

11/9/67

Dear Karel, I am truly glad to hear how well things are going with you. It certainly sounds like you are to be envied on every score! Evidently the many years of waiting, agonizing, and getting hard knocks finally bore fruit. How on earth did you get your hands on such terrific historical items?! And to already have a 2000 page manuscript in such a short time!

Friends periodically write to inquire about obtaining tickets to shows, as you have. On the basis of experience in this matter, let me suggest the most reliable approach... viz., to order tickets by mail. Show promoters know that there is no problem in getting customers from New York, Connecticut and North Jersey. They are keen on the out-of-town trade. Tourists go to ticket agencies or scalpers. Out-of-towners who order tickets from out of town actually stand a better chance than local folk. I therefore recommend that you obtain a New York Times (preferably the Sunday issue) and send away for whatever shows or concerts you wish. The alternative is to go to the box-office on the same night and try one's luck.

So let me know when you plan to arrive. I am certain that I can readily adjust my schedule so that we may spend time together. You doubtless have seen all the ads about the Bailey-sponsored medico-surgical conference to be held next month at the Plaza. Is that what's bringing you to Manhattan?

The passing comments you made regarding Walt were sparse, but startling nevertheless. I had no idea that his departure from Minnesota involved so much bitterness. I assumed that Varco would have opposed him in anticipation of furthering his own candidacy for the chair. But even without the latter, Walt could have remained, couldn't he? After all, he and Najarian were neither at loggerheads nor in competition, and I would think that Najarian would welcome retaining a strong and prestigious section of cardiac surgery. That there might be some

blackballing at Cornell was not unexpected. I don't know for sure who was involved, but I can imagine that entrenched conservatives enjoying the benefits of the closed shop and private practice would not greet with happiness the prospects of full-time, and salary or income ceilings.

Rumors (undoubtedly exaggerated and adorned) have it that Walt's contract is \$100,000/annum, a paid-up life insurance policy & other fringe benefits, plus a mandate from the big wigs at Cornell to mold the department as he sees fit. I am surprised to learn from you that "he took a goodly group with him." The word was that no more than 2 or 3 surgeons would constitute the retinue. I haven't heard locally whether this is so. Thus far (since November 1st, that is,) nothing dramatic seems to have occurred. In fact, I don't know anyone who has even seen Walt yet.

I wrote to Walt in the summer inquiring about the prospects of joining his team. He replied that he preferred to be non-committal until a few months had elapsed and given him the means to appraise the needs of the department. Quite frankly, Kard, I am most hopeful that Walt will find a place for me on his team. I am very anxious to return to the academic setting, and am certain that I would be very useful to him. By the same token, I don't wish to appear unduly eager or pushy in my application for the post. I really don't know how to go about it in the best way short of attending Grand Rounds and the like. Unless the present crowd in the department proves malleable, some fellows will probably leave, voluntarily or otherwise, which should furnish some openings. On the other hand, if a whole retinue has accompanied Walt, it is unlikely that this will come about.

I would like to have your views and information on this matter, as well as your advice. Let me know your itinerary for your visit here.

Warmest regards,
David.