

January 5, 1950

Dear Mamma,

The dear old Department, infallible flip-flopper, has done another backward summersault and now says William must leave on his trip around the twenty-fifth of January or so. Whether they will have time to change their minds again between then and now is dubious. As it now stands, he will leave the twenty-eighth or so and return before, just before, the first of March. So he called up his father yesterday and told him about the new plans. Grandpa Krieg said he would come "sometime next week" to visit us. So that solves that problem, anyway. The next on the agenda is me. I plan, as you know, to be miserable and nasty and lonely the entire time William is gone, but do you suppose you would be brave enough to come down here and face me anyway? If you could come just about the first week it would do my morale a lot of good, and I'd make a real effort to be cheerful. Laurence cries whenever we talk about his daddy's going away, so I know that if we could tell him "Well, never mind, your grandmamma will come when daddy goes" he would feel much better about it.

I called up the Montgomery County Pupil Personnel Officer about Laurence's entering kindergarten, and he seemed most sympathetic, I'm glad to say. I laid it on thick about how anxious we were to have him, a Foreign Service child, experience as much American Public school as possible before taking off for foreign parts. I told him we might very well be transferred in 1951, as indeed we might. I told him we preferred public to private school (heavens yes, they're much cheaper!) and as I say, he was very nice about it indeed. He said they have hundreds of applications for underage children each year, but that considering our circumstances he felt that he could make every possible allowance in our case, IF Laurence himself proves to be emotionally ready for kindergarten next September. I am to call him in August and make an appointment, then he will come out to our house and talk to Laurence for about an hour. If he emerges convinced that the boy is ready, we will save ourselves about thirty dollars a month for kindergarten at Lady Isabel School.

Only bright spot on the horizon is that William's raise has been recommended and may go through. I certainly hope so, because if we don't start saving some money pretty soon instead of exceeding our income every month a little more, we will never be able to leave town on our next transfer.

Well olddear, I hope you can make it down here the end of January. It would, as I say, cheer us both up to have you come (I mean L.F. and his mamma)

Love to you both,