Dear Sol, 4/14/10

I appreciate your offers in your warm letter of the 9th. I've learned much since then, none of it good. But for ~~xxxxx~~ the immediate my needs are not financial, thanks. This is the time of year Lil works and I've had several consultancies. In fact, I'm typing this while waiting for a callback from Playboy, which is using me as a consultant on some very crappy JFK stories.

When it became apparent that GHA was not going to do anything, apparently a decision reached agter it recognised it had been at least negligent, I arrange to see a local GP but couldn't until this past Monday. He developed new concerns, about an arterial problem that was also allowed to develop, presumeably with or after the Phbelitis. There are parts of my left foot where he could detect no pulse. GHA refused a vascular consultation after a fine NYC internist to whom I'd been taken by another friend on 1/~~xx~~ 17 urged it and on a regular basis. The local doctor was able to arrange one locallt for the next day. That vascular surgeon confirmed his opinion and gave me a note to both GHA and George Washington Hospital asking for the relevant records. I had to be in DC yesterday. Both say they'll send the other records. I returned with enough of the X-rays. The vein damage is serious, I learned for the first time. As of the middle of October, when these new kinds of X-rays were taken, the main vein in the left leg as "gone." I suppose this means closed entirely by clots at the bottom because none of it shows and the radi-active dye was injected near the toes. This is merely the worst as it relates to veins. We do not yet know about arteries. That test can't be done without hospitalization and requires the temporary cessation of the anti-coagulent which is used against the clotting, I again presume to deter more.

But only a week ago yesterday, with less than a perfunctory examination after all my complaints, the GHA doctor told me I'm healing fine. Just a little earlier, in response to complaints, he told me by phone my clots are disolving.

I'm somewhat uneasy about all of this. More so because I'm going to have to quit smoking. I'm made an immediate 70-80% reduction and will, as tesnions do not get too great, quit. I've also had to considerably reduce my food consumption. I was not wating that much but did put on weight. I'm phasing out coffee and tea, by half already.

What I really need is a competent lawyer in Washington, one experienced in such matters, to work with the young friend who is just starting practise and is overloaded with pro bono work. The immediate need is getting them to start providing adequate care outside their bureaucracy, which they will resist, and then going farthur, especially ~~xf~~ for Lil if something should happen. There now is no real question. Their negligence of a year permitted this to develop. It could and should have been stopped quite early. The written record is complete enough because I'd earlier had serious problems with them and did as much as possible in writing. But getting a good and experienced lawyer when you can't pay is not easy.

I have the same problem with different cause in New York, where money is due me and I can't get or pay a competent New York lawyer. My young friend Jim Lesar will do all he can if he can use the name of a lawyer there. Because this will get before the courts I~~m~~ not asking you. Other, allegedly of principle and for whom I've done work free, are asking for fees. The larger case is one of fraud and I have ample proof. Another is merely collecting koney owed.

It has always appeared as thoug I am indestructible. Perhaps I would have been close to it with the medical care you'd expect for $1,200 a year. I'm not giving up or anything like that but I'm trying to take care, I'm still working more than a full day every day and I'm functhoning otherwise as well as ever. ...I've~~k~~ had the calback, have a long one to make, and in a few minutes prior to that a broadcast of at least an hour to a New England station. Or none of my own writing today now. So thanks, out best, and don't retire! There is too much worthwhile you can both do-and should. A special embrace to Beautiful Nancy and the hope her affairs try her as little as possible.

Sincerely,

SOL RABKIN
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February 9, 1976

Dear Harold,

I read your letter of January 28th with great interest and much concern. Somehow it doesn't seem right or just to find that you're having health troubles. I have learned the hard way - through much recent personal experience - that age catches up with us all and with it come the ills that flesh is heir to. But somehow I believed that my dear long-time friend Harold, the indomitable worker and fighter, would be immune to that human foible. So it comes as a sorrowful shock to hear of your health troubles. I do hope that they, unlike all your other troubles and battles and crusades, will turn out to be minimal instead of, larger than life. And if Freda and I and Nancy can be of help in any way in helping you overcome them, please do let us know. We do have doctor friends we trust implicitly both as medical experts and as human beings. And we can be of some at least small help if you do have serious

money problems.

I hope, later this year, to have time to read the two books you sent me. If so, I'll let you have my reactions. But time slips very tight for me. Although I will be passing 65 in a little over 2 months I have no plans to retire. I'll continue to try for work with the judge for, according to my plans, another two years. So I'm postponing receiving any payment on my ADL pension, about $600 per year, to May 1978. And of course if I continue to work I'll get nothing from Social Security. Instead I'll be paying in and, I presume, upping the benefit I'll finally receive. And I'll also be upping the New York State pension for which I become eligible when I reach 65. That, too, will increase & perhaps over $3000 per year if I continue working.

But I feel no need nor desire to retire. Neither does Freda. So we'll continue working for the next couple of years provided we stay sufficiently healthy to do so.

Meanwhile everything goes on and we, by and large, enjoy life. Let's keep in touch

Sol