

1/15/70

Dear Cindy,

Your breezy, gingerine-lemon letter of the 11th came today. You've got it made! Paris! Wow! Great! The few French friends I've had are fine people, but the businessmen-watch 'em! But continue school. Don't drop it. I presume you can in Paris.

We've had real winter since you left. First snow, 12-15 inches and three since. Like olden days. Didn't get car out for 8 days. Cold, too. But I've got the lane dug out, been feeding the birds so heavilt we have more than ever, etc. My last feed purchase was 50 lbs, yesterday. Even the pheasants have been coming close. Quail roosted on roof night of first snow!

Next time your home, same invitation. If you take the bus, I'll meet it, or if you pick a day I'm in DC, I'll bring you back, if you would like to stay and read some of the unprinted books.

Several days ago there was a story in the papers the details of which I've forgotten. About a man with your name, I think once connected with the Kennedys and I think now in NY. Your name is no more usual than mine.

Why not have a thing about time? You are not a vegetable. It is precious, must be used except by those who drift, and the older you get the more frozen it gets. Do what you can, go where you can, see what you can, while you can without complications in your life. The more you see of the world now, the better you'll be for it, and it is fun, isn't it? I envy you. Only don't let time worry you. You have so much of it, so much more than at your age one realizes.

San Francisco is one of a kind. I've always been too bust when there to really enjoy it, but it is a great town, with a fine spirit and tolerant to a fault. But the pop places I think you'd not like.

You are you, which should not trouble you at all, and your values must be your own, as must your life style be. Remember Polonius' advice. "Old fashioned" has become an ambiguity. If you mean honor, integrity, not doing what you think not right, there is nothing old fashioned about that. Why should you feel at all depressed about it (you say you try not to feel too depressed, etc.) Or do I not understand? BUT, you say you are not "willing to change". THAT is old fashioned, in the bad sense. As you should not feel compelled to change to conform with what has no attractiveness to you, you should also be anxious to change if and when you decide it is right, and you should always be alert to changes you perhaps should make. Compromise with principle? No. Do what you think wrong? No. Growth is change. Learning and understanding is change. Do lock yourself inside preconceptions. Let your mind expand, and as it stretches, there may be some changes. At least consider them. Do not be inflexible. A refusal to change under any circumstances is blindness, inflexibility, illogical. When you think there should be changes, make them. But do not for no good reason, just to conform.

In many areas your beliefs are bound to change. They should, because life is not static and there is no perfection. Don't be afraid-and don't force yourself. It all comes naturally, like hair and second teeth, and there is nothing to fear in change. What's to fear is being bound to the past.

Like your "wild" stationary. We do not love too much color in our lives, and in my own case I've been too busy to really enjoy it or to be aware of it as I should, until we moved here.

If I detect an inchoate fear, do not be afraid. There is nothing to fear but being afraid. And you have nothing to be afraid of, not a thing.

Excuse haste. Have a wonderful time, in London, in Paris, wherever you are. But keep school going and up.

Best,

January 11, 1970  
Sunday  
London

Dear Hal,

I was ever so sorry that I couldn't speak longer with you on the telephone but my Mother was getting quite upset and it was straining me. Anyway I did enjoy it alot. You're right we didn't get to talk very much at your house but even so I got so much out of listening. Next time I'm in the States I'd really just love to come and visit you all again.

I came back to find I have much more work to catch up with than I had realized. Also I shall probably be moving to Paris in March. My French roommate's mother bought her a flat near the ~~the~~ Arc de Triumph so there would be no rent to pay. It's just too good

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on opportunity to pass up I guess. And I would dig speaking French fluently and seeing all the art treasures of the Louvre.

It's a big step though but...

I have a real thing about time. It's a kind of pressing drive that kind of frightens me at times. You know what I mean? Time should be wisely spent.

San Francisco is such a tempting place to live too.

I feel very alone at times being so far from my brother and my mother - separation being the only hurting thing about ~~a~~ very close relationships, family-wise. I don't know, but being home has put so many different things in varying perspectives. I guess I've been helped along in accepting that I'm me and if my values or way of living seem a bit old fashioned okay try not to be

③ depressed about it or about not being willing to change. So many people try to act as if they are having a ball but many times seem to be trying to convince themselves.

This may not all have relevance to you but it's particularly strong on my mind tonight.

I shall be in a mad rush to try and see as many plays as I can in the time remaining. (They have so many good ones in London) I saw Hadrian the VIII last night and it was excellent.

So I hope this letter will find you in good spirits. Hello to your wife! And take care of yourself

Love

Cindy

Pretty wild  
stationary huh?