

12/23/71 Dear both, SHE was pleased with your joint note of thanks. SHE is engrossed in an annual project, trimming a tree. I've done my part by getting it, shirked a mite this year in deference to the accumulating years. We get a long-needed pine and plant it after the holiday. I've got the hole dug. This one, with the ball of earth, weighs only about 100 lbs, and that I can still handle. It is only about 5' including said ball. We've always gotten them at least 7' without ball, which require a bigger (read HEAVIER) ball. SHE enjoys the tree as she does its preparation, and I find it pleasant, too, aside from the moving.

I'm glad you like the blanket. After Lil was too far into it, we both, independently, decided the arrangement of colors was wrong, but it was then too late. Lil may not tell you (she doesn't usually say much), but she considered outlining some of the pattern in another color to make it stand out more. If you'd like, I'm sure she'd be glad to. I'm not telling her I'm telling you this, because that would be like condemning women's lib in the Steinem hutch. But let me know if you'd like.

The time of the year when she can less knitting is close at hand. I've finally persuaded her to make something for herself, so she's knitting a skirt. And for when we are driving, like going to DC day before and Balt. yesterday, she has started a wool hat for one of our long-haired young friends, who don't really need it with their natural wool. I like two she made for me when I was galivantin so much I asked her to do this, in part because it is something and in part because it is so portable. Not easy to work 4-5 different balls of yarn in a small (Valiant) car or to carry around in DC while she's waiting. As she does.

Dare say if you'd like another blanket, say with the peace symbol, she'd be willing. Or do they grow too fast for that? She's learned from this one, apparently because it involved several experiments.

Jim, thanks for the daring assertion of man's yearning for equality!

Nothing new save that getting a lawyer, and I think a good one - fine firm - will permit me a bit more time for writing. I want to finish up with PM, not because I anticipate finding an angel but to get it done and get onto other work. Plan: complete Agent Oswald then back to Tiger To Ride... interesting that after all these years, the Viet Namiks are suddenly interested in political assassinations. My meeting with Rashin and Stavis was interesting. They'll be here soon. Mark is a bit familiar with the contents of PM. He is a lawyer, and I showed him some of the new documents long ago. Blew his mind. Said he'd never seen anything like. Now if they can turn someone on, with their own, now-cute financial needs, with the interest of the Eastland Committee in the peacenik institute, that

would be great.

I couldn't tape the NBC shows because my big stereo machine just started recording on the left channel, the only one that is compatible with standard, mono machines, and for some reason the wonderful TC-40 just won't let the red record button depress. After the holidays I'll look up the Sony authorized service in DC with it. But if you have any idea what could cause it, meaning, really, if you can think of anything I might have done inadvertently, I'd like to know. I worked great when I used it on the trip, no problem at all. Since returning, all I've done is listen to a fascinating 3 hrs. of not particularly competent interview with a farout gal who had big lies and ~~fascinating~~ little, truthful nuggets of knowledge. I didn't use the record mode after Dallas. And I'm reluctant to move the old concord 330 that I keep wired to the phone. Hasn't happened in a while, but there is always the chance I'll need it. For example, our new lawyer is glad I started taping the federal attorney once it became apparent that he was dirty-tricking. He phoned instead of writing, thinking thereby to leave no record. I think the transcripts worth reading, and my young friend Jerry will get them. (He has written an expose of the NYTimes and assassinations while holding down an important job daytimes and going to college nights.) I'll also ask another, who will have a college return address. Sorry I couldn't stay awake last night. There seems to be a thing that started with the

pentagon papers, to blame it all on JFK, for whom that then was back-burner, I think, until too late. He let his advisers do pretty much as they recommended until he was boxed in. Now the military will have a convenient and conveniently-dead goat who will have no defenders. If reading these two hours of transcripts does not interest you, let me know and I won't send. Or, I think if you wrote NBC or perhaps even phoned the local station, using AP, they'd send you a copy.

There is a CBS "special" on surveillance tonight. When I'm in town this p.m., I'll see if the VOM factory has returned that ~~xxx~~ machine. If so, I'll tape it.

Hope you have a good holiday and that the Mas like the blanket.

Best,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'JFK', written over the typed word 'Best,'.