

June 19, 1974.

Rm 4B50, Bldg 31

Harry S. Soroff, M.D., Chairman
Department of Surgery
State U. of N.Y. Coll. of Med. At Stony Brook
Stony Brook, N.Y.

Dear Harry,

I have had some more thoughts about getting started with a good clinical flow at the VA Hospital at Northport and have had a telephone conversation with Harry LeVeen with the following answers.

If he were to be invited to come, he wants to come on the basis of what his contribution could be to the development of the Department of Surgery. His career has been in the Veterans Administration System, and, since he has but 2 1/2 years before filling out 20 years, he would be interested in coming as an employee of the VA. This is not to be interpreted as implying that he wants to stay only that long.

Many of my former residents practice in Long Island, but most of LeVeen's former residents do. They include men like Wisotski and Levitan and Stu Seiden in Smithtown and Tony DiBenedetto, now Chairman of the Department of Surgery at Meadowbrook. I know these men since they rotated through the services at Downstate too, and they are strong men. Such ties might be very helpful in getting a good flow of patients at the VAHosp.

LeVeen is alert to opportunities to strengthen his VAHospital and accepted invitations from several veterans' groups to speak to them. His vascular service has a continuing flow of patients from outside the area of the Brooklyn VAHosp., including the eastern end of Long Island. He thinks many of these would follow him to Northport if he were to go there.

LeVeen has been dealing with VACO with success for years and has not only an excellent animal laboratory used as a show place by the VA Central Office but support of his research work amounting to a little over \$100,000 a year, which apparently could be transferred to Northport if he were to go there.

He insists he is not perturbed about the type of appointment in the VA, whether it be as Chief, Asst. Chief, Chief of Research, or whatever would allow him an opportunity to work.

It might be fruitful to invite him to speak at Stony Brook on some area of his investigative work. I believe it would reveal expertise and accomplishment in considerable depth.

V.S.Y.,

