February 27, 1936.

Dear John:

I just cannot understand you at all. I wrote to you on February 13th, pointing out how inconsiderate you had been in connection with writing to us and keeping us informed of your well-being. You had previously told us that you had written on several occasions; none of these letters arrived at the time you said they had been written or since then.

Mother started out West, as you know, to celebrate your birthday with you. She was unable to get through because of delays which would have made it impossible for her to return here to keep engagements of long standing. She did, however, make the trip to Chicago, quite fruitlessly, and returned pretty well tired out. She talked to you from Chicago and asked you to write and tell us about yourself.

Since that time, and in spite of the fact that I wrote you a long letter only two weeks ago, we have not heard a single word from you. I leave to you the characterization of the way you have acted in this matter.

I wish you would understand that we are thinking about you all the time and that Mother and I are continuously concerned about your health and about the way things are going with you. It does not seem to me to be asking very much of you to let us know every few days what you are doing and how you are getting along. I have written you as frequently as I could; Mother has kept up a regular and lengthy correspondence with you and has talked to you over the telephone on a number of occasions. I have told Mother that unless you take the trouble to keep up your end of the correspondence, I see no reason for either her
I am glad to be able to let you know that Mother is fine. Hilda Jane spent last week-end with us in Albany and had a good time. She had a great many of her old Albany girl friends here at the Mansion for dinner and a movie. Peter's prom takes place this week-end and Peggy is going up to Deerfield.

You of course have heard of Aunt Settie's death. Fortunately, I saw her just two days before the end, as I visited her on Sunday. At that time she was very noticeably growing weaker and was in great discomfort. While she will be terribly missed by every member of the family - for she was one of the sweetest women I have ever known - one would not have the right to wish her back to more of the suffering and discomfort through which she went during the past several months.

We are having an extremely busy time here in Albany. You probably have noticed from the papers that I am in quite a fight on the crime bills, but I think things are moving along and that the largest part of the program will be enacted. I do not know whether you read my radio speech in the paper. It has received a tremendous amount of favorable reaction and I think there is no question that people are deeply and sincerely interested in legislation to reduce crime and to speed up punishment. A great many other things of interest are going on in connection with the budget, social security legislation, etc. I know you would enjoy being here, and Mother and I wish that you were with us.

It is too bad that Mother could not get through to Colorado Springs in time for your birthday. She came back bitterly disappointed, but is looking forward to going out to visit you this spring. Peter's swimming team continues to do well, and I think they lost only one or two meets this whole winter. The weather here has been wretched. For six weeks the ground has been deeply covered with snow and we have not even seen a patch of lawn or field. During the past few days, however, a thaw has set in and now the snow is going very fast. I only hope it will not result in disastrous floods again. Mother is in New York and is going down to celebrate Hilda Jane's birthday with her on Monday. Unfortunately, I cannot get down to New Hope, as of course Monday is a very busy legislative day and I cannot absent myself from Albany.

Loads of love and kisses.

Yours affectionately,

HHL-MD