

Dear Jim,

1/15/80

Hasty update on the Maio situation so I can mail it early on my way for the weekly blood test.

Mike was much impressed by your letter when we read it to him one night last week. (I edited a few passages, like reference to Confucian superstition, which became belief, and omitted the one logical assumption that was not factual, Johnny not having been born on the mainland.) However, Julie was not up to even thinking about her tragedy. Mike asked to borrow the letter so third son Danny could read it to his mother but I said there were some personal things in it and it would be better if Lil retyped it triple space to give Danny room to interline in Chinese. It was then agreed that they would come Sunday and with Danny we'd go over it and the situation.

Mike came alone on Sunday because Danny was not available, I suspect because he'd contrived an acceptable excuse. Mike, however, had gone over with Julie what he recalled of your fine letter and they were so impressed that he asked that we ask you, at his expense, to invite Johnny out to dinner and talk to him. Mike was so late coming, so close to the time he had to open for Sunday's dinner-business, that I, having waited until the last minute, was not at the H house but was gathering up freshly-spit firewood in order to get it under cover before the (accurately) predicted rain. I felt this was wrong, when Lil told me after Mike left, as Lil also did. We discussed it and decided to make a counter-proposal to Mike and Julie: to ask you if it would be OK to give Danny your name, address and phone so he could phone you if he ever wanted to talk to an older person or one who knows something about China.

Meanwhile, during and after a very nice dinner Lil made for some friends of ours Saturday night, with venison that Lida's husband Eddie had provided, one of Lil's eyes began to bother her. Sunday it was worse and was getting bloodshot. I wanted to take her to my ophthalmologist Monday morning, without an appointment, but Lil wanted to go to the family doctor first, which we did. He saw us pronto, without an appointment, working us in quite early on his busy day because of an earlier suspicion Lil has glaucoma. As soon as he saw Lil she sent his nurse to the eye doctor's office to see if he could squeeze Lil in, which he also did immediately, and found time for a few minutes with me. She has an ulcerated cornea and he suspects as the result of an allergy from ~~gran~~ granulated eyelids. The medicine he prescribed was magical. Lil sees him again tomorrow morning because it is something he wants to keep an eye on. So I thought that given this added stress and worry it would be good for Lil not to prepare supper and to combine that with speaking to the Maios again, particularly because Monday is usually a very slow night for them and because I wanted to do some shopping with Lil to consult. So we did have dinner with the Maios, as much time as Mike could spend with us and toward the end, when she did not have to cook, with Julie present.

It happens that in the morning there is a corporate meeting at the office of the lawyer, who is a friend of ours, so we persuaded the Maios to consult him about some of the legal and technical problems I see. I was concerned about face in this and Mike, initially, was unwilling to let anyone else know. (We are practically family members and they regard Lil as a sort of added mother.) In the course of this I learned more.

Despite his heart-ache about Johnny, of which we've known for several years, Mike has been an over-indulgent father and has increased his debt enormously to give Johnny what he wanted, much more than college wherever Johnny wanted and with all that goes with it. The extras include a 1978 Pinto, with multitudinous extras that ran the cost in 3/78 to over \$6,000, and a \$4,000 computer.

Johnny wanted to ~~leave~~ go to Drexel in Phila and he did well there, after a year at Maryland, where he also did well. But after return to Maryland he dropped out and got a series of unimportant, non-professional jobs. Then he got a decent

job with a promise that after a year of good performance his employer would arrange for the completion of his education. This past summer Danny, who is only now a junior in high school, took some advanced schooling in Washington, so he spent that time with Johnny, not to have to commute, and Jackson, who is a fine young man and quite mature and sophisticated for a college sophomore, also stayed there because he got a good, professional job in Washington. (He is becoming an architect.) We got Jackson to open up a bit when he was the one member of the family who was able to sit at what was supposed to have been the family New Year's Day dinner to which we'd been invited. We were much disturbed over his account of Johnny's sourness, expressed hate of the family and a few other details Mike later enlarged upon when we asked.

