

January 5, 1950

Dear Pop and Hutton,

I have decided to start calling Helen Putty mentally, because I mentioned the name to Laurence the other day and he thought it a delightfully funny one, and said it over to himself several times gleefully. He obviously thinks it far superior to Helen.

William just posted the letter I wrote to you the day before yesterday, but events move ~~swiftly~~ and I must ~~now~~ add a postscript to that one now. The dear old Department has done it again, and it now appears that I am going to be left a widow temporarily anyway. William must leave on his trip sometime after January 25, now. He doesn't think they'll change their minds again between now and then, but the frequent turnouts in plans have left me a little too dizzy to be able to worry any more one way or the other. At the same time he brought home that sad news he brought home another, happier note, also. The administrative officer says the recommendation for his raise has gone through with all possible backing and unless all sorts of things go wrong he should eventually receive it after the slow, steady wheels have ground round and round for several weeks or months. If all goes well, therefore, he should receive about thirty dollars more per pay day, which is every two weeks. I trust with that additional help we will be able to live within our income better and start saving up for the next transfer.

Mrs. Nowse gave me the name of the man to call in the School system of Montgomery County, and I called him yesterday about Laurence's entering public kindergarten next fall. I'm happy to announce that he seemed most sympathetic and heart-rended when I told him how anxious we were to have the boy experience at least one year of American Public school before we are transferred away. Although they have hundreds of applications for admittance of under-age children per annum, he said he thought our special circumstances were such as to justify making every possible allowance, if Laurence proves to be emotionally mature enough come next August or September, when I am to call him up again. He will then come here to the house and talk to Laurence and decide. I was very pleased and cheered by his favorable attitude. He said he wouldn't be interested in the results of an I.Q. test, so I may skip that. If I can get him into kindergarten next year it will save us a good thirty dollars a month. It will also make him happy, because Betsey will be entering the same school next year.

I must stop and do some work now. I hope you will arrive in WASHINGTON as soon as you possibly can, my dears.

Love,