

March 17, 1932
THURSDAY NIGHT.

Dear Dad:-

I've let more time elapse than I had intended before writing you, and now I find it the eve of your birthday. Well, many and much happier returns of the day. Mamie and I had been intending to get ~~xx~~ you a summer robe, remembering the state of your flannel one, but only found what we wanted last night. Today it has been raining so hard that Mamie couldn't go out to mail it and I have been tied up with a rewrite job. It will go in the mails tomorrow though, positively. I'm sorry to have been late with it but time is a nightmare to me and has been ever since I've been on ~~xx~~ this job. My hair is thinning in two peaks over the outer corner of each eye and I wouldn't be surprised to find a few gray ones ~~anyday~~ any day now.

I hope the good Lord will give you strength this year to meet your problems; if things break badly, however, I know you can brave them. It occurs to me that the present is the most severe test that the South has had since the Civil War. Actual suffering, of course, may not be as bad as it was in '93 or '07---I don't know--but economically the section is up against an even greater crisis.

You asked me in your last to give you the adjusted figures on our status so as to enable you to keep straight the amount in the bill of sale. Well, it runs like this: As of May 10, 1931, you owed me \$1,600 LESS some accounts at Stovall's and my 1931 insurance premium of \$15 or whatever it is. I lumped these at \$50 which reduced your obligation to \$1,550 as of May 10, 31. Interest from then to about Feb. 10, 1932, the approximate date of the Democrat's transfer was about \$93, making the account stand at \$1,642 on that date instead of the \$1,700 you put in the bill of sale.

Adding \$500 and \$100 to this we have roughly \$2,242 as the amount on the date of the transfer which, I find, is February 15. The balance, therefore, above the \$2,200 mentioned in the papers is about \$42 which, if you find it inconvenient to pay, can be carried along. It might be a good idea for you to save this letter (dated March 17, 1932) as I have a bum memory.

By the way, have you ever gotten Walker, Glaze & Grisham to give me any collateral for the \$1,000 and interest from April 5, 1930? Of course, I know your part is OK but ~~xx~~ with people going bankrupt and being sued I would rather Luther and Capt. Jack protected me some way, small as the claim is. Please let me know about this, as I imagine Jen is wont to write you.

In my last, I asked whether you ~~thought~~ ^{thought} /there was any chance ~~re~~ ^{of} /re-financing the paper this summer, or even in the fall. Since then something has come to mind that I hesitate to ask you about but still would like to know inasmuch as it affects the fall re-financing prospects. I am wondering if your life insurance is sufficiently unencumbered to enable you to borrow \$10,000 on it; my recollection is that you told me there was nothing borrowed on it and that you counted on it to take care of the home and paper mortgages ~~tax~~ in the final analysis.

If you have this ace in the hole, as I hope you have, it would sort of relieve my mind. Won't you let me know?

There is very little new with us. Had Jen out over last week-end for dinner; Ike and Helen dropped in, the former full of money troubles since he got the 10% salary cut. Understand the Times and Trib. are negotiating a similar, simultaneous reduction. I'm better off where I am, despite the ungodly work, so long as the job lasts. And, from what dope I am able to corkscrew out of Collins, et al., it looks fairly safe. I am, however, knocking on wood.

a pipe, Personally, I should like to be cocked up on the bank of Shoal Creek with/a sack of Red Cap Brazil, a bucket of steel-backs, some of your best tackle, and a nice shoe-box full of lunch. If I ever get as much as \$30 a month income assured I am going so far away from a city that it will take \$4.36 to send me a postcard. Meanwhile, love to each and a special measure for your anniversary.

Devotedly, .

Bill