That is like getting a premium in Newcastle for coal, in the old days.

Aside from the lack of records because they were never kept and it was not possible to keep them, and the possibility of the running of the statute, the major problem is medical expert testimony because our insurer was a barbarian and remains an ignoramus, not doing the obviously-needed things. I think they are now hungup on fear of a malpractice suit. Again, no thought of it, but they don't believe it. There are probably several. But

if we did want to sue, when we haven't enough to pay current bills or the costs of this suit, we can't even dream of it. However, it makes a real problem, for they were terrible, callous, opinionated and negligent. Some of the xeroxes supplied are illegible. I've had to fight like hell, raise hell in irate and indignant letters, to get the lawyer what he has, which may, after a second batch, be complete for the years beginning in 1961. I don't know. But they go back to World War II, and the early ones are needed for comparison-for the expert witness we can't afford. We have to show how tough we were before all of this. As a matter of fact, we were. We'd been through a fair amount. Any one of a long series of things few would have survived. I think I told you I even had a law passed against me and led a fight against State "epartment firing when they had the absolute right to do it even without reason -and won. If such a thing can be won!

So, there is a long fight ahead, day-to-day survival is an added problem, and keeping our spirits up, especially Lil's, for the toll on her is greater than I can describe, so we can do it. She is certain we can't. I believe I'll win the spectro suit. I don't think it will help in this case if I do. Justice will be more anxious to get me, and the lawyer they have on the case will know it. They are dirty enough without this extra inspiration. I don't know how it will effect the judge.

Glad for the info on the looms and weaving. I think when I can swing it I'll get Lil a small one. We can't afford one like yours and have no room for it except in the basement, and I'm uneasy with her on stairs because she has a trick knee. I think she'd enjoy it, and I suspect I'd try my hand. I saw Matt Herron's boy doing beautiful work with one.

Taxes and your 12/6: Their basic charge at "lock's will remain the same but their added prices are increased beginning this year and are complicated. They are "schedules", each one so much, entries so much, etc. Lil can also tell you if your locals misread the wrong charges. There will be much natural confusion over them. By and large, with considerable local variations possible, + believe they are the best of the services. With the delay in getting all you need, your solution seems the best. Sorry the initial rate can't be held indefinitely, but that's economics. Or something. If you have all of your stuff organized, the consultant will like you better because he/she is guaranteed the minimum wage only, drawing that against commissions. Most don't make an awful lot more than the minimum. My own opinion, based on observations here, is that you are probably better off doing it daytime because most nighttimes are moonlighting. On the other hand, daytimers are often bored housewives. But their training is good.

Ian McDonald (I often make the same mistake) will enjoy your letter, whether C. Malcolm is related or not. I'll probably phone him tomorrow afternoon, after his filing deadline, to update him on Mrs. Hunt and will ask. I'll see him 12/23, probably not sooner. That is his annual Xmas party. One of the disgusting things is the Egyptian, who is suave, intelligent, a fine conversationalist and a persuaded sexist whose attractive wife agrees. With both it seems to be religion. He is in the embassy. By now a number of these have become our once-a-year friends. Great story of the men and their dogs!

Your 12/7 on Shaw: By and large agreed. Disagree on the needless and inaccurate endorsement of the WR. That makes me wonder too much, as does daring the civil suit. He has to know he lied about what should be material, and that is perjury. It may also be a bit of daring. based on the fair certainty that Garrison has no more than he had at the trial. I have more that he doesn't. I don't see this gratuity as bolstering Shaw's image. After the trial it can hurt it because, for all his incompetence, Garrison did make enough points with the Z film and my medical stuff. These he made with defense witnesses, esp. Finck. Most of Shaw's friends will remember that and must have been influence by it. For the intelligent, this is the opposite of image-bolstering, I'd think. But who can know about H.O.?..If the fault fore was no accident, perhaps the fatalistics will chill others.

Catchall 7: no rush on return McMillan tape. If I made an extra, don't bother to return.

Haynes Johnson's pieces were all on Bagleton. There is another series now. I've laid them aside. The Post is going in for this. They have another simultaneously, a series on ethnics. I think the series I've laid aside is on SEAsia. May not be finished.

