

10/24/70

Dear Harris,

Today I received no mail at all, which is exceptional, truly unusual.

Nor was my mail left at the post office by mistake, for I've checked there.

This means that although we should have, from the time you said you were sending it, have gotten the second batch of proofs (on which we'd have worked over the weekend), we havn't.

From the time our mail usually is delivered to now I've made about a dozen trips to the mailbox, each of about 1,000 feet. While Lil is working in town temporarily in the morning, weekdays I pick the mail up at the post office, but not Saturdays.

This leads me to suggest that when you send more proofs that you want to reach us promptly, beginning with what you may send Wednesday afternoons through Friday mornings you send certified. Certified mail requires a signed receipt, whether or not you ask for one (and you needn't). In turn, this means that the postman has to come to my home when he delivers it. Should you send any after noon on Friday, I think there is so little chance it would reach here the one mail we have on Saturdays it is not worth this extra trouble. I am aware that it means trouble, but you ~~are~~ are now aware of the alternative.

Perhaps meaningless and perhaps not the kind of strange coincidence I believe it is, on Monday afternoon I found a set of keys at a point where my car invariably is when I am home. I was away longer than usual in picking Lil up and had made the arrangements by phone. I've checked with everyone who was here for the preceeding two days and none lost any keys. I then consulted a friend who is a locksmith, to check out my hunch. It proved to be correct. These five keys are not quite what I thought, all keys to locking file cabinets. One is to a desk. There are remarkable few people in this area who have or have any need for locking files. And not one of these is one the local locksmith can recognize as that of a customer. Whether or no fact, the inference is pretty obvious: someone who has locking files was here when I was not and had occasion to do what caused them to fall from wherever he keeps them. I doubt such a person would have come if he did not know I'd not be here.

I hope this doesn't delay the indexing and the return of corrected proofs. But I think we should do what little we may be able to in an effort to avoid repetition.

Hurriedly,