

1202 East Williams  
Danville, Illinois 61832  
June 10, 1968

Robert Campbell, M.D.  
I. U. Medical Center  
1100 West Michigan  
Indianapolis, Indiana

Dear Dr. Campbell:

I am writing this letter to you to inquire if there is any possibility of helping my father. He is 70 years old, and we have been told he has hardening of the arteries and is progressing into a very senile condition. The doctors here in Danville have not encouraged us to go into this further, and have told us this condition will probably get worse, until he is no longer capable of taking care of himself and we will have to put him in a home or a mental institution. I dread the thought of this, and am hoping that with the new medicines and techniques available today, that we can prolong this decision, or possibly keep him well enough that he will never have to be put in a home.

To give you a little background on my father, as I said, he is 70 years old; his name is Albert J. Waggoner; 5'6" tall, about 135 lbs. He is not generally bothered with high blood pressure, except it does get relatively high when he has bad periods and gets nervous. We had him at Colonial Manor Nursing Home here in Danville last year for about two months, and at that time, he had high blood pressure and was given Thorazine regularly to calm down the nerves. He lost his wife about two years ago, and this contributed a great deal to the fast set-in of this condition. I do not believe he was this way before she died. He is also a rather heavy smoker - about one pack a day, possibly more. Possibly because of the smoking, he is bothered with extreme shortness of breath, which I suspect to be emphysema.

He seems to be having a good many bad days lately, and he can not remember things that happen around him, for even 15-20 minutes... things like what day it is, whether he had lunch or not, whether he took his medicine or not, he can not learn how to turn the window fan on and off and get the air to pull in or out.... things like this. His power of concentration is very bad. I am sure you have seen many cases similar to this. Yet, he is able to remember many things that happened 20-30 years back.

To ease my mind that there is nothing further we can do for him, I would appreciate a letter from you. You have come to me highly recommended by a Mr. Van Zandt of Danville (you saw his mother recently), and by a Mr. Dave Cleaver (you saw his mother recently also). I realize that he is probably too old for any surgery, and I would not want to put him through anything like that, but I am hopeful there may be some way to keep him from becoming completely helpless.

Please write, and if you desire to see him, I will be glad to bring him over.

Respectfully,

Jerry M. Waggoner

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

*Medical Center*

1100 WEST MICHIGAN STREET  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46202

June 17, 1968

NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY

Mr. Jerry M. Waggoner  
1202 East Williams  
Danville, Illinois 61832

Dear Mr. Waggoner:

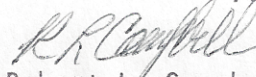
This is in reply to your letter of 10 June 1968, in regard to your father.

From the description you gave of your father's difficulties, it certainly seems that he in all likelihood had generalized brain impairment, which is, at his age, most likely related to hardening of the arteries and his blood pressure, which I gather has been high at times.

There have been some conditions where in we are able to help persons that have a progressive difficulty in brain function even in the older age group, but it does not sound like your father falls into one of these situations. I believe that the doctors that you have consulted in Danville have given you quite reasonable and appropriate medical advise. I am sorry that I cannot be more optimistic.

I would be happy to arrange to see your father upon the recommendation of one of his doctors, but I do not think that it would be of any help unless your doctor in Danville has found evidence of some localized difficulty with brain function or a marked impairment of his gait. If you would be interested in this, I would suggest that you show this letter to your doctor and go over it with him. If he then feels that it would be worthwhile he could call my office and an appointment can be arranged.

Yours sincerely,



Robert L. Campbell, M. D.

RLC:mj

Robert L. Campbell, M. D.  
INDIANA UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER  
1100 W. Michigan Street  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46207



Mr. Jerry M. Waggoner  
1202 East Williams  
Danville, Illinois 61832

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Wm  
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