

2401 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Wilmington, DE 19806  
October 18, 1996

My dear Ramon,

A most happy birthday to you!!!. In just 3 years you will be 100 and then shortly after you will enter the 21st century. You will have seen three centuries!

Certainly I was planning to see you for your birthday, but now I cant travel for some time. Next Thursday I will have my left kidney removed. There is indications that I have a primal renal cell carcinoma mass, and that part of this mass appears to have necrotic change. The cancer has invaded the nearby lymphatic glands.

Mary Agnes is looking forward to visiting you next summer. If we are still alive, of course I will be with her. We should visit you more often because of the tremendous success you have had in supporting your father's wife and his 4 little orphans after he was exiled in 1912. I doubt if I saw him more than 3 times before he died in 1916. Your superb health certainly must be because of your father's prayers because you so immediately shouldered his responsibilities. In may case, you supported me from my birth until I was 13 years old. If it wasn't for your supporting me, I most likely would have been picked up at about 10 years of age from some street in New York City, dead from starvation. In those days there was none of the concern for children that we have now.

The only other person who had your nobility was Mary Agnes' husband who, like you, supported his mother, his brother, and his two sisters. I myself couldn't possibly have acted similarly. I started supporting myself at only 13 years of age making \$7.00 a week. It took me almost 10 years to make as much as \$18.00 a week. When you were 13 years of age, you were supporting all the members of your father's family. In fact, I couldn't support anybody until I was 34 years old when I graduated from MIT. Again, a most happy birthday to you. *Doni*

cc: Mary Agnes, Ramon Esteban, and Mrs. Donna Lamont.