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Dear David,

It was good to talk with you.

How about this (in bold)? It almost keeps the word number (38) if you count the blank spaces (36) in the last line. but runs over the line just a bit. Perhaps they will give you an extra line if it is necessary.

obstructive. An obstruction to the outflow of bile causes itching.
**Gall stones can cause obstructive jaundice but Suzuki's gall bladder
had been removed. The other cause is cancer. Stunkard felt terrible but
he didn't say anything at the time. He just asked if he could confer with Suzuki's
doctor.**

This seems like a reasonable addition and doesn't particularly interfere with the drama which you so skillfully portray. I think that it would be appropriate to stick with "infectious" antiquated as it may be, since that's what it was called back then. But do what you want with it and congratulate Steve Levine on the care with which he read the book.

And congratulations on it to you!

Best wishes,

— of best to Dick Baker
Mickey