Mr. Sol Rabkin
75 Henry St.

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1 / 19 / 76
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Dear Sol,
Let's strike a bargain: I'll excuse your handwriting (which motually is less illegtible than mine) and you excuse my typing. The reasons I'm pressed for time will becone apparent.

I guess we are getting to the age when the kinds of personal tragedies and problems you report can be expected. Lil's wother and mine, for example, both woll over 80. insist on living independently. For their desires for independence they are right. For the concerns or their childrun they are nrong. We have to hope that nothing happons, as with each in different ways it can.

For the first time in my life I'm seriously ill. This does not mean that 1 could not put in 22 hours one day last weak, the lind of day that vould exhaust a kid. But it does mean I should not have and did only because there was no altermative.

I may have phoned you in April, toward the end, when I was in Hew York to wake a speech at NYO law school, got sick and had it read by my friend and wonderful human being assowiate, Jim Lesar, a Lawyer just startine pracise who has been to the Supreme Court four times without being before a jury. A Hew York doctor diagnosed it as pneumonia. I had oniy a few daya carlier reported to my own what turned out to be typical symptoms and they were ignored. Otherwise I'd not have gone to New York at all. I spent two miserable, days in a hotel (not the best) unable to lie down and sleep because I also had pleurisy and was not told about it until I got home, and without a chaur that cawe abovo the small of the back. I lef't tulce before the New York doctor (a real bloodsucker) dis charged me. I held a remakrably successful press conference with a fever of $102^{\circ}$. WCBS for exemple taped the whole thing. They used a selection each hour ior the first 24 and after tiat I know only that they continued to use different axcerpts for aix day. In my own news experience something like this is wothout precedent. It was a week of more before I could get into bed. But as you may remember, I've always been pretty tought. If I never fuliy rocovered my previous streugth and endurance. I did take this as a sign to slow down and got more rest thereafter.

It now turns out that I have phiebitia - without the side benefits now associated with them in the popular mind. And on Saturday, when I Was in Hew York to discuss a new book with a friend, I learned that I may have had a thrombosis in April rather than pneumonia. He is ai friend and if thero was in his mind the quastion should he make the investment with questions about my health I'd find this proper. However, he asked me to seo his internists. He'd asked earlier it he could make an appointment with a specialist through his internist when I was there and I welcomed a second opinion because by then I'd developed concoerns of my own. But one of two things seens clear now: I had a thrombosis then and my own medical insurer ignored it by sheer negligence; or by equally negilgent care (eor which we pay $\$ 1200$ a year) he isnored the well-lmown possibility of phlebjtis following pneumonia. I reported the symptoms typical of phiebitis when he made a perfunctory and belated check on the oneumonia ani he diamiseed them as mechanical and a consequence of aging. His examination after I returned consisted of having the nurse take my pulse and blood-pre sure and then his listeaing to ay chest. Only when this apparently conscientious internist started asiding me questions Saturday about the results of tests, none of which were mede, di I begin to realise the extent of the negligence.

I did the list or the work in which I wasi indispensible in the printing of my most recent book when it was quite uncorfortable atill believing that the las pain mas mechanical. Thoy were hard and long days. The next day I phoned my doctor and saw him the following day. "e was optimistic in diagnosint the developuent of the ailment and prescribed a drug that could not and did not work. Five days later he hospitalized me.


#### Abstract

Desulto what is hoard so of tens the hospital people nere woiderful. I rar 15 saw my own doctor and the intern was a great and compassionate human being. The hurses ware like mothers or aisters. The care consisted of blood testa and injactions of anticoagulents. This meant that with instant sleep I could snatch at :uost three hours at a time arown ha clock. Aside froci tho norwel examinations, ahich this intern uid with co mendable care and concern, tie only testine othor than of the level of anticongulent in tire blogu was what a cilled a vein scan, a disegreeabli X-ray examination that the intern, not my own doctor, recomended. Portunately the radiologist was an uilloown fan of mine. when he found the laft lse so tight he coulda't readily inject a preliminary saline solution be went ahead on his own and did both legs, which is how I leamed I have it in inoth, severely and extensivaly in the loft.

