

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  
settlement, 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 understand 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