



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
TWIN CITIES

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COPIES - CONTI

February 2, 1981

Richard Conti, M.D.
Route 4, Box 191C
Gainesville, FL. 32601

*No response!
FB
Tampa, Tampa!*

Dear Dick:

I look forward to seeing you in a couple of weeks, hoping we have snow at Big Sky. This is a personal letter to insert an idea and let it simmer.

I am increasingly nostalgic for my "homeland." Systematically over the last five years, I've nosed around to find what is left of the back country and "virgin" Florida. "There ain't much," but, as you know, there is certainly enough left for my lifetime. Despite inflationary values of property, I am looking for a little place to retreat parttime over the next years and for eventual retirement. I am dreaming, if not yet planning, to spend a "decent" part of the year in late winter and early spring away from here, for mini-sabbaticals and writing.

Of several alternative sites, it seems to me that an ellipse oriented southeast, with a focal point at the University of Gainesville, with a radius of 45 minutes from the University, would present many advantages. There would be a source of colleagues and possible collaboration, and library for me, and cultural activities for my wife (French teacher). The possibilities for lakeside or pine and hammock or riverside retreat are all there.

Between old friends such as Richard Smith, my pleasant and stimulating contacts with you and Jape Taylor, and my more recent contacts on Study Section with Arlan Rosenbloom, I feel I have friends and colleagues with whom I can explore potential for collaboration or contact.

I would like to think of an annual visit which I might devote to writing, but possibly also to a series of lectures. I would be prepared to give them a try-out even as early as April or May of this year, such as two or three lectures in a one to two week period. This idea for this spring or next would give me time to explore the geography with the help of a real estate agent I have contacted, Dale Turlington.

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I am prepared to make these visits entirely privately, but thinking on the longer run, it would be nice to have a focal point based on an academic activity.

Would you be kind enough to mull over this idea, and maybe consider whether your colleagues in medicine, cardiology, preventive medicine, epidemiology, clinical trials, and public health might consider how I could contribute to their researches or curricula. This would involve eventually the idea of spending one to three months in the Gainesville area. If the idea rings a bell with anyone, I could follow-up.

Cordially,

Henry Blackburn, M.D.
Professor and Director

HB:jml

BTC: W. JANE TAYLOR, 3/2/81 jml