

Dear Js,

12/22/76

If at the season to be jolly I am not jolly I nonetheless look back and feel that there are those, like you and us, we have much for which to be thankful after what the year has held for us.

If I have not been able to complete the book I began early in the year I can still look back over top of the mistakes and see a year of considerable accomplishment, much more than I would have anticipated if when I was hospitalized I had even thought of agonizing over the future. The thought never once occurred to me.

As has the mistress of the clock, I have been adapting, as best I can. This is what permits the few minutes at the beginning of a day whose scheduled is altered by adaptation to what I feel. I've been feeling fine and still do. Yesterday, which just happens to have been the coldest before today, one of my feet started to feel swollen. So I went to bed when it persisted and read until 22 11 and then slept until 6, which given me a good night of sleep and the longest for a while.

In a few minutes I'll awaken 11 and then bicycle my way through most of the a.m. TV news, a boredom that in a degree relieves that of cycling in place. My capabilities have increased much more than I use them. Yesterday it was 13 miles at about 15 mph, which I think is not bad.

This is not adapting as much as coping in which Jennifer set an example for all to follow.

11 had decided not to have a tree this year. She said she is too tired. I believe it is more depression. So yesterday I got her one, a small one I'll plant once the ground thaws. They a turkey larger than 22 lbs, which she'll enjoy preparing for the Nias, who are closed 11mas and are having dinner with us. She has it decorated already.

More bad news last night did not interfere with sleep. Temporarily it is confidential. Readers Digest and those it represents have given Ed Epstein a \$500,000 advance on a book to say that the KGB offered JFK. He has a full staff on it, including the John Barron who did the book KGB for the CIA. One of the names in which Epstein seems to be interested seems familiar but I cannot place it, Eugene Hobbs.

Were it not for the years of theiveries and assorted crookednesses I supposed I'd be depressed by the newest of them but I know they will not end, I do what at the moment I think I should about them and continue with other work. What I like least is all I have to do instead of what I want to do. But I've set about a sort of program of increasing efficiency and I will follow it through. Little by little I am getting the office reorganized and under control.

I might have been able to get to seeking out what I need for the resumption of writing on The King Conspiracies today if yesterday the new Washington rep of Harper's Weekly had not asked about seeing me. Perhaps his interests and mine can coincide. Brock Brower or Brauer, once of NYTimes. Sounds familiar.

A 3cl mailing did go out yesterday.

Hope you have had a good holiday by the time this reaches you, that it is a good season, and that the years ahead are of the same magnificent spirit you have both lived by and with this year.

best