

Dear Bob,

6/25/81

So you can better appreciate how much I appreciate your offer to help with the medical bills and what happened this last time, here is a copy of the bill for the surgery only. As you can see, it is a Medicare form, and between Medicare and Blue Cross just about all of it should be taken care of, so I still do not expect to need any help.

This \$2325 does not include the hospital's bill. Not for the hospitalization and not for the operating room, etc. Give you an idea of how great costs are today.

If I didn't tell you, the first two came to about \$20,000 for the hospital and something like over \$4,000 for the surgeon. The insurances finally paid most of the hospital bills but belatedly paid only about \$1,300 of the surgeon's bills. Blue Cross, which acts for Medicare and is incredible inefficient in Washington, is supposed to be reviewing its action, at the request of the local Blue Cross, which can't explain or understand any of what it did.

I don't really understand these medical terms, except that they mean that three of the arteries in and below the left thigh were totally blocked at the point where they split and that there was a patch. This is what I was told.

I did not get the attached operative report.

The doppler tests are like magic. Really like sonar, which, in effect, they are. They can almost draw a picture of the circulation from it. The arterial doppler yielded a printout, which the doctor has to interpret. For preliminary and emergency uses the venous doppler machine has been reduced to the size of a pocket transistor radio, with an enclosed tube like that the doctor moves around. They use this also on arteries.

After the surgery it is up to the body and medications. The body, in my case, has to enlarge the minor vessels to carry more of the load of the lost larger ones because they are closed by clots that are not within reach of surgery. I help this by using my legs as much as I can. Unfortunately, I can for only a couple of minutes at a time, so I do it more often, walking. Before the strike I'd take in the Orioles' ball games, walking after each halfinning, on each commercial and when pitchers were changed. Although I did this in the house, I did a fair amount of walking. Last couple of days, with the temperature close to 100 and bad air that should keep me in, I'd read a few pages and walk until I felt pain, when I'm supposed to stop and elevate the leg, and repeat throughout the day.

While I have varying degrees of discomfort about all the time, no sharp pains and I take no pain killers. Not even aspirin, which is prohibited in any event.

Otherwise I feel OK and I spend part of every day at my desk. Tomorrow we depose an FBI agent in the spectro case and I'll be participating. I've also done what I could to help the lawyer prepare, so I'm not out of it.

Best wishes, and again thanks,