

January 14, 1956.

James Heineman, Esq.
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Dear Jimmy;

This is a much overdue letter. We received at Cuernavaca, through Buck, the sad news of June's father's passing, and I asked Sam Katz, who was returning to Mexico City, to send a telegram from Marion and me to you and also to June's mother at Sharon. From the news which I had had from time to time in the last few months, I had felt that June's father could not last much longer and that death would really come as a relief to him. There was no possible hope of his recovering and life must have become, in a way, a burden. Death, nevertheless, is always a shock, and losing one's father or husband is a terrible thing. I wish that Marion and I could have been with you and June in Sharon.

Marion and I both have been wanting to write but we were in Cuernavaca for two weeks over the holidays and we had the house full of guests at all times and had several parties. We returned here some days ago and I am taking this first opportunity to write you. I dictated a note to your father earlier this week. I phoned him about two weeks ago and he told me that he was thinking of going to Germany for Adenauer's birthday, but I am wondering if he has gone. It is really too much of a trip for him to undertake, although it would be a tremendous satisfaction to him and to Adenauer for them to be together that day. I had hoped that your father and mother and the family would be coming down here, to spend some time with us, but I gathered from the conversation which I had with him over the phone some weeks ago that he is not thinking very seriously of coming down this way.

Marion and I are not planning to make any trip until the late spring or perhaps until the beginning of June, unless for some reason I should have to go North, and I am hoping that such a reason will not arise. I have been feeling pretty fit and Marion is very well. We continue to spend about half our time in Cuernavaca and about half in Mexico City. I find my life really quite occupied without having any really specific responsibilities. I see a great deal of my Mexican friends and of my American friends who are trying to help to make the wheels go around here. I often think that they place too high value on my opinion about things, but in any event it is gratifying to feel that they still think it is worthwhile talking with the old man and to search his mind.

I was in the Company the other day and Buck told me that he had word that June and her mother were coming down here around the end of this month or the beginning of February, and preferred to stay at a hotel. I told Buck if he was in touch with you to tell you that we would be very happy to have June and her mother stay with us here and in Cuernavaca. I can understand that they may prefer to stay at a hotel. I gathered from Buck that you had indicated that they would prefer

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not to stay at the Prado or one of the hotels in the center of the city. The only other one that I can think of is the Montecasino, which I think is, on the whole, comfortable.

Marion and I want June and her mother to know that we would be very glad to have them stay with us. You know that we have two spare bedrooms, each with a bath, in our little house in Mexico City and the bedrooms are really very comfortable. You know that we have plenty of servants in the house here in Mexico City so that it would be no burden in any way to have people staying with us, and if June and her mother would like to stay with us we would be very happy to have them do so. On the other hand, if they prefer to stay at a hotel, I can fully understand that, as would Marion, but we want to make it clear that we would be very happy to have them stay with us. In any event, I hope that they will plan to spend a long weekend with us in Cuernavaca, whether they stay with us in Mexico City or not. Tell June we are looking forward very much to seeing her and her mother, and I wish that you were coming too.

I gather that you have reached your decision and that you are at work. I'm not just quite sure what the connection is but I understand that it is with Model and with the Transoceanic Corporation. Whatever it is I hope it will turn out well and to your satisfaction. You know how much interested I am in everything that you do and in your happiness, and work makes so much for one's happiness.

I haven't written a letter for three weeks; I think that is a record of many years, because even when I've been in the hospital in the past I've usually done some dictating. I am turning into a real vegetable. I simply can't get myself to do anything during the days that I'm in Cuernavaca and during the few days that I'm in Mexico City I am usually busy running around or seeing people here at the house. I simply must settle down to a different kind of life. I'm glad that I do not have any fixed responsibilities but I must be doing something. I'm getting some renewed pressure from some of my friends in Washington and in New York to do something with regard to my writing. I really feel that I should, but I know that the stage is now reached where I will have to do some really hard work and once I get started I will have to put in 3 or 4 hours work on it a day and, at least, 5 or 6 days in the week, because that is the only way that one can really write and do the thing right. I have become so used, during the last months, to taking it easy that it is difficult for me to reach the decision to really settle down to this job. My one New Year's resolution was to start before the middle of January to really devote 3 or 4 hours a day to this writing job. I think it will probably dwindle down to a maximum of 3 hours a day. I like my long siesta after lunch and I really think it does me a lot of good at my age to take that rest in the middle of the day, and a real siesta, as you know, can run into several hours.

I gather from what your father told me over the phone that the children are well and I know that this must be a great source of satisfaction to you and June. I wish that we could look forward to seeing you sooner but I doubt that I will be North before around the 1st of June. Were it not that I've been neglecting all my correspondence for these 3 or 4 weeks now, I would like to write you something about things here and in the Company, etc., but I will do that in the near future. I simply have piles of

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letters in front of me, which I have been neglecting. Tell June how much we are looking forward to seeing her and her mother here.

This is a hurried and unsatisfactory note and it will probably not reach you until the middle of next week as I have been dictating so much today and may not be able to sign the letter until Monday.

With love and good wishes to you and June from us both,

Faithfully yours,

George S. Messersmith

*This letter was dictated
two weeks ago but the girls have
been away in doing my work. Mrs. Chapman has
been in the States for a week with her family.
I am so happy we shall see June &
her mother. Buck tells me they will stop at the
White House & I can understand that. Their
visit is a long one & has been
planned a long while. We are all
looking forward to it. I hope June
will be in good luck. I hope
all the best from us both.
Truffler M.*

GSM/dfa