Dear Jerry, 10/20/80

As Lil told you when you phoned, I've been in the hospital. For a month.

I'll be more limited in what I can do, how much more limited only time will tell.

The initial operation went off fine but two weeks later there was a complication.

I was home from the hospital for only part of a day when I had to go back for another operation.

Although the operation did provide more blood for the left leg, the complication reduced that and now there is less.

In 9 days I go back to the hospital for a checkup. Maybe I'll know more then.

I can't walk very far or very long. Only time will tell if this improves.

But it is certain that I'm going to be able to do much less than before, so I won't have time for all the chitchat. If you have any news, I'll be interested, but not about cars, etc.

I listened to the tape of the 30th first. It did have some news, and I thank you for it. When I got to the joke, as I told you may times, I turned it off. Now even more I have no time for such nonsense.

The tape of ~~the~~ 12 was, somehow, defective. As soon as it started, it stopped. As soon as I turned it back on it stopped again. It was click on, click off, until I just had to stop.

Warren Smith's letter is enclosed.

If you do h ave any news, like if Jimmy does OK on his parole hearings or there is a development in John's case, I'll be interested. I won't havetime for the personal stuff about your cars or how tough you want me to think you are and don't expect any answers unless it is something really important. I am now much too limited in what I can do and there is much too much work that means much to me for which I don't have time.

What happened is that in addition to the old trouble in the veins, the artery in my left thigh started to go back. The first operation was to replace it with a plastic one, and that worked find. While I was there more of the vein trouble turned up so I was kept longer for it to be treated. The day I was let out blood clots and maybe other things broke loose where I was operated on. The second operation was to clean all of that up. They were able to do this from the knee to the ankle but they could not get below the ankle. So it remains in the foot. The hope is that medication will relieve this. I hope it does but we don't know. I have to stop what I'm doing and walk around every few minutes, but sometimes I hurt enough to limp from the beginning, sometimes I can go maybe 200 steps before I have to stop. Pain wakes me up when I sleep, too.

All in all, it is serious and it is uncomfortable.

Sincerely,