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Erika
X XXXX

November 7, 1949

Dr. Joseph Angell
Pomona Collage
Claremont, Calif.

Dear Dr. Angell:

This is a) to thank you again for your kindness in initiating my four weeks guest-existence as a "Visiting Writer", and b) to give you a brief report on what has been going on. I needn't say anything about Pomona. Redlands, as far as I can judge it, was surprisingly pleasant, - surprising considering the extremely "conservative" character of that school. President Armacost not only introduced me on the occasion of my final (public) appearance ("The Continuing Crisis"), but also told the audience in the end that this had been quite a profound analysis and a most constructive offering. Just how he feels now when some people are certain to have advised him to the contrary, I have no way of knowing. UCLA: I have the impression - an impression conveyed to me by Mr. Wallace Stegner at Stanford - that Professor Ewing has seen fit to complain and that whatever it is that he finds blameworthy he chose to blame on you. May I say that while both Redlands and Stanford got in touch with me (or with you), well in advance of my respective visits, Professor Ewing failed to do so. Thus, upon my return from Redlands I found a brief note from him outlining the schedule for the week that followed. This schedule did not in any way provide for the utilization of either "The Continuing Crisis" or "The Situation of the European Intellectuals", but had me appear before a number of classes and hold a great number of office hours. Although first thing Monday morning I asked Professor Ewing whether it would not be possible for me to use at least one of my "major offerings", neither was taken advantage of, nor - for all I could make out - were the students told about those countless office hours of mine. Had I not myself informed the classes for whom I spoke, I don't think anyone would have turned up ever. Just to give you an idea of how the whole thing was handled, let me tell you that office hours had been scheduled for Friday, October 28th, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at which precise time the entire University was celebrating the "Homecoming" of their beaten team. Needless to say, no student in his senses could have dreamed of visiting with me under the circumstances, nor could I have dreamed of reading a newspaper or doing anything at all while

duly sitting in my office the window of which gave on a terrace which constituted an ideal vantage point to watch the celebration from. Since that terrace could otherwise only be reached through the Dean's office, a never ending stream of students climbed through my window, virtually over my back, - and there I was, just biding my time. - Believe me, that I am not one who easily complains, - in fact, I would certainly not have done so even in this rather aggravating case were it not for Professor Ewing's quite unjustified complaining. I don't know whether it is customary for those in charge of the Writers' visits to be informed of what their respective guests are planning. But even if it is and if you or I should have told Professor Ewing what to expect he certainly should have taken the initiative once no information seemed to be forthcoming. - Incidentally, despite the unsatisfactory arrangements, I don't believe "UCLA" to have been a failure. I merely think that I could have done far more than I was permitted to do. - Stanford: This visit proved particularly gratifying. Professor Scovcroft is a perfectly charming man; all arrangements had been made most handsomely and the students turned out to be as responsive as one could possibly hope for.

It is not entirely without selfish intentions that I am thus reporting to you, for I'd like very much to receive your report in turn. Would it be too much to ask you to write to the three schools in question in an effort to find out what the general and final reactions were? I'd be very glad to learn how the faculty and how the student body (these nouns should appear in the plural) felt once I had left. Usually in such cases a general and lasting opinion crystallizes only after a while, and I'd be much obliged if you'd be kind enough to test that opinion for me.

Golo, I trust, will have told you about the "political hack-writer". In case he hasn't, please ask him.

We are still waiting for a call from you telling us when you'll be able to come and dine.

Kindest regards from my parents and the very best wishes from

yours as ever cordially

Erika Mann.