

7/18/68

Dear Vince,

It is my reformation which gives me these few moments before dinner, my concern that impels me to spend them this way, and my optimism that leads me to believe a letter without your new address will reach you.

My reformation is a partly-new way of life. Having exhausted myself thousands of times without exhaustion and having determined I will see this through, whatever it takes, I have also decided to ease the burden on the yagle sitting on my left shoulder and get in better shape. Having been accustomed to an active life, the past four years without natural exercise have fattened and softened me. I missed the use of muscle. In a man I think this is a prerequisite for optimum use of the brain. So, I'm getting exercise throughout the day, if only for five or ten minutes at a time, swimming three-four times, before each meal and before bed, suited only when we have company, we have that much privacy. Going to New Orleans with \$115.00 took last 15 days (~~xxxx~~ scheduled 18) also helped. I dropped 10 pounds, ate only four real meals in all that time, and thrived on it! Some day I must tell you the story of this trip. It is unbottled Bond! Complete to sportscar! And I feel better for it. Now I must learn how to sleep longer. I expect to be here to see this through and I think I owe a little cooperation!

My concern is for Gary. I have written him twice in the past week and have had no response. It is not just that he is one of us, nor only that I like him so much personally. Much more, it is because in addition to all the other many things he is so uniquely wonderful a young man. I'm very fond of him. Even if you have no news, please tell me that. I am apprehensive because I also think he would have had someone drop me a note were he well enough to think of it. With all that beating around the head, there is more than the eye to think of.

Your address? I know you have a new one because when my phone book was stolen from me in New Orleans about two months ago I had to call information and she said you have no Delandey Place address. However, I have every confidence that carefully as our postal interests are safeguarded, there will be some clerk who will know where you are.

My offer of our place for Gary's convalescence is motivated by what I think will be his best opportunity to relax. While there is always work here, there is always privacy. We have five wooded acres, a pond, a swimming pool, a veritable Walden, and he can be outside or inside and be as alone as he wants. His parents may feel otherwise, and they may be right. He will be more than welcome here and I will meet him at any air port, train station or bus terminal. Hal Verb is under invitation. I had expected to hear from him this week and ~~has~~ haven't. He is in New Jersey. If they both come, Gary can have the spare bed and Hal can use the couch. They will like each other, and I think meeting one of the fine west-coast workers will stimulate Gary. I don't know about the girl situation, but I suspect that is good, for there is a small girls college less than four miles away....We got everything for him!

If he goes to Phila first and wants to come here, why do not you two bring him here and figure on making a weekend of it? We have a studio couch that opens up and a couch. We never have a chance for real palaver. There is much I'd like to show you. Bring your swimsuits! Best to you all, and please let me hear (I just cannot afford the phone). Sincerely,