

SEP
7 Aug 71

Dear HW:

We're still on the early (graveyard) shift and have no idea when it will end - on each week's schedule another week is added. This time around on this shift instead of gradually coming to terms with it, not that we were ever very successful at that, we're more disoriented now than a month ago when it started. (Senility?) Many problems and pressures we can do nothing about, which there's no point in going in to, but as an example: trying to sleep in a bedroom where the temperature today, with two fans going, was 90°, and where we have to contend with light, too, since we have to have the blinds up to get the cool air when it does come. Can't sleep, can't eat. The ulcer is not pleased.

During our second week on the early there was the "attempted escape" of George Jackson. Something very ugly happened at San Quentin. It kept us running, taping, clipping; missed a lot of sleep. Stories from both sides have to be considered with great caution since both have gone overboard, those from Q more than the other. For about a week Q had a different version every day, some only slightly less unbelievable than the others, almost all an affront to simple logic. Do you want or need any of this?

So this isn't going to be much of a letter, but I do want to write about the baby blanket. In your note of 8/28 you say suggesting "this" (the original thought of the afghan?) was your idea. An already-made afghan and a to-be-made blanket are two such different propositions that if Lil feels in the slightest she'd rather not (nothing in your letter to suggest this, quite the contrary; I'm just going by how I might feel) - anyway, it wouldn't hurt our feelings in the least, and the Mattoses of course know nothing about it. Don't even feel any reason has to be given. In case she does want to do it, though, and might enjoy the challenge of a simple Chinese character, we're working out the design (Chinese version of Jennifer's surname in stylized form, as it appears on her personal seal) and I'll hold this until I can include it. But her parents, and we too, would be very happy with the peace symbol, and after all Lil has worked that out herself. Not knowing the steps involved, we may come up with something impossible to do. We like Lil's choice of colors for Larry's blanket and would trust her judgment, but if we come up with any other ideas, will include them for her consideration.

(I feel I'm not making too much sense, but then I'm nodding over the typewriter.)

You haven't said anything more about the glaucoma, and we're wondering about the prospects for treatment or arresting the process. Please tell us. I'm more concerned about this than the knee, painful as I know that must be. I also wonder how much of a pleasure it can be to knit and crochet.

Have a note here to remind myself to tell you that one of those who went to San Quentin (30 Aug) was Dr. Herbert Reid (phonetic - Reed? Read?), described as "of the Commission of Inquiry into the Black Panthers," and of Harvard Law School. Had never heard of him or the commission, and if you haven't either (which I doubt), this might be of interest.

We're both sorry it took us so long to answer, or even acknowledge all your letters received since the time we went on the early shift. Re-reading them all in one gulp, preparing to answer them, was really overwhelming, knowing this is only a small part of what you do. The lack of response was due only to numbness, mental, emotional and physical.

Our library is no longer picketed, and when we can match their time open with our time awake, will see if we can run down anything on the constable from Barnstable. Haven't forgotten.

LARRY



AUGUST 5, 1971



