January 5, 1959

Dear Mama,

At last the troops are back from Christmas leaves and I have a little free time in the office to write letters...subject to interruption of course... I'm really sorry I wasn't able to get home this year, and Christmas wasn't very pleasant here at all...but I still feel I did the right thing in view of the circumstances.

Winter has set in in Washington, and we are all completely frozen...snow a foot deep this morning, and we have the pleasure of shoveling pathways for the officers before work in the morning!

Eva sent me a picture of Alexander, and he is really adorable...I must say that Eva and Bill seem to be doing a good job of raising a family fast!

The only bright thing happening here is the passage of time...on the 22nd of this month I will be half way through my period of penal servitude, and starting on the downhill side. Most of the people I have become friendly with are getting out in the next couple of months, and it will be rather dismal from then on. Our regular bridge game will be broken up by the departure of one of it's mainstays in a couple of weeks now...Also, I was had by a service station which I paid to put anti-freeze in my car. It seems they diluted it with too much water to try and make an extra buck. Result: my radiator was frozen the other day, and is still thawing out...I am praying that the block isn't cracked because that would mean a new engine or the junk heap...I intend to try and collect from them for damages, but one never knows how those things will turn out.

I have my application for a commission all ready to go in, waiting for those statements I sent to Daddy to have signed by a notary. I wonder if you could let me know when you'll have a chance to get them signed...I must make an appointment for a physical exam, and the date of the physical has to be within a few days of the application, and the medics are after me to get the thing completed. As I explained before, all that is necessary is that a notary see the certificates and sign the statements saying that he saw them. This is done because reproducing the certificates in any way is illegal.

I hope that everyone at home is well, and that you aren't having as unpleasant a climate as I am. Love to all,

Paul