

11/23/76

Dear Elaine and family,

Jim and I talked about how we'd like to send you a token of our appreciation of your warmth, kindness and help while we were flying home.

(Last night, by a fluke, I spoke to Howard during time-out for a commercial when we were both broadcasting to Schenectady, N.Y. by phone. He got air-sick on the way home from a combination of so much travel in so short a time and so little ~~sleep~~ sleep. But he is fine now.)

May and Jim agreed that the kind of crockpot or slow cooker Lil finds so useful might add flexibility in your practise of those talents that put weight on me. So I've tried to get exactly the same one. It may not be, although it looks like it. I also wanted to give you flexibility in the event you have one or would prefer something else. Having seen a K-mart ad in your local paper and having gotten Lil's there I tried to get them to sell me a certificate so you could use it at your local store and to assure against damage in shipment. Big as they are they do not do this. So I'm sending the pot separately. I got it yesterday. It will take longer than the letter.

It is the only model like it in the local store. While the rating is 5 quarts, it actually handles 6, I'm told. I suggest you check your store, where I'm told you can exchange it. This is why I've not taken the price tag off and am sending you the receipt. We have not opened the package to keep it more secure in transit. But Lil's pot has one more setting on the control. If K-mart has one with more flexibility we'd like you to have that and to pay the difference, if any, because we want it to be all our gift, so we can know that when it warms you on cold days we are doing to you what you did to us.

One of the advantages of this model is low current consumption because the heating units are imbedded in the walls.

Lil makes fantastic soups in it by just letting it cook. It takes about as much current as a lighting fixture. It can be used for many other foods. Yesterday I loved the soy beans that had been working away for a day or more.

We hope you enjoy it or whatever you may exchange it for.  
I'm insuring it in the event of damage.

We stay too busy tiffing with the titans. Last Thursday we won an order compelling the CIA to respond to interrogatories. Over the weekend we clobbered Sprague and the House committee all over again when they still again and despite Wednesday's repeated assurances issued a subpoena in violation of Ray's most basic legal rights. Sprague phoned Jim last evening to apologize for what he called a staff error, subpoenaing the files of the "emphis public defender [sic].

Lil said "He's sick. He got your letter" when we saw Sprague on TV after noon yesterday. He did not look as he usually does. The alternative is that we were overheard when Jim and I discussed his seeking an injunction and a temporary restraining order - by phone. He spent the day on preparing yesterday.

Keeps us from doing other things but if we must have these fights it is good to win them, at least temporarily.

An extra hug to those wonderful kids and to you all

our best,