

Lynchburg, Va. Tuesday Feb. 21, 1967 4:30 P.M.

Dearest Folks,

I have been lying down taking a nap for some time. I am perhaps too stupid to write a letter. Before I go down to Margaret's I want to go by the Va. Baptist Hospital. There are several people there whom I should see. I went by there yesterday to see Miss Stephenson who came over from Northern Ireland. She was in the hospital long before I went to California. She did get back to her apartment and then something else happened to her. When I went in her room yesterday very much to my astonishment Mr. Crowe was feeding her some custard. She was flat on her back and could not feed herself something so liquid and she was not able to get the attention of a nurse. It showed me that I should try to be useful wherever I go.

Margaret is taking the place of an absent secretary in one of the shops. I know that she will not have time to get supper so I am taking the family out minus Brack who will be in a political meeting. I like to help out this way when I can and since I have only myself to look after I have the money.

After breakfast this morning I went down town to pay a telephone bill that had gotten mixed up on account of my trip to California. While there I went by to see what a round trip to St. Petersburg would cost. I could go by ~~air~~ air for \$122.80 but that would put me over in Tampa and I would have to pay a bus to take me over to St. Petersburg and look after the transfer of my baggage. Round trip by train from Richmond to St. Petersburg is \$51.00 and that puts me off at a little station right across the street from the conference grounds. Of course I would have to be on the train all night and also get breakfast and dinner. The round trip bus fare to Richmond is \$3.95. I am inclined toward the train. If Mother were with me I know that is the way we would go. I may not be able to at all, however, as I have not yet gotten a reservation for the conference. I would certainly like to be there with my brothers and their families, I mean their wives, of course their offspring will not be there. Well the whole thing is quite uncertain still. I will just have to continue to pray over it.

I started this letter on yesterday and Annie is getting ready to leave. I was interrupted yesterday by a very large lady who has been here before. She is sent out by the Government to take some kind of a census. I have taken the census 56 years ago. This is very different from that. She tells me that she goes to every third house. She seems to know all about my California trip. Guess she got that information from George. She told me that she was here while I was gone. She said, "My husband is sitting out in the car but I could not possibly tell him any of this information. Since talking to her I have decided that the Government is more "screw ball" than I had thought. I suppose you think she is a fake. Why pay a garrulous woman like this to travel over several counties as she says she does and stop at every third house? Annie is about ready to go so I will stop for today. I took the Stovalls all except Brack to S. and W. last night. We had a good time.

Saturday Feb. 25, 1967

I am "boy sitting" this afternoon. Margaret has been away from home a good part of the day so she brought Bill and Mike Fineman (a Jew) out here for me to take care of. They are not much trouble as they spend most of their time over at Ben Ammonett's. They had their lunch with them which they ate in the basement. I added to it by giving them two slices apiece of apple pie. I got these frozen pies at the grocery store and then bake them myself. They are quite good and add right much to my meal in the middle of the day. Margaret wants me to be down there by 5:30 for supper as she is going out and she wants me to stay with the children. I am indeed glad to be useful and I want my other families to put me to work when I come around. I like to tell the children my brand of stories, not at all equal to Mother's but the best I can do. Mine are mostly from experience. Out in California KO brings her friends in to listen to me. I do not think that the ones she brings know anything about Christian truth. KO said that I put so much of that in that she did not think they would come back but they did. What I constantly pray is that God will make me patient AND USEFUL as I travel toward the Heavenly city. I am dreadfully lonely at times but everybody is so good to me that I just keep journeying on. Uncle William is very complimentary. He says that these letters of mine help to bind us all together. We must remember one another and pray for one another. This life is hard enough at best and we must help each other. Don't forget to pray for each of us and write when you can. Even a postal card is appreciated. Remember that your thoughtfulness helps this old man.

End of paper. We are in a terribly cold spell. My thermometer was 5 above zero this morning. Gov. Report 6. The weather is too cold for me to take my walk and that makes my arthritis hurt more. I will walk as soon as I can. Hope to write some more tomorrow. Devotedly,