

MAY 13 1976

Dear Js,

5/9/76

While sitting and resting after some gratifying exertion I found myself hoping that Je is getting along as well as I seem to be - as your reports do indicate. But my mind did turn to this while the sweat was easing off, so this brief update.

It is a lovely, mild day, not hot but except during exertion quite comfortable. A good day for exertion for one to whom it is almost strange. With the first bout I was able to mow all that I do mow and can with a riding mower in a little over an hour. On the second, by hand and on the hillside, I was up to 45 minutes and stopped then only because it seemed wise. Pretty good, I think, considering what should be considered.

Lil has the bug these past few days. We have an experiment. I had a fairly good-sized strip of not particularly good but flat land plowed up where the grass was poor. But a truckload of old manure (from a farmer for whom Lil saved \$1,500 he never expected) on it and she is busy planting her vegetable garden. Ketch in the hip of not she stays at it to where I get condemned. Planted 50 or more square feet of rescued - from old place- peonies in two days, she did, too.

We'll now find out if the animals and kids are worse near the pond, where the new garden spot is.

I feel good that I was up to this work. Encouraged, too. I'm not particularly tired and I did get a good walk in after breakfast. With all of it I've corrected 75% of a chapter so the friend who is retyping it has a day when she can give it. I'll finish that today because I'll not push it too far. Plenty of day for the plenty of work.

I've sold off the two old riding mowers. With the proceeds we're taking a trip this coming weekend, to visit my family. The balance will go toward the new roof or the week's plumbing bill, something. It is extravagant when there isn't enough to pay the whole cost of the roof but the roofer has agreed to wait until I can finish paying - he is in a slack period if he didn't finish Thursday as he was supposed to have and it had to be done. I decided, bullhead that I am, that when I need exercise, by god I'll get it. I now have nothing with which to mow the rough land except old pushers. So I'll push. And be better off for it.

From the carbons for you and Howard you'll know that I've given Lesar the entire \$1,000 Lamont, unexpectedly, gave me to use any way I wanted in my work. Jim is not telling me all the expenses. I have not been able to get even a xeroxing estimate for several months. This is my way of assuring that he'll not be absorbing them and can try what will be difficult in the FOIA cases. I think they are very productive. I have high hopes for this King suit. Les Payne thinks it is what is forcing Kelley.

I do not regard it as foolish to give Jim all of it. I'll make out and somehow, when there is xeroxing to be paid for, it will be paid for.

However, the grasshopper is coming out in me. When the roofer announced that keeping our combination of aerials on it was very bad for it I had a mast put up at an end of the carport. The job is not completed because the roofer's men broke the aerials in taking them down. But it is working and we can now get a decent UHF picture, which means that Lil will be able to enjoy the little good drama that is on. You are not close enough to the top of your electronic obstruction for this to help you. We are, facing east only. Meaning Washington and Baltimore. When he is done we'll have a few more comforts. Lil will be able to use an old, small TV in the bedroom and I'll get better FM reception for the music I like.

For me these expenditures, while not extraordinary by the costs of the day, are new and I think a sign of peace of mind as I think the work I could do today is a sign of making out okay with the remains of the phelbitis. I do hope Jenifer is up and about now, not just healing well.

Our best,

