

March, 14, 1965

Dear Mrs. Pollard,

I apologize for my belatedness in answering your letter of March 8. My only, or only valid, excuse is that I could say little about the matter until we could talk with Jaime, and know what is in his mind. Jaime and Ted have spent this week-end with us; we would certainly be pleased to have Ted again, whenever he wishes to come.

Ted is supposed to ring you up to-night so that the present letter may contain little, if anything, that you will not hear from Ted himself. As you probably recall, we had no inkling of Jaime's project to go to Europe with Ted this summer until you called us. Then we told Jaime that although we had spent all our savings during our eight-month stay in Europe, and we are presently having more expenses than sometimes we can afford, we were willing to give him the money for a trip to Europe with Ted in accordance with your estimate of the expenses in which he would incur. By no means did we dissuade him from going if he wanted to go. Nor did we encourage him to go since he is supposed to decide things by himself. In other words, if he wanted to make the trip with Ted, that was all right with us. So we assumed that everything would proceed as projected and scheduled.

Then he seemed to hesitate about the whole matter, and at that time we told him that if he had committed himself to make the trip with Ted he should abide by his commitment. Unfortunately, the matter seems to be out of our hands. As you probably know, Jaime receives regularly psychiatric treatment. As a matter of fact, if you know that, you know as much as we do. We have called his doctor at least twice and have asked him his opinion about Jaime's state of mind, possibilities for improvement, and, of course, the degree of probability for him going to Europe next summer. The result of our calling the doctor was more or less about the same as if we had not called him at all. This particular doctor --and, it would seem, most psychiatrists nowadays-- staunchly refuse to give any information about the patient's course. His answers to the effect are both short and curt: "I am sorry but I don't want to have anything to do with the parents" (except, I suspect, sending them the bills, which he certainly does). Once he has produced the above statement, he refuses to produce any other, and conversation with him becomes a monologue. As you will no doubt understand we are in this respect as distressed, if not more, than you may be; after all, the doctor in question is treating Jaime and not John Smith. As a consequence, not only we cannot give you any information concerning the doctor's opinion but we begin to have serious doubts about whether we will ever receive any information ourselves.

I asked Ted this morning about Jaime's plans, since we assumed that he would tell Ted probably more than he would tell us. According to Ted (and in tune with Jaime's own answer to our questioning him on the issue), Jaime seems to consider that he will need a continuation of the treatment during the summer, and that this will prevent him from fulfilling the original project. In fact, however, he has not yet made his mind, and has promised Ted to give him a final and definitive answer within the next two weeks.

We can assure you that we are very sorry about the whole affair but we feel that Jaime should face responsibilities rather than transfer them to his parents' shoulders. If psychiatric treatment doesn't help the patient to do that, I wonder what it does.

That is all I can say for the moment; I wish I could say more.

Very cordially