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TWIN CITIES

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file: CVE md

February 9, 1983

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Mr. Leonard P. Cook
Director Physican of Scientific Affairs
American Heart Association
7320 Greenville Avenue
Dallas, Texas 75231

Dear Friends:

One of the advantages of a sabbatical, even a mini-mini-sabbatical such as my two months in Australia, is the delight at turning one's mind to unfinished business rather than regarding it a chore. I have not forgotten our charge of some years ago and I'm sure you haven't either. I have no idea whether you have proceeded in your thinking or plans or writing on the issue of the history of the Council and of epidemiology and prevention of cardiovascular diseases, generally.

I composed a cover letter in detail to the enclosed questionnaire at least a month ago and it is one of the tapes that never arrived in my Minneapolis office.

As I reconstruct this, I thought that the standard questionnaire would be useful so that more than one person might proceed with this undertaking and collect information in roughly the same fashion. As I got into it it was clear that I wanted the individuals interviewed to play the major role, else our time and our travels would never permit this to be accomplished if we require a personal interview.

So consider the questionnaire the sort of thing that could be mailed to a list that I'm sure we could put together very appropriately. Then we could partition the task of follow-up on personal interviews, directly or by phone, and presumably divide the labor of summarizing the questionnaires.

February 9, 1983

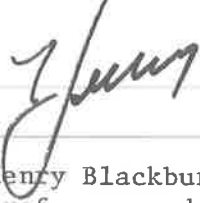
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We have a problem of how to organize the report whether by chronology or by subject matter or by personality. Maybe this note and questionnaire will precipitate your thinking and advice on that matter. At any rate I'll hope that we can regard this as a new beginning on something that we all feel strongly should be done and done well. I bear the principal responsibility for not having moved forward with this and I would like to share responsibility with you now for getting the project off the ground.

As you see, my thinking has gone beyond the history of the Council. I believe that such a development is so intertwined with the development of the field that we should accomplish both, though there might be two publications. I think we need to deliberate how we define cardiovascular epidemiology. As you see here, I pretty well cover the waterfront by including prevention. The problem will be what research and what program and what public health aspects we would want to exclude. I guess I feel that they're all so tied together that I would rather trace the history of the prevention of cardiovascular diseases than the more limited mission originally assigned.

I am hoping that Fred's usual spring visit and/or San Diego might provide an opportunity for you to respond to this initiative and I'm taking the liberty of circulating the people originally involved (that is Remington and Stamler) in the assignment to us of this undertaking.

Cordially,



Henry Blackburn, M.D.
Professor and Director

/ljb

Enclosure

cc: D. LaBarthe
R. Remington
J. Stamler
G. Rose

11/13/83
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10/13/83