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January 3, 1961

Mr. and Mrs. Homer Gruenther
The Westchester
Washington 16, D. C.

Our dear Homer and Bess:

Well, bless your hearts, we called you as soon as we arrived from our beloved Southland Sunday night, but you were not in. But thank the Lord, Homer called us just a little later.

We want to thank you for your wonderful letters and your notes and for the wonderful times we've been together, but we also want to thank you for the beautiful picture basket of fruit that we found that you had sent to us to make us welcome on our return to the Capitol of the United States. Truly, Bess, you and Homer are two precious people and I know you know we love you. It's a pity Homer doesn't bring you down on the hunts. Charlie Halleck, another Republican, brings his wife every time; and you'll see that's true because I'm going to send Homer some of the pictures of the great hunt we had together just recently on our hunting preserve at McIntosh, Alabama, way down in that Mobile Bay country.

Well, it's been a joy and pleasure to work with you these years you have been in the White House, Homer, and to have Boykin and DeFrancis and all of our fine friends and their wives with us on so many occasions and to be with you all on so many occasions. Well, we're going to keep on keeping on doing just that, and we'll all work together with the Gruenthers and the Boykins and DeFrancis and all of our fine friends, not only in this world but the world to come.

All the Boykins love Homer that have met him way down home, but, Bess, if they knew you, they'd love you even better than they do Homer. We send you our best, not only for New Year's

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but for all other times and forever.

God bless, help and keep you and give you much health,
wealth, and above all, a lot of happiness for 1961 and many,
many years to come. God bless you again real good.

Devotedly your old friends,

Oello and Frank W. Boykin

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