

J. F. Bookout  
3711 Linda  
~~March 9, 1957~~  
Amarillo, Texas

Hi Doc:

I am terribly sorry to hear that you are in the hospital. I tried to call you but was informed you were unable to come to the telephone.

Mr. McAdams was out to see us and it was through him that I learned you were having trouble. Doc, I am sorry to hear about the situation at Houston University. I know it is a disappointment to you but in reality it is their loss and not yours. Those people have evidently condoned low standards and sloppy work for so long that they are unable to recognize or appreciate the sacrifices, hard work and toughness necessary to build a good department. I dare say the attitude which they have demonstrated is the very cause of their department being in such lousy shape. One thing for certain -- there is no reason for you to be further concerned with them, they are simply not worthy of one minute of your time. I am certain you in no way failed but it is they who failed. Your contributions and professional reputation are known throughout the world as well as to the many ex-students to which you remain an inspiration. Your friends are behind you and recognize the situation for what it is -- a circumstance in which ability played no part.

I would like to visit with you and may be able to during April. The company has an exploration meeting scheduled in Houston for that time and if I am fortunate enough may get to attend -- hope so.

Mr. McAdams' visit was short but we felt very honored to have him come to our small District office. We were able to hit only the high spots and is so easy under such circumstances to leave an erroneous impression.

By overall company standards our effort here is of course small but something we believe in and hope will prove successful. The play has gone such that I have gained a lot of personal satisfaction and plenty of valuable experience in a short time. I feel very lucky to have been selected for the job. It is hard work and long hours but I have enjoyed every minute. Of course the emphasis which you placed on thinking things out logically has gone a long way in helping me in my work. I am firmly convinced that studying under you did more for me than any other association.

I certainly hope you have recovered by now and that you have decided to carry on your work at a place where your valuable contributions will be appreciated.

I hope to see you soon.

Sincerely,

*John Bookout*

*answered*