

Dear Jim,

4/28/80

Early this morning, before leaving for a dental appointment in Washington, I addressed an envelope and was about to write when I suddenly remembered some forgotten pressing work, which I then did get done. When I returned after midday and found your good letter of the 22d I was glad I'd not written earlier.

What I'd intended to report is that my neighbors are quite pleased with the results of your paper-into-logs memo. Russell finds it is also good for his arthritic hands. Paul reports that if the fire in the fireplace insert is low and you don't roll too thick a log, although normal size is greater than the diagonal, he can squeeze a less tightly and thinner roll in by pushing the hell out of the middle with the poker. The length is just right for Russell's free-standing stove.

The enclosure on the car-insurance situation is very helpful. I'd feared that. We'll take it to the Maio's tomorrow night, when Danny is supposed to be there and can convey nuances that Lil might not. (She understands Mike much better than I.)

Although Second Son, Jackson, put it in different words his opinion Xmas time was that in a year of two Johnny would put his head together. I hope the girl is not also a Moonie, because if she remains with them it will deter Johnny's separation.

We appreciate your efforts with the police, as I'm sure the Maio's will. They must have enormous problems with so many lost and mobile youth.

Lil's eye situation appears to be giving no trouble and perhaps is stable, if not entirely eliminated because it is an allergic reaction. Did I tell you that she washes it with baby shampoo as part of the treatment?

While the nights get pretty cold, not at all exceptionally cold for our winters, so this one continues gentle. Although what are usually the four roughest weeks lie immediately ahead I believe I now have enough wood at the house to carry us through without a fuel oil delivery, unless in my absences on cold days we use that much.

Now hasn't been bad and I've had no trouble keeping the lane clear. Even the shovelling of the slush was not too much. If I can get to the snow before it is driven on or begins to thaw I can clear it all in not much over a half hour with the snow blower, so we are in better shape.

I've been busy with affidavits, got that over with and then felt that I could make a real dent in the accumulation, only to find that the DJ and FBI have given me another large chore. I dislike the waste of time but like the end product, as does our friend Dave. I'll be clobbering them again but I'm delaying that to the a.m., for a fresh start.

Dave phoned night before last. They are all okay.

Many thanks and out best wishes,

22 January 1980

Dear Harold:

Only this morning was I able to get anything from the Berkeley police about the Moonies there, and in the meantime yours of the 16th arrived yesterday saying that Maio had switched signals. I had to work all day at Hospice of Marin, and only now am getting around to telling you what little I learned from the police.


Before I get into that, let me say that it's my distinct impression that it's illegal to operate a car in California without a certain amount of liability insurance. This is only a general impression, however, and I hope to reach someone tomorrow who can supply some specifics. I'll let you know.

The officer I was trying to reach in Berkeley has been ill, and I got through to him only a couple of days ago. He said the Moonies seem to be less aggressive about their sales and evangelistic efforts, but otherwise operate as usual. He confirmed my impression that since young Maio presumably has no police record they are not in a position to do anything about him. He suggested I call a police inspector who has more direct knowledge of the Moonies, but cautioned that the inspector is tied up in testimony at an important local trial and if reachable at all this would be only very early in the morning. Accordingly I reached the inspector at 7:30 this morning, and while courteous he basically told me no more than the other officer had, although there was no difference in their versions. He did say that there is a counselling service available which offers to help reunite families disrupted by cults such as the Moonies and which disavows any approval of the kidnaping techniques often used by such agencies that go in for "debriefing" converts and returning them to their families. I have the name and address of this outfit but naturally assume the Maio would regard it as a last resort, if that. This counselling service is not in Berkeley, but in Burlingame, near the airport.

It seems to me that for the time being, at least, the Maio are wise to calm down and try to let things work themselves out. Especially if the young man now has a girl who is newly arrived in this country. I feel that Chinese common sense is the remedy here if it can be mobilized, and that the Maio are giving it a chance to assert itself. But I agree with you that the car situation doesn't look good, and will let you know what I find out about the legal situation as soon as possible. Thus far I haven't been able to inquire during office hours, but should be able to tomorrow. (We're in the process of moving offices at Hospice, and the confusion is about what you'd expect.)(Phones disrupted, etc.)

Here's hoping Lil's eye problem clears up and that the winter continues to treat you both gently.

More later, and all the best,


jdw