

March 21, 1970

Dear Andy and Betty,

Congratulations on Deborah Jane's arrival ! I very much like the name Deborah, and in fact, Martha and I used it for our first daughter, Rachel Deborah.

I look forward to seeing you in Prague, for indeed, I am planning to attend, having been asked to monitor a program in hallucinogen and amphetamine abuse. I am not sure that my family will be with me, for I am planning to get a house somewhere on the Mediterranean and spend many weeks away from work. I have a project proposal to study marijuana in Athens, which is before NIMH and if they consider it useful, they may fund it before the summer.

The family is well. Jon is away at Colby College in Maine, and we hear from him every few weeks. He is a ski enthusiast, and seems to enjoy College between ski runs. Martha is enjoying her teaching; the girls seem to survive the many crises of young people.

Our work is progressing well, despite a very hectic organizational situation. Our college is planning to move from Manhattan to Westchester, and while we thought it was many years away, the realities of our economy forced the school to decide to move as soon as possible, preferably before 1972. So, we are involved in planning programs in Westchester; moving part of our Department to the new Mental Health Center which should open this winter; and keeping up with the demand for service-- particularly since we are involved in studying and treating opiate dependence. In this period of rapid growth, I am sure that we will be able to find a place for you. (I forgot, we also have a new relationship with our local state hospital, and one of my students has become the Director. I am to assist them in setting up a center like MIP).

The best study has been our ECT work. We have found that unilateral ECT does indeed have less memory effects than bilateral, with almost equivalent clinical response. This has encouraged us to try multiple treatments in one sitting, and we now are examining the possibility of treating depressive patients in 3 sessions, 4 seizures each (so-called multiple monitored ECT). It is quite successful, and the anticipated memory effects are just not observed, even on sophisticated tests. Incidentally, one of the practitioners at Gracie Square Hospital, where we are doing the study, is planning to visit South Africa in late April or May. Dr. William Karliner is an excellent clinician, and you may enjoy having him visit with you and those of your associates interested in ECT. I will give him your name, and trust he will call.

Many thanks for discussing SA with my brother. He enjoyed his trip very much and is saving busily to make a return trip. Indeed, he has tried to seduce my family into talking me into going to Africa-- and perhaps we will.

Keep up your work, and I look forward to dinner in Prague.

My best regards: to which Martha adds her own.