

September 8, 1993

Dear Henry:-

Just when I bought a new computer and new software -

Just when I thought I had a computer guru/engineer/doctor that not only I, but everyone else could understand -

Just when it seemed there might be a new spirit in the hospital -

Just when I was going to send you the enclosed book, written by a friend of my son-in-law, (married-to-my-electrical-engineer-impossible-to-understand-anything-she-says-about-engineering-or-computers), after you and I had a bit of a discussion about Canada's future and the costs of various programs, including medicare -

I had the rumour confirmed that you will be leaving, am uncertain of the date, but anyway, much too soon.

I understand you will be using your medical and your computer skills elsewhere when you could have spent your time telling **me** about vitamin C for my colds, and possibly answering distressed calls at 3 a.m. when I have two pages of un-backed-up bylaws on my computer, and the damn thing refuses to do anything but beep!

Incidentally, Linda McQuaig, the author of this book, was going over the final corrections for the book from her editor when her computer beeped and refused to move. She thought she had lost the whole book. She 'phoned Susan, who told her a couple of manoeuvres, and lo and behold, there was the book. My copy is inscribed "To the mother of all bears and saviours of books!" Susan (and Linda) live in Toronto, so she is not to reachable for my 3 a.m. calls on weekends when WordPerfect has retired to bed!

Seriously, if I understood Mme. Belzile, your new position will not have some of the stresses you have been under at the Douglas, and probably the hours are more nine-to-five when you have children at home that you are giving food poisoning with your cooking (I hope Elizabeth did not spend too miserable a day in your office). And on top of that, you can utilize your two professions, although I did say to you that your systems engineering training was needed, if not welcomed, at the Douglas. I know AMI-Quebec,

other families and the patients themselves will miss you. It is a welcome thing to have someone who tries to listen and empathize with others concerns. I hope you will be able to continue to give support to AMI, from what I have heard, they really have appreciated your work.

And, of course, you will go down to history, and possible immortality, as a co-author with M. A. Bishop! (Although a small bear who sits on my computer has just growled, "Who wrote what?") And of course I remember your concerns which you brought to the Ethics and Patients' Rights Committee which never seemed to quite get answered - but they were an indication of your own ethical perceptions. Something too often lacking, and for which you deserve the highest praise.

I do wish you well, in fact, the very best. We all shall miss you, patients, families and staff. I believe that you have always tried to do more than your best for all of them, and it has sometimes not been appreciated by some. Early in life you must have decided that truth was more important than what was politic.

In fact, the best idea I have had in years, maybe you should go into politics! We desperately need someone, or someones, of your calibre.

The bears have a message for you, and it is never to answer your 'phone at 3 a.m. on a weekend, just in case...

Enjoy the book, your children, the job, and life in general.

Martha