

2/8- your mailing with letter and
3 abd cute pix kids with blanket
came before I left on trip. "il
has not see, but she'll enjoy as
I did, the important thing being
not beauty of photograph but joy,
and that is quite visible. I've
just come home from a vivi-vidi
barrelhead stint as my own lawyer
in a suit vs a crooked whole-
saler, with a check that is so
satisfactory I didn't risk lousing
it up for the small percentage
more I could have gotten in court.
I have 2/3 of the probable loss,
and they are paying my court costs.
On a percentage basis, if not in
the sun, that is in Belli's class,
and I don't even have such vests!
In the a.m. the bank will get it as
part of what I was supposed to
have paid them last year but could
not, a declaration of good faith, if
if little more, but they'll take it
that way and they are entitled to
at least that, flat as we will
again be. I may have to go to DC
any one of the next three days,
and when this envelope gets to what
three stamps will bear, I'll send,
so for the moment this is to let
you know your mailing arrived and
I'll read and answer when I can.
Right now I'm weary and within the
hour will have to go for Lil, who
decided to get in the three hours
or so of work possible when we got
back without having to spend time
in court. Now I'll unpack so she
won't have that on getting home,
and maybe we'll both hit the sack

early. I got up early to go over
the rough draft of what I expected
to do in court today, even tho
I had a notion they'd make the
offer I demanded for freidnly
settlemnt, which didn't happen
until about 10 minutes before the
case was to have been called. I
think what really did it was two
things: the fear of the first-
rate lawyer that a non-lawyer
would beat him in court, as I had
at least a 50-50 chance of doing
on the fact, and the unheard of
thing I did, in vigorously ex-
posing every shady pre-trial thing
he did, proper under the adversary
system, but morally and ethically
corrupt. By this time they were
all afraid of what I might do in
court. And for what little and
meaningless satisfaction it is,
this one crooked bastard has
spent much more in trying to
cheat me than total honesty could
have cost. I'd like to have the
lawyer's bill he'll be paying,
just to spend on the house or on
"il... So you can undertand the
inner warmth that survives the 20-
degree daytime temperature and
the fatigue, they anted up three
times their last, rejected offer.

And the strangest thing is that their lawyer is now my friend and, after a stern lecture I gave him a year ago on the responsibilities of well-fixed lawyers in today's world, he has taken a very unpopular case, of poor blacks against the whole establishment, including Volpe, to save their homes from the spur of an expressway. I gave him a source of help and support among those earlier fighting the same fight, including a friend who has done this kind of thing gratis, and a slogan he loves, ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ "White Man's Road Through the Black Man's Homes." He just flipped. We need good lawyers to take good cases, and I've got this guy sold on how profitable certain ecology cases can be.

Good, tiring but wearing trip.

Thanks and best. HW