Dear Jim,
Eince reeding in the N .0 . paper of your hospitalizstion I've been intending to write you, but the prewsures of my own life frustrated it. The last two trips I na to your city epparently tonk a heavier toll on we that I then anticipated. Fhysicolly and emotionally they were difficult. Un the last one, I just bigcred sut for e while, a short ohile. In doing it I sufiered on impsirment to my sense of belence that has not yet returned to normel, and I injured a knee thet e perently presers ctoninuing to anroy re.

Since then I ingve been under medicslajajunction to take $i t$ easier, get more rest, etc., sud gradually I've gotten to the point where on most nights I get the senerelly-recon ended amount of rest. Lest nicht, which is still this night, is en exception, so I use the axtra time for whet I intend as a word of cheer.

The paper remottre your release fro the boonital (if it can be said that anytiaing in jour pepers is "reporting"), arrived yesierday. I hope tide means that you heve recovered from whatever is wrong vith your back.

You heve joinod e retbar large brotherho ta I've just "celebreted" my 30th year of aembersijp. Nuch of the time has been uncomfortable, but I cite the duretion ae eviaence cf a rather Ligh survival rate.

Back injuries, itse women anc friende, are of all diferent varleties. Some are worse than others. I am fortunete in gharing my life wita one not the worst, one with which i'te been $\varepsilon$ bla to coexist once I ajotermiaed tiat, if th a 1ifetime to share, I'd be the master. Since reaching this conclusion, not a single thinf that l'va wented to do has my beck kent ree from doing.

Lsst weak, bending down for a light object, j. kicired mine out agein. For several lays it was impoasible for me to atreighten up. Hovever, I keft up mith my progrma of physical octivities, dosimnt, hepofuly, to restore some of the ruscles lost in five sedentery years. Although I kaito do it sitting dowc or kneeling, I took down two 30 -font trees and then, $\pi^{2}$ thout $e$ tructor, dracted eech 400-500 feet, to where trimmine them out would make less of a mess on the place. I do not know that Taul Bunyen would a prove, and it must lnok funny, pere one to see a man swinging en axe while kneeling, sawing while sitting, but the fect is I did fell the trees.

While I connot and do not poss as on expert on buck injuries, I do assure you thet soine seem much worse to begin ritit tien tuey actually are. I hope yours is of this chargeter.

The rost difitcult thing for me it to etend still, in one position, as before a podium. But I iave yet to find the auaience that resented my aitting while I addressed it, as almost inveriably I have.

And I do hooe, if and when the tine for owinging in your campaign comes, you'll be able to.

My omn oulput has been slowed somewnat by stretched pad-rime and the physical activity, but it remsins one of which I dn $n$ t shame. Aside from continuing incuiries and kepoing up with the day-to-day work, I've completed two books since I was last tinere. One, which puns not leas than 800,000 words, is in the form of an gdaition to en eerlier one not printed, COUP Dertat. This adition deals witit the King/Rey case alone. Several othars, on finich the research is completed, are in various ateges of incemplation. Hy continuing investigetions have been rather fruitful. I think thy heve procuced whet mey eventually prove to be the most useful evidence yet.

If it sen be adid the canpagen can be zatched from your pepers, I have been watching it with some interest. fiside from my early nempaner experience, before I cost my firat billot I worked for tua senate. Bo, I see politics as other non-participants often do not. The leshinftcn Post, while finding you s very danzerous man, onceeda. For tiafe wor's of scholarshin thay essigned their top dwidituak investigative reporter ond the upgraded former chief of their national aesk.

If I cen read between tio inea accurately, caerlie ard began With the support of the local papers but didn't live up to tieir expectations.
 high regard they inad for him, I find the Stetes' encorsement of Conuick telline me Charlio is done. As I read what Con ick soys, I resch other conglusions, and I on unimpressed with the protestations of bis povarty. ine is, I feel, far from glone snd, when he needs the mheremitioall, will beve it, probably in the stredch, when sudaenly ine'll heve the TV money he needs. I recoll a number of elactions in waich nev technicues were developed for nurting the popalar incumbent. Two ofitne classics were nere in maylsnd. A nonentity, John Harshell Eutler, got into tia Senate tnet way on one occasion. On another, besic chencos were brought abcut in the form of government of ties county in which I then lived.

Conifer's, I believe, is non-locsi gponecrehin. I believe I cen enticipate some of the lest minute dirty-mork. If it interests you, I cen slways get to es clesr phone in a very short time, ten minutes at most. I an not believe the whal phones need be clear, however.

So, I hope yru are feeling well, thet whetever has heppered to your back is not permenent, that it mill rot reguire surgery, the that rou'll be ve the lest-minute raxiefy energy for a successful conclusion to tae osmpaisn.

Gooã luck ana best regerais to all.
Sincerely.

Larold Wiaberg

