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January 15, 1979

Barry Leshowitz
Arizona State University
Department of Psychology
Tempe, Arizona 85281

Dear Barry:

I want to thank you for sending me the story relating the dreadful news about Norman Latker who is a real hero in his efforts.

If I can help you in any way, be sure to let me know.

Sincerely,

Sydney E. Salmon, M.D.
Professor of Medicine
Head, Section of Hematology and Oncology
Director, The University of Arizona
Cancer Center

SES:jcr

January 19, 1979

Dear Norman:

As promised, I shall try and bring you up to date on the situation here. I am not alone in this "new" office in the seedy Capitol Hill annex on C Street, and conversations on the phone are at times difficult to pursue.
Rich explained the move to me on the ground that we are running out of space, which is true with, so far, a total of 5 new people and the addition of a new computer terminal used for political information. A full-time speech writer is now on the staff and we have two press secretaries instead of one. One legislative assistant who left last December is being replaced by two people, one of whom has all the necessary qualifications: female and black. She is also a lawyer who graduated from Tufts and will become the first lawyer on the staff. Until now we have had only law students, and we are down to one this year. Bob Downen who had been handling foreign affairs is leaving at the end of this month and is being replaced by three people, one of whom has already been hired. That does not mean that Bob Downen was so efficient that three people will be required to handle what he alone dealt with. The truth of the matter is that Dole is gearing up for the big campaign with a capital C.

Rich took me to the cafeterial on Monday for a "confidential talk" and told me of the reasons for the re-organization of the staff. Dole's budget does not allow for that many people on the staff. As a result some of them will have to be "let go" (lovely euphemism). Unfortunately, competence is not going to be the determining factor on who stays and who doesn't. Political ties and contacts are going to be the last word.
Rich claims that he trying very hard to keep me and Bill Kats, the only two people without political clout, and feels that there may be a good chance that he will be able to do just that, but in the meantime the money on the Dole budget is running out and his advice to me was "to keep my eyes open".

Because of other problems in the office, I had made plans to leave before my second year on the staff was up, but I was hoping it would be in my own time and after most of the work on the bill had been completed and I had taken it as far as I could, as a member of Dole's staff. It had become an emotional issue partially because it was my first big project in the area of legislation, partially because Barry was able to communicate some of his feelings on it to me, partially because of the working relationship you and I were able to establish, and because the issue is one that is right and on which I did not have to compromise with my own sense of ethics or my principles. I turned down an offer to work on "ethnic groups" human rights - Ukrainians and latvians who are very big in our office, but went against my jewishness.

Whether it is possible or not is anyone's guess, but I have set the end of April as a dateline for my leaving, whether or not I have another job. I have just begun the process of looking and have not gotten very far, but then it has only been two weeks.

In the meantime, my involvement with the bill has not diminished and I plan to continue putting in all the work required while I am still here. I have also initiated a proposal on Mexican oil which seems to have interested Dole sufficiently for him to tell Rich to tell me to go ahead with it (by the simple procedure itself that is used and the traditional lack of communication among legislative assistants, between Dole and his l.a., between press and l.a. and the list could go on, you may have gained a perception of the many problems that plague this office).

However, as long as my grey cells continue to function and I can work on ideas and write, one of my favorite pastimes, the situation is not as demoralizing as it may seem, or perhaps it is that I am strong enough not to let it become demoralizing.

Rich has repeated to me several times that in our office "form is more important than substance". I am too serious an individual not to have problems with this kind of philosophy. I have had more conversations with him than I care to recount on the importance of the patent bill, both as an enormous turning point in our ability to compete, what it can do for the economy etc, and in the votes that we can score with the intellectual community - everything here has to be translated in terms of what it can do politically. I have stressed many times the fact that it may not be a populist issue that would excite a farmer from Manhattan, Kansas, but that it would be understood and seized upon by those people who are eloquent and can influence other voters, if indeed it is the presidency he is after and not just "representing" the people of Kansas ! However, there is one factor that I believe Barry felt perhaps with less sensitivity than I do, and that is the inherent suspiscion that I am part of some sort of Jewish conspiracy on that patent issue ! Sounds preposterous... but is it ? I am not a trusted member of the staff for three main reasons: I am not from Kansas, I am Jewish, I am "different" (don't drink, don't use four letter words and read strange books during my lunch hour).

Barry thought he had established a personal relationship with Dole that was of mutual trust etc. Perhaps he had. I was never allowed to communicate with him except through memos. Conversations were monosyllabic exchanges of no consequence. In short, after 13 months on the staff I was summoned to his office once only, when he wanted to get clarifications on some of the terms used in a speech I wrote for him that was being delivered to the National Conference on Soviet Jewry.

The enthusiams I have felt for the bill, my attempts at communicating it (and I too can get "fired up" on issues I believe in) have fallen on unreceptive ears. The farmers don't care about patents. Dole is much more intelligent than some members of the staff think he is. My impression of him is that he is shrewd and cynical. However, I believe him to be parochial and a polit-ician, not a statesman if a statesman is to be characterized by the ability to envision the future beyond the present.

It has not been easy to work in this environment. I do not regret the learning experience, and that it has been. I am most grateful for the role of mentor you assumed with me, and thankful to you for the time you spent with me, being a teacher. I am thankful to Barry, but the situation is out of the realm of his influence. There is little doubt that I will not be on Dole's staff much longer, and to leave will not be an unpleasant thing !

This is not my "farewell address" by any means - merely an elucidation of things. Will be talking to you next week.

All the very best,

Brandy

P.S. It is not clear whether Rich does not understand the scope of the bill or whether he simply thinks that it is not politically oriented, as far as he can see it.