Despite this Mike and Julie were encouraged over the job that held promise of a completed college education. Only what we did not know is that about six weeks ago Johnny decided that he wanted to go to California, see if he could get a job there and then complete his education at Berkeley. He persuaded Mike to add to the money he had saved so that he could rent a place to stay for long enough to get started. After a little while he gave Mike a phone number and an address. When Mike did not hear from him he started phoning him and for close to a month got no answer. This worried him so he phoned the landlord, who assured him that Johnny had rented the apartment. What we did not learn until last night is that the landlord, who got worried, spoke to the police and they phoned Mike. Only Mike was not there at the time and Julie did not tell him until yesterday, when Mike started to gather up the papers Lil told him we should go over. Mike was going to return that call today but I suggested that he wait until after speaking to the lawyer tomorrow morning.

I am not clear on some of the details because I do not understand Mike as well as Lil does and she is still asleep. But I have the impression that having rented the apt. for and paid for four months Johnny may not be using it. Mike, meanwhile, would like to get the return of his deposit if this is the case, I think \$500.

What Lil was concerned about is a real worry, the car. Mike has made all the payments on it plus a \$1,200 down payment. Only \$1,800 is still owed to the bank. Johnny has not kept the insurance up and that lapsed last month. So there is now a Maryland car in California, where the moonies may well be using it, that is not covered by insurance, does not to the best of our knowledge have Calif. tags, and will either revert to the bank or lead to other troubles because Mike is on the bill of sale as co-owner. And made all the payments, in case there is an accident.

My belief and suggestion are that Mike see if yhe could not get the car back and sell it for whatever he can recover of more than \$4,000 he has in it, if the cost is not greater than what he can get, which I don't know. I was also worried about an uninsured car with either Johnny or the Moonies driving it around out there - and knowing nothing about Calif. law on such matters. Julie, meanwhile, is toughening over potential danger to the rest of the family and last night proposed that they close the restaurant for a week and go out there and bring the car back themselves, which I discouraged as the most costly and most tiring way of doing it. She even wanted to place an ad in the paper announcing they assume no responsibility for him. I discouraged this as unnecessary because he is 23 and is personally responsible.

On one of his more recent calls Johnny asked that they send him the computer. I discouraged Mike on this, not because it cannot be that Johnny can use it to make money but because it might wind up as a contribution to the moonies whereas Mike can sell it and recover that much.

Lil, who is the corporate secretary, will raise with the lawyer if Mike doesn't after the annual meeting is over whether they should ask the police to impound the car because it is uninsured, things like that, and inquire into means of having it returned. The Maios can't afford to have the \$4,000 + go down the drain or continue payments to indulge Johnny and his new associates.

Johnny does not have the title or the bill of sale. Mike does. We examined them last night.

I am sure he will not want to give up the car, as I am sure that the Maios are far past the point where they can justify any further additions to their considerable indebtedness to indulge him.

There used to be car forwarding services, including by drivers who wanted free transportation and in return for that and possibly some payment drive, the car to where they wanted to go. However, I have no current knowledge and don't know if you do or if you know where it can be sought.

Unfortunately, the one Calif. lawyer I know I can't recommend. Bob Truehaft let the statute run on me on an unquestioned debt by the Raymar book company, even where I had a copy of their phoney books, which could have gotten them in other legal troubles.

My strong recommendation to the Maios last night is that they reassure Johnny on their love for him, their hope that in his new choice he will be happy, and that he will always be their son and as welcome in their home and hearts as the other sons - but that they can no longer subsidize him in any way save one - if he ever desires to return. I suggested to Mike that he have a rough idea of the amount of debt he has incurred for Johnny and to let him know, not by seeming to throw it up, that this ~~is~~ is really more than he can bear, particularly when there are two other sons to educate, one in college and one soon to be there.

Because I did not want to involve you without speaking to you and because you do ~~is~~ ^{stay} so busy in such very worthwhile Hospice work I did not tell the Maios how to reach you in the event it struck them as a good idea for Johnny to know how. I do think that could be important to Johnny, especially if he is in more trouble emotionally than we realize and more because it may be that he associates only with Moonies and others with similar problems.

Time for me to lwt the car warm up. If I am at the Lab by 7, although it doesn't open until 8, I can avoid the rush and get home by 8 rather than 10. So despite the weather I do that and spend the time until it opens walking up and down outside of it and get that much exercise.

I am OK and we are both encouraged at the almost magical change ~~is~~ less than a full day of medication has made in Lil's eye. We are also encouraged over what we learned about my eye doctor, more than that he charges three times more for a visit than the family doctor does. The family doctor's North Carolina father has but one eye and that had cataracts. He brought him up to Frederick for this eye doctor to take care of the cataract.

Thanks and out best, and my apologies for the typos,

