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11/25/76

Dear Jim,

Today we learned what I presume is not an old Chinese custom: calling at dinnertime to say you can't make it.

Lil felt pretty good this morning so she decided to call the Miaos to invite them for dinner. She thought this would give Ju-Lee (?) a respite because they are closed Thanksgiving and Xmas. She told me to be ready at five.

With no table in the house that can seat seven she asked me to make two together. I suggested that we wait until after they had been here for a while. Good thing. At just five Mike phoned to say they could not come because they were waiting for the oldest son. I told him we could wait. He who comes from supposed inscrutability said "Thank you very much. We see you for Christmas at your house."

And so the two of us sat down five ~~xxx~~ vegetable dishes and a 17-lb turkey.

The turkey is small for the two of us. When I get them I aim for as close as possible to 25 lbs for the wonders that come out of the freezer later.

Hope your silence comes from a vacation somewhere. While the week in Wisconsin was hard it was a kind of vacation for me because it was different and so were the faces. I feel very good about having almost \$1,000 after expenses to give Lesar for court and xerxing casts. Only problem was a corn. It reduced my walking except going to and from parking lots and buildings.

A corn is a minor thing. But it has been my most uncomfortable physical problem for some weeks now. This is another way of saying I've been feeling pretty good. So go that with today mild for November I was outside with handsaw and machete for a while, trimming dead branches out of some large bull or mountain pines as they are known around here. They smell like yellow pine and are hard. Got them and a sassafras I'm trying to save cleaned up as high as I could reach and dragged the log to where I'll cut it for the fireplace. First time I've used these tools for more than a year and it felt good. My arms need the exercise, too. I'm going to return to this kind of work. With care, of course. If I don't I'll not be comfortable enough outside in cold weather now. I got my digging in water completed before the daily freezes set in.

Lil just told me a warm story. She has an uncle or former uncle, divorced from her mother's youngest sister, who is 82. He's been sickly and frail ever since I've known him, attributed to gassing during World War I. He is in a rest home. He just got married to another resident, a chick of 76. She also lives there. Neither can live elsewhere. It must be love for her to give up her social security, which is all George has except a veteran's pittance.

We have more social life than usual for the rest of the week. A student tomorrow, the McDonald's for Saturday, through dinner, then three students Sunday. Oh, yest, one of the young women students who has formed an attachment for Lil in particular, some time Saturday on her was back to school for over night. I expect the Sunday students to bring 500 500 King pages from the FBI, due to be given to Lesar tomorrow. (I suspect they have something worked out on uses by other than us.)

We won one battle with the CIA and established an unreported precedent. They had refused to answer any interrogatories in my suit for the ex. sess. transcripts on the ground they are not respondents. On the 18th they were given until the 2d. Yesterday the AUSA phoned Jim to say they'll answer some. I want to end this stonewalling. We have not had time to discuss it but I'll recommend to Jim that we accept what they do and go to trial to get this over with. They'll probably resist being witnesses, may offer affidavits for in camera inspection, but between a recent decision and some of theirs of the past that I've obtained I think we may get around that. ...I regret the fights with the new committee were necessary. Bad doings. Lesar has filed a complaint against Lane with the New York bar. Overdue and necessary, too. ...If your Pacifica program or station has had anything to say about the delay in the new Washington one getting on the air I'd be interested. It was to have been several months ago. Hope everything is well with you. Best,