3816 WEST BIDDISON
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76109

January 23, 1967

Dear Nell,

How wonderful to have your letter this warm, cloudy evening. I am in my studio, after supper.

Your statements about the solitude of your darkroom strike such a chord in me. Jacques Maritain, in a letter to Gregory, wrote quite beautifully about this. He told him that even though he might not be aware of it, those hours of solitude in the darkroom were a form of contemplation, artistic and therefore at profound levels, metaphysical, religious contemplation; and that all he needed to know was simply that God was there in the darkness with him.. You have always said such wonderful things about that particular sort of active solitude.

I have just had a call from New York, from Doris Dana who is such an admirer of yours, an old friend of Adlai Stevenson and President Frei of Chile. She was asking about my schedule for the East Coast. I had to tell her I was not at all sure about it. The tumor in my head has taken a growing spurt - doubling almost overnight. I am to see the doctor about it Thursday morning. If we can put off removing it, we will. If not, then I will have to cancel some plans. It is in a very good and easy spot to remove. If it is not doing something dangerous, then we will postpone it and get to it a bit later.

I am staying up more hours each day now. .

I talked with my wife at length this afternoon about merging my society NOYDB with your Tima; but although we felt TIMA was perfect for you, and is indeed a more polite way of saying it; still for me, I never really <u>feel</u> polite about such things; so our societies of one member eahh had better coexist instead of merging. Because if I cannot really hear myself saying "That is my Affair," no more can I hear youx saying "None of your Damned Business."

Yes, I play music all the time...mostly Bach. I will look forward to the new Casals recording with great joy.

We are preparing to celebrate my parents' 50th anniversary on Friday, January 27th. They have no inkling, but we are going to have an open house for them and all the children are coming home to be together - my brother from Venezuela, my sister from Houston.

Since they have such a love for your work, would you send them a card?

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Griffin
3452 Townsend Drive
Fort Worth, Texas 76110

Best Love,

John