Stk's sound sensitivities, so like Lil's, including high frequencies: bet that with all the din with which you've spent the long years your's cut off and you don't hear them. + no longer do. Thanks, by the way, for the description of the new machines. Fantastic if you are not their creature. I know the local paper sets type from AP's tape. They are now also offset. Typically, they put in a new plant and it was too small before finished. There was a time when reporters had to take a turn at folding sections in!

One man's (and two women's?) meat dept: you are having the normal reaction to retirement and the wonder of being out from under pressure. But the thing that has bugged me is not being under self-imposed pressure. Imposed when writing, which I do too fast, to get it done and onto something else. I'm sure I'd feel much better if I were grinding it out again. I know I'll feel better when I have the planned on paper.

If you still have that sandwich, then Je's notion was right: plastic. Seal plexiglas rectangle. Eve the surface light-conductance characteristic will make a memorial of it.

12/14 Ian is not kin of C. Malcolm. Heard of but never met him. Ian is younger than we are. He also told me of the "unt/lines interview and is sending it. Spoke to him last night. We go to DC today on a number of chores, ranging from my delivering a rifle in return for which we'll have groceries until Lil's first tax pay, to try to find time to borrow some money to meet overdue obligations, for 'in to tell me what happened in Nashville that he'd prefer not to on the phone, and for me to work on our suit, seeking a couple of expert witnesses I suspect are now retired from the U of Md. Mixed bag, no joy. But maybe a bright sun, soon to rise, will bring a bit of that.

We are also taking a friend of Lil's who is (with abundant reason) off men in her terminal illness. She is a German refugee who was genuinely devoted to her authoritarian husband who completely dominated her. He died suddenly, leaving her unable to cope with anything, not even knowing what they had, even intestate. Lil straightened her affairs out as best was possible and they've been friends. Real tragedy on three continents. They made their way first to Bolivia, where they prospered. Their children would not leave when the husband opted the U.S.

Lil was fascinated by your references to Chinese cookery, the one thing she has never tackled. She is tops in everything she had ever done at the stove. Recently she has returned to making bread, which we had not been eating, and my waistline suffers for it. Great stuff, never twice the same.

The economy of Chinese food is an added attraction. We are familiar with dried mushrooms. Mrs. Fulton Lewis, a customer, used to give them to me. She got enormous ones somewhere, and they were superb. Recently we have not had it, but for years will always had ginger (root) in the refrig., kept the South American way (perhaps others', too) in I think sherry. These thing are not found in the country. We also are partisan to Zucchini

After dark: At this point, about 7 a.m., I got a call from Jim Schmitt, in Portland. You may remember him as one of Hal's original group. It lasted an hour and I had to flee to get to DC and because the friend was waiting. Zucchini: we used to raise them, pick them with traces of the blossom left, and Lil had some special recipe. She boiled them. I think this was they are also more prolific. Certainly more delicate in flavor. I like them every way-even foot-and-a-half long then sliced and fried, casserole, etc.

We had just gotten home when Joel Volz of the Star called and then he got interrupted. He is to phone back. Kraslow is an assistant mg. ed. there, my letter was forwarded and he gave it to Volz, who lingers with CIA-involvement interest.

Schmitt, I think, was drunk. Among the things he said is that he is certain two other members of the group are/were finks, Bruce Lewis for the FBI-and he said Bruce could have or almost busted him- and Stan Priner, CIA. I have no way of making an independent judgement, but there was something strange about Priner when he dropped off on returning from Brazil with his chichi Brazilian wife, overstylized to my taste. Haven't heard from him since.

I asked Schmitt to try to find time to do a rundown on African-American. Doubt he will, but if he wants to do something, that should not be ignored.

He is devoted to Koch, but also seems to have heard nothing in months.

This was a good day in the sense that I had no trouble borrowing enough to carry us over the impending financial crisis. Now I need worry only about how to repay it. But the crisis is past, and it had troubled. Included stern warnings from the utilities, even. And the friend we befriended got Lil ten bottles of rather better than average German wines! He got need only settle down enough so she can enjoy. There is more from and about Bud, of which you will learn in time.

Fingers crossed: Volz coming in morning, from his home. Best,