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Washington, D.C. 20530
U.S.A.

20 March 1978

Dear Dan:

Both yours of January 31st and February 13th have both come, although they seem to take an unduly long time to do so. The one of the 31st did not get here until March 2nd which is about twenty-five days longer than a letter between here and Washington usually takes. I very much appreciated your moving my admission to the Supreme Court, and I thank you for it. I was also particularly grateful to receive the article from the L.A. Times, and I photocopied it and sent it on to Lyn Mostyn from whom I have not heard in several years.

I find just thinking about your loss of sight and trying to imagine it so painful that I shall refrain from saying more. Your observation that the sightless world has not been adequately treated in literature leads to the reflection that prior to the invention of the dictating machine and tape recorder, the conversion of the experience into literature must have been nearly impossible. You say that in your book you are dealing with more than just this problem, but you do not elaborate. I was reading an essay a while back, in fact I have been reading the same essay for about two years although it is not particularly long, on the psychological portrait of the Frenchman of the late sixteenth century. One of the points of the author is that the Frenchman of this period did not rely

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on sight to the same extent that we do today. In fact, his point is even sharper than that, in that he says that sight was not the predominant sense as it is today. He argues that hearing, smell, and touch were far more important than they are today. He succeeded in convincing me that those senses were more important but not of more.

I thank you for your invitation to stay with you in Washington. Unfortunately, it does not look likely that I shall get to D.C. this summer, but I do hope to get to the States, and, if so, I shall certainly call you. In respect to going to the States, I should like to ask you - for the second time in the last couple of months - a favor. I have applied for a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to attend a one month seminar open to full-time practitioners from such professions as law, medicine, journalism, business, etcetera. They ask for the name of the person most familiar with my work, and I believe that is still unquestionably you. I would be grateful if you could dictate a few lines on the sheet that I have enclosed and send it off to the people who are listed on it. If the time is simply not available to you, I shall of course understand.

I applied to the following seminars: Moral Dilemmas in Legal Roles, Robert M. Cover, Yale University Law School, Lawyers and Justice in American Society, Jerold S. Auerbach, Department of History, Wellesley College, and Changing Concepts of the Individual and Society in America, Robert F. Sayre, Department of English, University of Iowa. Two years ago I spent a week at Harvard's Summer Program that they put on every two years, and I found it productive to get back into the university environment for a short spell. Two years have passed, and I think I am now ready for another academic immersion, and these seminars look like just the thing.

I hope you will look upon the flat I have above my office which in turn is located about a quarter of a mile from my home as your French retreat and will come whenever the desire for retreat, refuge, or repose should come upon you.

With very best wishes, I remain

As ever,

