

Dear Jim,

12/25/79

By and large we've had a good holiday. We hope you have, too. I intended calling you but didn't want to do that too early. Then the McDonalds came and then Mike and Juli Maio, who've just left.

Ian, who you remember is of a Times of London family, says they got a very bad reaction to their own reporting of serving Blount smoked trout when he appeared for their interview with him, which was of soft questions only.

The weather has turned mild again. We had a wet rather than a white Xmas.

And we are staying overly busy. Deposed two days last week in the King FOIA case and was in court on it a third. Now there is a big press to do the impossible before the 3rd. Lesar is coming in the morning for an affidavit I've not completed.

Mike closed his restaurant for the holiday and took his family to visit an uncle in NYC. Juli saw her first Chinese movie since she left Taiwan. Juli made Lil a beautiful pants suit and Mike brought me a bottle of Kweichow Moutai. (That Kissinger had to change everything. He called it Mao Tai.)

They also brought us their latest trouble with their No. 1 son John. He is very bright. Scholastically was No. 2 in all of Taiwan before coming here. But here he has been empty, without any close friends, if any at all. He did well through two years of college and then dropped out, shifting around and giving up good things, I think from his loneliness and perhaps emotional immaturity.

He had a good job near Washington, one that would have had him completing college at their cost if he made out well for a full year. He suddenly upped and the next they knew he was in Berkeley, a Moonie. He says he is happy. They are not but hope that he is.

One of Mike's worries is suppose something happens to him way out there. Nobody will know who his family are or where they are. Or what to do with the body if he dies or has a fatal accident. You probably understand better than I how deeply this troubles Mike. I perceive that it is very much. So I suggested that he let the Berkeley police know how to reach them in an emergency. He says it would be terrible if Johnny were to know this because he feels he is on his own, etc. I suggested that we could write a confidential letter or ask you, if you have time, to speak to them, perhaps one you know if there is such from your reporting days. If you can't or would prefer not to, when you have time please let me know who I should write where and I will. Lil will be enclosing the home and ~~off~~ business addresses and phones.

It is all tragic. John is alienated from them all, including his brothers. He has changed his name from John to Kevin Maio. And how can the brothers or parents begin to understand it? My suggestion, by the way, if you have any advice, was that they not indicate any alienation from him, not criticize the Unification racket, and give him to understand that if he is happy that is what they want. That they still love him and not to pressure him in any way. In the hope that if he bounces he'll bounce back to them.

Burdette Eagon, Dean of the Wisconsin Learning Resources Center, visited us a week ago Saturday. Pleasant visit. He seemed impressed with what he saw. ...Have not heard from Dave for a while. Copy on the biblio is all in last I heard. ... We've been able to keep warm enough without the oil furnace and it has been good for me but I'm still far from adept at splitting wood and I can't stay at it for too long. ... I pulled a plug on the House Assassins and their Blakey by giving Lardner DJ records which state explicitly that in insisting that John Ray be charged with perjury when there was no perjury and even more, in their telling DJ that the whole thing was to pressure Jimmy (how little they know Jimmy!) there was clear abuse of process. I hope the Post put the story on its wire. (When the Post had the thing exclusively they held the story to reduce the work of getting out the day before Xmas edition so no chance of picking up a DC reaction. Can you imagine how stupid that Blakey is to



spell such a thing out? He really did that!

Jay Mathews has been having a China series in the Post. Lil has been saving them for you. Probably send them soon. ...I've not been reading the papers lately. Lil does and clips what she thinks will interest me. Until I got too busy with court stuff when the weather permitted I spent what time I could in outside work, which is best medicine. I long to get back to it, too. I did read and am sending to Dave when Lil finishes reading them a Sally Quinn three-part dissection of Zbig. I also read and sent the serialization of Brethren, which I regard as an important work.

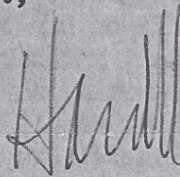
But otherwise most of my reading is of FBI records. Of that enormous mass I've gone through the entire Commission and JFK assassination files and am well into the largest, styled inappropriately Oswald. Fortunately they are all Hoover cloned in the FBI so much valuable info on the organization itself slipped through. They are blind as all true believers and appear not to have recognized that other interpretations than theirs are possible. ...One of those to whom I'd given a copy of the greatest red-hunter of them all's "Find out who Sartre is" returned a framed copy that I hung on a wall today. He and others have been passing them around. Maybe one will make a column item yet.

Hal Verb's groupie Kaffke was an FBI informant. I sent the stuff to Hoch, who has been silent about it. Harv Morgan also has not responded to my sending him the proof that the guy who tried to bait me on his show first time I did it also was an informant. Thought it might interest him.

Howard's prestigious firm has decided to take some pro bono cases. He is going to try to persuade them to file a damage suit for me, over what the agencies did to me, from records I've given him. It would be quite a switch if Watergater Fielding were to do this. He is a buff. Howard for a first printing of Whitewash on his book shelves. For a while Howard worked under Fielding, who heads their litigation part.

Sorry I've not been able to write more. Hope you are well. That fine work you do should keep you if not happy at least more than content. (Who can be happy over suffering, but maybe over relieving it?)

best,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'H. M. Wall' or similar, written in a cursive style.