Minnesota Hospital Trustee Conference

25 March 1989

Dear Harold,

Yes, we missed the worst weather, coming back to find 3 and 4 ft. drifts in our driveway. Now it's in the 60's and everything is melting. March is our biggest snow month.

Good to hear that Hal Verb is alive and well, When you get a chance, could you send me his address/phone number, etc.?

Yes, I not only remember the Little Blue Books, but remember well Hal's interest in those little book and in comic books.

On the vacation little Alexander had a fine time in a little inner tube in the kiddie pool. He is so immobile by comparison on land it was a joy to see him be about to move around the pool. So, we're now looking for a kiddie pool of the right depth around here. His feet (ideally) need to be able to touch the bottom)

Just when things were looking good and we thought we'd dodged the major bullets, we were plunged into anxiety and some despair last week. We had gone to the pediatric endocrinologist to set up a series of hormone injections designed to help find his undescended testicles. Then a second series of injections would try to enlarge them so they drop down. Failing that, he'd have surgery.

Quite unexpectedly the endocrinologist asked us if the Prader-Willi syndrome had been considered? This disorder, which emerges around age 5, is characterized by excessive eating, obesity, and behavior problems, plus mental retardation! Apparently the kids are born hypotonic--like Alex. So, we're now busily researching it and awaiting a chromosomal study--it has chromosomal

identifiers. We're not sure why it hasn't been raised before, and this caused us to start looking at the medical library for any other syndromes which haven't been ruled out. We thought that all of them had, and that we were simply dealing with an undiagnosed benigh condition.

Unfortunately, even if the chromosomal test is negative, he still could have the problem, so we're going to be worried until age 5 or 6! What a nightmare!

Obviously the thought that he would not only have serious difficulties but that he could end up, once mature, in a group home, is the worst fear any parent could have. This is intensified in our case, since we're older parents and would expect any child to outlive us by many years.

So, cross your fingers that he doesn't have this disorder.

On another topic, Ross Ralson and a fellow named Rick Anderson, two long-time buffs, are still following things and call occasionally. Ross didn't finish his Ph.D., having been failed on his oral exam, but now hopes, next year, to be again working on a Ph.D., this time at Iowa State. (He was at U. of Missouri.)

Your memory about my dissertation is accurate. I had hoped to be doing it by now--the topic is the evaluation and development of rehabilitation plans for professionals who are personally impaired. However, I decided to try to get this book done earlier, and then use parts of it in the dissertation. The book has falled way behind and I can only hope to get it out soon before it drives me crazy. You are probably much better adjusted to having yourhome be cluttered with pieces of unfinished books which continually remind you of the need

to finish it.

I haven't read the Garrison book but Ross Ralston read me some parts of it over the phone about the Boxley incidents. It was certainly distorted. It's too bad that, despite his intelligence, he didn't run a good investigation and didn't get so distracted by bullshit. He was close to some important stuff, as you show in Oswald in New ###### Orleans.

Thanks for the info on Sylvia. I don't know the two people you mentioned.

Well, I'd better go now. Give my best to ##### Lil.

Jay

Mr. Gary Schoener
4033 Dupont Ave South
Minneapolis, MN 55409

3/30/89

Dear Gary,

The only address I have for Hal Verb is P.O.Box 1815, San Francisco 94101. I think but I'm not sure that he lives in Oakland and that his box is near where he works.

We are very sorry to hear the new bad news about your beautiful son's medical problems. We do hope that solutions surface and think it is fine that you are doing your own research. There is so much that can now be done - and from my own experience, so much that can't. So much that ought not go wrong but does and so much that mere caring can and does avoid. Our hopes are with you! And don't let your's flag!

I don't know where you'll keep a kiddie pool during cold weather but if you have troubke locating one you should have very little trouble making one. We had a friend some years ago who made larger ones commercially. For what I imagine would be a small one all you need is a frame and some 6 mil mylar. Unless that has been superceded by a better plastic. If you have a basement with a floor drain he can have a pool in coldest weather.

Haven't heard from or about Ross Ralston in years and don't remember the name Rick Anderson if I ever knew it.

Yes, we are adjusted to unfinished things all around the place, now so many that I can no longer remember where they are. With all you have on you I hope you can complete the book and then the dissertation.

I don't remember whether I ever cued you in on the Boxley business you mention but I've read the Garrison book and that is one of a number of places that could not be more dishonest. I rather suspect that Jim's guilt over it is what accounts for my not having heard from Gandolfo for so long. He'd told me that Jim was giving him copies to be sent to others, including me, that they'd be mailed momentarily, the that there were odd small delays, then that Jim was going to New York for a press conference and some appearances with Gandolfo - and then, now for months - absolute silence. And no copy of the book. I didn't buy one, either. I suppose Jim stuffed ed with crap, I don't mind.

Not much new here. I'm now tired just about all the time and day before yesterday the checkup disclosed a heart murmur. Echo and other tests early part of next week. Lil is deep in taxes and tired from them and the petty problems that are made for her. Two weeks and two days and I'll be glad when they are all done. But I'm sure some of her people who've not been here will be asking for time extensions. If there are any, there won't be the time pressures on her.

We do hope that all goes well with all of you,

Harold

P.S. Thanks for the McCloy clipping. A couple of people on The Nation staff are doing a book on him. I helped them on it a year or so ago. Don't know when it will be out but they sure have a subject! He was so well thought of for being in on such terrible things!