

The University of Texas
Health Science Center at Houston

LABARTHE



1200 Herman Pressler
P.O. Box 20186
Houston, Texas 77225
(713) 792-4376
(713) 792-4451

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

25 June 1986

To: Faculty, Twelfth U.S. Seminar

From: D.R. Labarthe

Re: Stony

It has not been possible to contact each of you personally to convey the news of Stony's death, early Sunday morning the 22nd. I am trusting it will have reached you by other routes by the time this is received and the immediate shock will have eased for all of us.

You should know, as he would have wished you to, that he was absolutely clear and very much in charge to the last, including the determination that each of the most reasonable possibilities for continuing in a useful way had been considered and given its chance. He was hospitalized early in the week. He took care of some personal matters with his family on Saturday, and further treatment was for his comfort only. Only a few hours later, he died in his sleep, at M.D. Anderson Hospital.

A week earlier, on the 13th, Stony was celebrated in a marvellous ceremony to dedicate the School of Public Health building, whose top three floors had been finished and occupied in the academic year just completed. By special action, the Board of Regents elected to name the building after Stony. (This, as he wrote in the responding remarks, saved him from considering any further changing his own name to "Phase II" to accomplish the same thing.) Although he didn't attend the proceedings, most of his family were there and he greatly enjoyed the video tape later in the day. Given the outlook several weeks earlier, we are especially thankful that he had that immense gratification.

It is difficult to think of the Seminar without him. An attractive alternative, which one hears spoken around the School these days, is that he's probably keeping an eye on us as always; best to keep doing things as well as we are able, and having a damned good time at it. See you soon, and in that spirit.