

13 October 1972

Dear Harold:

This is an interim note to go with the enclosed and to let you know we're still around. I shall make no attempt to answer your 12, 13, H, I, and I-2 which are all in hand but which will be attended to later.

We're now approaching the end of the second week of our three weeks off, during which we had set for ourselves two objectives -- get all the sleep we needed for a change and work without the usual sense of pressure, and try to catch up with neglected clipping and filing chores.

The first has been quite well attained, and we feel more rested and unpushed than for a couple of years, at least. We've been only partly successful with the second objective -- the clipping and filing. However much has been accomplished, and if we cannot yet report sighting the light at the end of the tunnel, at least we can say we feel confident that it is a tunnel and not a bottomless pit.

The STM clipping and filing service, basically, is practicable if everything goes right. Nothing does, of course. She works in crowded quarters with inferior equipment, or at least inadequate, and her problems are multiplied many times by the simple fact that the New York Times arrives a week later than the local papers, and in fits and starts, not one a day as one would expect. Ditto with the NO States-Item, which generally I take care of. In any case, the ITT case represented a ~~deluge~~ deluge on top of the deluge already going on with the Pentagon Papers. Then came the Wallace assassination attempt, and then the Watergate. By the time of the Watergate, with its urgent necessity to keep current and help keep you informed, she was by this time six weeks behind on her general clipping chores. The Watergate business was so demanding that we simply began clipping that stuff out, along with Bremer, in order to keep current, and stacked up papers day by day for general clipping later. By the time our vacation began we had at least eight weeks of post-watergate papers accumulated.

Thus far I've gone through that eight weeks and clipped everything, and the STM has read, evaluated, sorted and filed. She is working on the last few days of clippings now. When she gets that filed, we'll start in on the six weeks of pre-Watergate papers which had accumulated before we converted to emergency basis. We hope to get through it by the time the vacation ends, and if we don't will either throw it away or stick it in the basement to deal with after Jan. 1.

In the meantime, of course, we shall try to keep current with papers as they come in -- two locals, the S-I and the Times, but because of the time lag never can be completely current.

Also in the meantime, the STM has kept the house going while I have done a few things outside connected with getting things ready for the heavy winter rains, which already appear to have begun in a fair way. Still more to be done, some of which I may get to, such as cutting back brush, trimming ivy, and so on. And some chores and errands related to our coming retirement, nothing much, but they take time.

This is of course an insane way to spend a vacation, but it has been most satisfying to both of us. The mere fact that we don't have to keep to someone else's schedule means a great deal, and we have enjoyed so much being able to stop when we feel like it, or keep going, and having to answer to no one.

One of the great pleasures of living here is the view, which is best from the chair where you sat in the living room, from which point no houses are visible except in the far distance, only the long forested valley leading down to an arm of the bay, a peninsula, and beyond that the bay itself and Angel Island, with part of the Bay Bridge off in the right hand corner. It's particularly good during and after a rain, when the mists rise steaming up from the valley floor and set off the various horizons one by one like those in a Chinese painting.

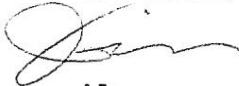
In addition to the letters I mentioned, we also have the Lattimer piece you sent ~~me~~ from Resident and Staff Physician. I'm sure you will want to know it came through okay, and thanks very much.

I finally heard from the Denver Post, which supplied their story on Morgan and threw in the AP account of Wecht's experience. Very poor Xerox copies, but I'll try to copy and enclose with the rest. (Later: They came out better than the Xerox).

Looks like we missed the Stang piece in American Opinion about the Wallace assassination attempt. If you have it and can copy, or send it for us to copy (and return) we'd be very grateful.

A couple of times you have mentioned Bill Costello, and I have been meaning to ask if you know what finally happened to him, whether he's still around etc. He and his wife turned up in Peking before the war and we showed them around some at the time. Later I saw ~~him~~ in Washington during the war, and again in Tokyo in 1948-49 when he was there for CBS. Last I heard of him was when his book on Nixon was published, but nothing since, and never saw the book.

More later,



jdw