I was discharged barely able to walk, unable to drive (there are some wonderful college kinds, the responsible 2 m type, who shephereded me and still do because I can't drive for an hour , and without any preparation for what lay ahead except for the little I could extract from this compromised intern who had no right to tell me anything. But my own doctor didn't. In fact, he didn't see me for a day and a hall aft or he oked the discharge without the proper level of anti-coagulent having been eatablighed. It is three times what it was when he disoharged me.


Not unitil Saturday, after three moathe, did I even leam thet I should not sit for more than a haif-hopr at a time. When I rost I keop my legs up. Aiso when I type. (Try it some time.) When weather conditions oermit (and cold is no barrier) I take several forced walka a day, until I stagger geing uphill. Ondy then do I turn arounc and wiscicx walk home, mastly dowahtll. Day's lill woriks I got there early and do this in the ilat. It is indicated. The idea is to force the blood aca the veins to wors, for the arailer veins to enlarge and do the work of the blocked larger ones. Theyare not prominent. I wear anti-eabolisur devices when I sleep-around tite clock. Saturday i learned of an opinion other than my daoctor's when I asked him, that they shouid axtend to the crotch, especially because from the relative inactivity I have put on much weight. When I came to realize this was growing without excessive eating I started my own regimen to lose weight. It ia now 3 p. m. So g far today I've eaten an orange, a banana (to replace the potassium lost because of a prescribed diuretic, Lil's science not my coctor's) and an inch cube of chese for protein. I'1l hav: only $s$ salad sith an adiced source of protein tror suyber. But diet has not been discussed with me:

The New York doctor has written mine. I can izagine what will follow.
I've beon intorrupted by several phone call, the second a long one and I've lost part of my train. I manage to function. I've three active FOIS cases in two district
 evidence, soile quite irpirtent, I think establishire a conspiracy against lay and to obstruct justice. I've done nore FJIA work ( 5 U.S.C. 552) than aiyore else, never losing even when I "lose." I regulargly prove perjury under oath, aithout ever being charse myself. The d'BI's last respohae was that I coula wioubtecily make and prove this charge ad infinitim because i know wore avout the subject than a yone in the $\mathrm{F}_{\mathrm{Lj}} \mathrm{I}$. How's that for an answer to perjury, counselior' The fiak judge tolu nay lawyer/asiociate that we could be sured for saying such thing out of court. We of ered to walk through the doors then and there, startied the juige, and that was the end or that. This is tha case on appeal. I got much without complisnce. It is in my newest book thet it cleaned us to print. I'il enciose a list aui you tall ne which oness you'd con'th have and want.

And another reporter called.
Our financial condition is about the same. Over the past year I've hac a couple of consultancies for which I was paid. With that I fot from these and what had core in fros the earlier books I'd found it possible to print the newest. The one beirore thet

arller books now close to out ol print. I've just mede a profitless arrangerent with a distributor on all the books. It will get them out ani take the tine of packaging and wailing of of ne. It iss also an arrancement that does not encourage further indebtedness to reprint because he' 11 have all except the individual orders, all commercial sales.

But I have promises to keep and I hone many miles yet. And wuch writing.
'Mis tine of tise year, while it bringe other problems, finances aye taken care of by Lill's tax mort.

I'm as much as three sam months behind in filinge what goes in the lover drafers moatly from when I had mouble bencincs. Now it is nit comiortable and not infossible.

I hope I've revembered everything.
I was about to leave for Lil and take an evening walk on the level in the large shopines center in which her oflice ic. Instead I'll hit the wountain again in ht now while there is a little gun. It is quite cold.

I'm sorry it did not work out Sor Nancy but over the years I've foraed the bellef thet if it doesnit work out the soomer it ands the better.

Best to all we know,

> aincerely,

SOL RABKIN
ATTGRNEY AT LAW
75 HENRY STREET
BROQKLYN, N. Y. 11201
522-7466

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