

4:10 p.m. April 17, 1943

Darling:

Ever since you called me Thursday night and I acted churlish and ugly I've been feeling bad and wishing I could hear your voice again! I had just finished looking at our last month's telephone bill (house) for \$81.80 and trying all ways I could to save small sums at the station and I didn't believe we could afford long distance calls unless we had something of great urgency and importance to talk about--unless a letter simply wouldn't get the job done. But I wish I'd acted like a sweet little lamb and enjoyed my call and then written you that I thought we must be quite disciplined about limiting our calls--and I'll bet maybe you would have listened to me, yes?? Anyway, I love you with all my heart and let's try to keep that l.d. total down.

Bills at home are:

Telephone	\$81.80
Gas	12.01
Water (5 months)	3.65
Laundry & cleaning	16.36
Woodward's	34.50
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	\$149.32

The Woodward's bill includes a large portion of the \$55 I paid for the lovely bed in Sam Houston's room.

The laundry, cleaning, and pressing has Gene's and Sam Houston's on it, I am almost sure. I asked the laundry to please bill them separately and they said they could not accept any new customers at all and would be obliged to put it on my bill or refuse to take their things. They said they would keep the bundles separate, however,--so I daresay some of these listed items are theirs--which ones, I hope they can identify. I'm going to quit the whole charge business when I get back.

Send me whatever portion of \$149.32 you can and I'll pay them as far as it goes, leaving telephone to last. I'm spending hardly any money--only for railroad tickets--and can get along on what's left from my \$75 from Dad.

I got the itemized estimate from Dudley Miller, Jamie said he would undertake to get an itemized statement from Owens of the Nichols Co., and Jamie walked over this studio and the prospective ones in the Brown Bldg. and said he would do all necessary figuring on cuts and write you results of his findings by next Wednesday. The cuts considered were to make walls of all offices in studio only wall height except one, which would, of course, be the manager's office, because it really should be private. This would eliminate \$200-\$300 in duct work. Then linoleum was figured in the hall in back part of space as well as in studios themselves and this can be eliminated. Also maybe painted pine doors rather than gum ones to match woodwork. All of it will be compromises we probably won't like any too well, but it might bring it down to a range you could consider whereas now it is not. We'll see.

I don't know what can be done on bringing down the Nichols Company's figure. On a purely technical thing like this which determines the usefulness of our whole enterprise I would want a top-notch firm, just as Rembett's engineer suggested, to do the job, wouldn't you?

Mrs. Johnson tells me that Walter Collins, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Collins, Johnson City, has been reported killed in action, the first Blanco County boy to die in this war. The family has four other sons in the service! Knew you'd want to write them.

Escoe listened on 980 last night on his own set and wants to borrow a top-notch set from a store and listen tonight. So will I. We'll write you tomorrow whether we heard a cheep. That would be wonderful if we could get over one of our three big hurdles and eliminate College Station!!

NBC wrote me before they received Escoe's letter, saying the bill was \$1873, \$1273 as of August, 1942, which we all recognize, and \$75 per month for the use of the transcription library from August through April 1, \$600, or a total of \$1873. The contract price for the library is \$100 per month, but since they weren't sending us new releases, scripts, or sales help ideas, they reduce it 25% and make it \$75 per month. Senator said Stuart, Walker, et al are liable for all bills over the amounts that appear on that audit sheet and to wait until after the money has actually passed hands in this Handley suit and that bad taste is out of their mouths and then present them with this. I suggested we might offer to pay half of it, making us pay the \$873 that appears on the audit sheet, plus half of the additional \$1000 they say is due, or a total of \$1373, and they pay the other half of \$500. But I just can't help feeling Senator, for once, is wrong. We'll wait a few days and see what they answer to Escoe's letter.

Escoe says Hofheinz has the contract we have with the business school for sub-renting, but that he remembers it to be a lease, 5 years, from 1939 to July, 1944. I'm going to ask Jamie how much it would cost to paint walls and woodwork here and do something about the floors.

Must quit, dear, and get to work on making out a budget.

All my love