

Thursday August 4, 1988

Dear Shirley--

I know I do not have anything important to say but I have been doing so much listening lately that I have to talk to someone.

I spent Monday night until midnight at a City Council meeting, mostly about the budget, then went to a budget hearing Wednesday night until eleven and then got up at six this morning to go to a Chamber of Commerce meeting at 7:00 a.m. to listen to more about the budget--and still I find budgeting a mystery. Guess I was meant for better things.

I seem to have gotten back into the swing of my usual doings in a hurry. Usually the first week of the month is easy but I guess not in August. I never thought of myself as a C. of C. person but this morning four members came to me after the meeting and asked me to join and two said they needed me on their governmental affairs committee. Yesterday I had a talk with the mayor about several things and she said she wished the group I am involved with could get a little closer to the business people--maybe that could be helpful. In good economic times nobody cares much but in bad times it sure brings people together if they care about their community.

People have gotten a kick out of me telling how cold I was the first night I stayed with you and how I dressed to sleep the next night. I did enjoy my time in B.R., with you and with the Moodys. I must admit that I felt pretty self there and in S.H. I seemed to spend my time just enjoying myself--no responsibility for anything. In fact, I was so irresponsible I did not even climb up to look at your third floor.

By now you have been to Port Huron to see and hear Chris. I am looking forward to hearing your version of their group and what is happening to him.

I finished reading Don Regan's book ON THE RECORD and it is very good. He wrote it himself. I do not agree with him about Reagan as a president but it is a very well written and informative book. I not only learned something about the stock market but how 'Ronnie' is dominated by Nancy and her Friend--as he always refers to the astrologist. He is not nasty or critical about it but just tells how he had to work with her and the others in his job. It was a real learning experience for him & too. Right now I am reading Liz Carpenter's GETTING BETTER ALL THE TIME. It is excellent so far. A few names of people in Austin might not be familiar to non-Texans but it will make for a better understanding of a lot that goes on in Washington and the country. I know she was very involved in trying to get ERA passed after she returned to Austin, when her husband died. I think every older woman should read the first chapter of nothing more--maybe I will insist you read it all after I have finished.

I have started a new class in English as A Second Language. Have my one carry over from Laos, one from Saltillo and the last class, four others from Mexico, and one from Taiwan. It takes a good chunk out of two afternoons but they are so anxious to learn that I feel guilty when I have to miss a class.

I hope you have your apartment by the time we come up again. I want to be able to visualize you in it. Right now we are planking (more or less) on getting to South Haven on the 28th--unless we go over into Tennessee to do some

research for Faye. Had a letter from Eleanore and she suggested we come a week earlier and stay with them for a week. Guess they are pretty bored without ball games and full time farming for Pete.

They packed 1000 boxes of cukes one day recently and got a good price and are cutting broccoli. Hope the river does not run dry.

Time to go to class.

Talked to Faye this week-end. The kids were making Christmas decorations out pine cones. Glad they get started early.

Billy was here this week-end but not sure whether we will see him again before he goes back to Santa Fe. He is really working very hard this summer--doing more than they hired him to do because they are short of staff doctors. It is a 130 mile drive for him--one way. And he does not have airconditioning.

See you soon.

Love,  
Nina