

April 8, 1971

Mr. Don Rupp  
1450 West Minnehaha Parkway  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Dear Don:

I appreciated your good letter in January, and your trying to call during the holidays. We had a chalet during the season, where the family stayed and I was in and out of Geneva.

After really a frantic winter, I am just as busy but slightly more in control, that is, a few inches back from the brink. It goes all right until I get jobs suddenly dumped on me without having been able to prepare for them--last week at Leiden where they named me chairman of a seminar faculty--on arrival--and not only was the curriculum mine--but an awful political mess; industrial docs, academic docs and public health docs at each others' jugulars over a pot of Dutch money. In these situations, I really tread the brink, and the clatter below when one foot slips over is awfully threatening! I suppose that's the most devastating thing about our lives, how far and fast one slip can make you fall.

Winding up a field study in a little medieval town in the Jura where we look for some clues on hypertension. Then I will return to Austria with my two handsome girls, plus Nelly who is still a distinguished if wrinkled aristocrat, and clamor around some glaciers, with skis and sealskins.

I am glad you had such a good visit to Spain and France, and I share your feeling about France. It was a great thrill to me to return there as guest of honor, having left as a little intern 21 years ago, and to find Paris a more oreless faithful mistress.

I am sorry to miss the gathering of Parlin and Klepetars at the Keys next week--pleasant as it will be, I think I need the mountains with the girls a little more.

I hope the lacklustre reports I hear about President's month will encourage, rather than cut down, the new development toward a strong Life Company. When I joined Mutual Service nobody would have predicted the lack of growth of the Life Company in this period of time (15 years for me!).

Had to cancel my March trip but hope to drop in the first week in May.

Regards,