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Dear Karel, I am sorry that Einstein decided definitely in favor of someone else. I was, of course, biased on your behalf, but maybe something even better awaits you. Since neither Cornell nor Jefferson have made any selections yet, is there some means whereby you could be made a candidate for these posts? Surely in the corridors of power O.H.W. could pass along some signals to that effect. On the other hand, considering the rather small success he had in effecting the choice of someone to head his own department, maybe he doesn't have as much of a lion's roar as one would imagine.

The scope of your current activities appears to be wide enough to satisfy many a surgeon, and I compliment you heartily on your achieving it after such a relatively short time. Not that it is inconceivable that you could accomplish as much or more in the academic saddle. Perhaps my repeated expressions of confidence about you relevant to your role in an academic milieu are partly a reflection of my not having obtained a similarly satisfying program, and being acutely aware of the great difficulties in re-establishing an academic standing after the bonds have been severed. Doubtless, with continued productivity such as yours, and the maintenance of contacts, the transition may be considerably simpler.

for you.

I appreciate your good words to State for me. It is quite unfortunate that he had nothing more to offer me than an invitation to attend conferences, help in teaching, participating in the clinics, etc. This, naturally, is the sort of affiliation that is not hard to obtain. As Gladys remarks, medicine is one of the very few professions where you are welcome to work for nothing. After State, I tried a couple of other places, but again without any luck.

Last week I visited my sister in Miami. A friend advised me to visit the University, and I stopped by to see James Jude, whom I had met on a previous occasion. As chance would have it I learned that he is looking for someone to add to his team. Jim has built a pretty good division of thoracic and cardiovascular surgery in the three years that he's been in Florida, despite a fairly brisk competition and rather limited clinical material. From my stand-point this is the best opportunity that has presented itself thus far, for it would represent my developing my potential for creative work, return to research and teaching, and aiding in the organization of a relatively new enterprise. Other factors are that I have family and friends in the area, and that Jude and his associates appear to be very nice guys. I've applied for the job, and am hoping for the best. Having endured so many set-backs in recent months, I am not letting my expectations run wild however. Stating it modestly, on the other hand, I earnestly believe that Jude would stand to gain too, for he would find in me a loyal and hard-working partner who requires but a decent environment to be productive. Do you know Jude?

Best regards to you, Mary, and the brood,

David