Letter from Linda Grace Hoyer to John Updike, October 12, 1950

Linda Grace Hoyer

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October 12, 1950

Dear John:

Yes, I think your bank balance sounds good, especially, if your scholarship has not been worked upon too much. How are they going to apply that to your expenses? Or is it to be a surprise? I have no advice to give at this point. Our own finances are as you probably will always remember them: swinging unpredictably between a kind of extravagance and desperation. But Daddy, as you say, is having a good time and is optimistic (currently) about everything. He will send the checkbook tomorrow and deposit $25 in your name. The sock washing is a very good idea, no matter how you look at it, and will surely save some money. Although my own practice does not conform, I've been told that stockings last much longer if they are washed immediately after you shed them. At least it makes for good housekeeping. And I'm glad you have volunteered to do it.

The stationery? Well, most of it was on hand because there's been no letter-writing done here for some time. The dreadfully flowered stuff was a gift from the teachers' party in September. Glad you like it. "eh! Heh!

Grandma wanted me to call you for the express purpose of begging you not to eat the chestnuts. But I said: "I don't think there's much danger he will." Keep the salt you might want to get some of that Icelandic cod.
P. S. Hurrah for the minute men. Go to Walden the next time and tell me all about it. Love that woman from Santa Fe ...hope she isn't one of those old crones I warned you about. Our fish man sends you his regards too.

"Over half the teachers in the U. S."
your grandfather says, "are married women."

Rosemary has lost Bill again and the dogs are boxing in the living room. Now Rosemary is crying and I've completely forgotten what I wanted to say.

Oh, I know. You by-passed my remark about sending you a pair or two of your old slacks. Do you feel, as I do, that life is beautiful enough without them? Have you been looking for those lovely green ones I can see so clearly on you and Fred Astaire? Perhaps I ought to get in on the treasure hunt. But I'm uncertain about your size because of the need to allow for growth. You are going to grow and gain eight pounds most any day now, I think.

What ever you decide to do about the eleventh will be all right with us. We would love to see you but it would be a strenuous trip unless you came by plane. By the way, how do you feel about airplane travel? It is the only way you could come and see both Shillington people and us. I had thought that we might be going to Trenton on the day of the Princeton game but since Daddy has already accepted a Thanksgiving invitation that scheme won't work. So, think about it and do as you think best. By the time you get this one fourth of the time between registration day and the Christmas holidays will be gone and by the 11th more than half. I was depressed either by the weather or a telepathic connection with your Latin problem. I feel better and hope the Latin thing turned out all right. Write when you have time and give yourself some kind of outing on week-ends, short of going hog wild, you should have at least one day a week for doing things you like to do. Everybody should.

Love, F & M