

JAN 28 1972

1/23/72 Dear Je, I've finished editing the add to the conclusions of PM and before going to bed want to test an experiment, using an old ribbon from Lil's portable in this Hermes. So far it seems to be working okay. I do not want to have to bother with the ribbon tomorrow because I am not supposed to get my left hand wet. (Today I removed the covering, which had been more a reminder than anything else. There were two "butterfly" bandaid strips under it, a wasp-waisted kind designed to give air access to the wound. It is clean and not much trouble, but I note what I had been told to guard against, a separation. It is slight, and I've drawn it together more with new adhesive and two splints to keep it from bending at all.) But I sure don't want to be without this machine for a whole day. So, you are the guinea pig. I find that with the cover on the ribbon tends to bunch up in the carrier, but not with it off. If necessary, to get free ribbons, those no longer good enough for the work Lil does, I can leave the cover off!. SHE took a long, hot soak this afternoon. When she came out she put on one of the Chinese outfits. She is getting to like them more and apparently feels more comfortable and relaxed in them. This made me think that I have never seen her wear the taped pants. Although I know she likes the old-fashioned kind better, I asked her why. The unflattering answer is that she has never worn them because they are too small, in the waist and in the leg. They are new. If it is not too much trouble--and PLEASE, no special trip* would you ask Lili is she can exchange them for whatever size you just got. Subject, of course, to HER inspection and satisfaction that they have never been worn and assuming that they are not out of style, a matter of which I know nothing. Lil would not say anything about this, hence I have just learned. It is not a question of need, because she now has two that fit perfectly. Of course, I don't know how well that material holds up. Can't judge that from work trousers, my normal attire. And really, please, no trouble for you at all. What surprises me is that Lil didn't give them to someone. I suppose she keeps thinking she'll lose that weight. (I put about 10 pounds on after coming back from the trip, being denied my normal exercise by the company and the injury. And I keep telling myself I, too, must find a way of knocking it off. Yet I enjoy food so!)...The Post had a long piece on the Hughes affair today. I didn't clip it, not knowing whether such foibles interest you. CBS had a "60 Minutes" show that we looked at while supping. I was surprised at the attention to it (the woman, as you probably will see on the wire, seems to be the wife of a diplomat in Mexico and a Hughes love) but not nearly as surprised as a good treatment of the problem of speedup at the Chevy Vega plant--they have only one, a real bottleneck-- and what may be worker retaliation and may in part be the human bug in the mechanical monster, the assembly line. There was a sequence with a worker giving one of the more lucid descriptions

of what it is like to work so mechanically. He asked how would you feel if you did nothing for an hour but pick an ashtray up, hold it, and 30 seconds later put it down. I was surprised, as I've noted before, at what for TV is daring. This entire 20 minute segment will knock the hell out of Vega sales. There were too many workers saying they don't have enough time to put the cars together well of safely, a shot of an enormous parking lot filled with rejects, and then workers saying that even rejects are okayed and sold. Morley Safer, the reporter, asked the GM manager if they were his stockpile of lemons! It seems that the whole thing started with a consolidation in which 8000 men were laid off but the line went at the same pace. You understand I'm not trying to sell you a TV, just trying to indicate a bit of what is getting on it. I don't remember a major advertiser getting so rough a going over, ever. And there was some sabotage. Imagine the workers and the union leaders saying this is no more than normal! Not denying it, but saying that sabotage on the assembly line is today normal. This was aired in about four, maybe more, sequences. Protest against the line, I suppose, and a way of making it cost the chiselling company, which now admits its costs have by now exceeded its "saving"-and they have losses, not the least of which is that enormous park of rejects to be repaired...Then Pierre Renfret, an economist who has been an adviser to Nixon, took after him with strong berval cudgels. saying his economic policies are doomed to failure. But he said there is no longer any major difference between the parties. On TV yet. All minor, but all better than it has been. For these parts, where there is no (yet)Pacifica, big doins for us...Bob Kutner is supposed to come here, I think this week, to tape an interview on the Lattimer thing...I now have to write an epilogue on that and it isn't over. I have some tapes to dub and transcribe, too. Combination of push and pull on one, ask and lean. The second mostly listen and point. Good stuff, forgetting my proslytizing efforts. And how good it was when I was asked, in chiding, I asked you what to do to prepare myself, to be able to say I told you, read my file, and you didn't do it...Domething was wrong with my reel-to-reel and I got varying speeds. It may have been a cheap, rewind tape. But I'll be playing if you'd like to listen to dubs. One cassette will hold all I now have except for Lattimer on Long John, and I can provide a transcript of that if it interests you. A friend who also has xeroxing facilities did it. Well, I guess I can make out tomorrow. Jim and I also seem to have analyzed the Lattimerthing correctly, although I didn't until about two hours had passed. That makes me wonder if they'll be prompted to do more or let it lay, having accomplished, I think, their major purpose(s). I may have killed what I know sas to have been next, Graham getting to see them, with the dodge of using a pathologist, with letters to a judge, the Archivist and the appeals guy at GSA. I think if they do do it I'll sue in civil court. I think I can now, but no \$\$\$ or help. Best to both,

JW