

March 26, 2000

Dear Harold + Fil;

What can I say?  
We are all doing the best  
we can - I guess that's  
about it -

I still hope to get back  
there some day and see you.

Best always  
Paul

4/1/00

Dear Paul,

Your thoughtful note of the 26th begins, "What can I say?" I can begin differently, first with thanks for your generosity and then for what is the truth, that we are doing the best we can, *as you said.*

What has happened to Lil is a particular burden for me because I am able to do nothing about it and the professionals we see have failed to.

That may, of course, be that nothing can be done.

It is remarkable that she is still alive, although she moves with difficulty and very slowly. She had four major operations within six weeks when she was 86 and two of them were caused by hospital carelessness. They let her fall and that gave her a second broken hip. And then in the fall she hit her head and that put blood clots on the brain. They were removed successfully but they left a great change. She is a different person and as of now there is little that interests her and friends and I have tried everything we can think of.

But the good side of all this suffering is that a week from today I'll be 87 and ten days after that Lil will be 88. We are still here, still together after more than 60 years and there is still perhaps a basis for some hope for both of us. This dialysis three times a week drains me, leaves me able to do little the rest of that day, but it appears to be keeping me alive and with enormously less <sup>energy</sup> ~~time~~ to use for work, still able to work, albeit with ever so much less time for work.

But what there is, what remains, is a blessing, as is the kindness and thoughtfulness of cherished friends.

The medical expenses are so great they would not have been believed possible when I was young, with almost limitless fraud in many of them. In my experience they are <sup>in</sup>par, commonplace. I've caught two at it and I'm seeking to find someone in an official role who gives a damn. So far, nobody!

Medicare, so far, is paying for the dialysis, which comes to more than \$20000 a month. The ripoff at the nursing home, where I did not have to be ~~sent~~ at all and which would not discharge me, so I discharged myself, began with \$8,500 a month for both of us, and much of that Medicare and insurance paid for. But it was a fraud and I'm hoping to get some interest in that. What we have to pay for remains much, so your generosity is much appreciated. We are fortunate to have a fine woman who is with Lil when I'm in dialysis and who treats Lil as though she were Lil's daughter. A real blessing! So, in spite of all, there remains much for which to be grateful. Including you, dear friend. Best,

*Heidi*