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MM 8/23

HAL VERB  
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AUG. 20, 2001

HAROLD WEISBERG  
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FREDERICK, MD. 21701

Dear Hal=

I'm sorry I didn't write you sooner but a few things have happened to me since I last wrote you.

As you are no doubt aware by now but on Monday, July 9<sup>TH</sup> I was at the hospital where I had an angiogram taken of me. After the angiogram (in fact, the very next day) they were to have the surgery done on my heart (aortic + mitral valve replacement). But the surgery was postponed because the two cardiologists examining me found out that I had what they determined to be "Marfan Syndrome". I've been told (but never completely confirmed) that this condition was one that President Lincoln had. What it is, is a connective tissue disorder which could affect a heart operation.

The surgeon who was originally supposed to carry out my initial surgery was replaced by what my doctors told me would be better for me - supposedly he is familiar with the "Marfan Syndrome" & when I met with him he gave me some details on this.

They were, then, to establish a new date for my surgery but after my doctor had some chest X-rays taken of me it was learned that I had

an infection in my lungs which was bronchitis. I ~~was~~ was coughing (& still am). They've given me different medications for this (but the coughing still persists). From what I've learned so far the Syndrome causes the coughing. Supposedly it is hereditary (probably I obtained it from my father who died of TB in the late 30's).

In any event, I'm to undergo a "breathing test" on Thursday, Aug. 23<sup>rd</sup> & my doctors will proceed from there. My doctors tell me under no circumstances will they perform surgery until & unless my bronchitis is done with.

So that is how it stands.

Dave Ahrone has called me a few times & I keep him in touch. As soon as I do find out when my surgery date is set, I'll let Dave know.

This should keep you up to date with my situation as of now.

I do hope you & Lillian are OK.

Will write when more info comes in.

Best,  
Hal Verb