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### Testimonial for Marty Weitzman

Dear Marty,

I am led to understand that a testimonial in relation to your past activities might be of some use. As a leading member of your UK fan club who has known you since 1972, I am delighted to contribute to some reflections.

We had offices close to each other at MIT in 1972 whilst I was visiting on leave from Oxford and you were a young faculty member. We discussed a number of things of interest to young men in their twenties, not all of which would be relevant or appropriate for this kind of testimonial. Let me focus for the most part, on our discussions of economics.

I recall discussing the “overtaking criteria” in the theory of optimal growth and readily agreeing that it was of limited interest because it gave us rankings only in the key narrow case where parameters were such that the utility integral was on the borderline of divergence. I remember you showing me a draft of Mike Spence’s signalling paper and we both expressed the sentiment that it was a paper we would have been delighted to have written. We extolled the virtues of Jim Mirrlees’ paper on optimum income taxation and the elegance with which it had built the analysis of optimality when both information and incentive structures were serious issues. And I think you told me of your initial thoughts on prices and quantities. Those were days when theories of planning were issues of concern and modelling in relation to centrally-planned economies was of real interest. Over the next 4 or 5 decades I often remembered and reflected on those conversations. After each conversation I went away with insights and enthusiasm.

In the 1980s you came to visit us at our summer economics gathering in Warwick. Always a magnet and bubbling with ideas. I remember vividly our offering you on one occasion a pale ale or a brown ale. You examined them both carefully and then took a large glass and mixed them together, muttering something about convex combinations. As you know we British take beer seriously and that caused something of an impact.

Over the last dozen or so years we have been interacting on and around climate change. Not always agreeing, but I have always learned from you. And we were never that far apart on the key issues and have been converging.

Whether it has been growth, planning, uncertainty or climate change, you have been a shining intellectual inspiration. And as a constant and much valued friend and the best of company, it has been a real pleasure to know you all these years.

With very best wishes for the next stages of career and life.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nick". The letters are cursive and fluid, with a prominent loop at the start of the 'N'.