

Arthur  
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Columbus Day, 1980

Dear Tom,

It is not often that I write you, but the morrow of the Governor's signing of the executive order creating the Commission on Personal Privacy, thereby placing the capstone on your handiwork, is perhaps as fitting an occasion as any for me to convey to you -- if that be possible -- my feelings of affection for you. Over the years I have watched as you have grown from outstanding student to young lawyer and now to sophisticated political leader with the welfare of thousands of people in your hands. Truthfully my feelings run deeper than those of a teacher for a former student or a father for a son. Where you, at your still-young age, have acquired your understanding of political nuances, your self-control in the face of disappointment and adversity, and your diplomacy and tact, I do not know. They continue to be a source of wonderment to me. And this is not to mention your outstanding legal mind and your high sense of rectitude and integrity which never fail to inspire those whom your life touches.

Words fail to express my happiness for you nor the happiness which your friendship continues to give me. Suffice it to say that it has filled many of the voids and disappointments in my own life and, in particular, has enabled me to have the legal career -- if only at times vicariously -- which fate and my own folly prevented me from having. No one will ever know the intensity of my sense of personal failure nor my anguish and remorse whenever I enter a court room and look with envy at the lawyers therein. And those feelings of a life blighted are compounded when the scene is an appellate or supreme court and I realize that I shall never have the opportunity to employ whatever talent I may have in such fora.

Allow me, therefore, to offer my heart-felt congratulations for a job extraordinarily well done, and to venture my belief that this is but a way station on your life's journey.

As ever,

