

FEB 16 1976

JDW, HR,

medical update

HW 2/11/76

Jim by now probably knows more than I can tell you. The local vascular surgeon wanted the records, hospital and clinic, on the phlebitis. I had to be in DC today. (Calendar call on C.A.75-1996 - we prevailed- the judge gave the government a month to comply and ordered an answer to the interrogatories they have ~~not~~ resisted and will)

I did not get the records themselves at either place but I did get a sampling of the X-rays. May, who is a radiologist, took her time and picked them out because that many had been taken. The vascular man has seen them and says they tell him what he has to know, plug for May. The other records are to be mailed.

While there is more, I think it is enough to tell you that the main vein in the left leg was gone by the time I was X-rayed in October. How gone I didn't ask. But the Xray shows nothing there and damage elsewhere.

What is now fascinating to me, from my limited experience with X-rays, is how they took so damned many so fast. It is disagreeable, so I'm all for the fast part. First they took X-rays while the table moved back and forth. Then, and it was not as simple as this sounds, then injected a dye under pressure and X-rayed again as the table moved me back and forth. May told me today that they inject a radioactive dye. This glows in the veins. So, it just didn't get into that vein at all.

I don't think I could have operated a 35mm camera with automatic advance by the single lever any faster. Great invention.

Local doctor still wants the same thing with the arteries when it can be done. First he has to have all the old records and then arrange it. It will mean being off the anticoagulant for 4-5 days.

HR will remember the discomfort I had this past summer when he was here and when I felt it we'd walk back. I guess it was packing up then. I'd reported it, as I told him, but like everything else it was dismissed.

And as recently as last week the vascular consultation was rejected by GHA. The extent of the damage I had not been told.

The last word on this subject by the GHA doctor is that the clots were dissolving, that I was healing.

We haven't gone into it but I presume the purposes of these projected artery X-rays are to learn why there is so little pulse, see places none in the left foot, do reduced in both lower legs, whether surgery is indicated or possible, etc.

Jim was with me when I went to ask for the records. I'd phoned first to give them time. They had done nothing some time later and would not tell me when they would be sent. This was a clerk not cued in. I had asked Jim to go with me in the event of a hassle. I asked the clerk to try to speed it up and explained why. No promises. As we left Jim said this kind of thing in itself is negligence.

And that, I'm afraid, is the whole story: negligence.

However, there appears to be nothing new to worry about. This is the situation as of mid-October. And the vascular man said not to worry.