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JUL 27 1977
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DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
AND PREVENTIVE MEDICINE
312-649-7914

pc R. Ross & K. Rappaport & C. B.
Agree!

JEREMIAH STAMLER, M.D.
PROFESSOR AND CHAIRMAN
DINGMAN PROFESSOR OF CARDIOLOGY

COPY OF LONG HAND LETTER

30 June 1977

Harriet P. Dustan, M.D.
President
American Heart Association
Director of the CVRTC
University of Alabama
Medical Center
University Station
Birmingham, Alabama 35294

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Dear Harriet:

Your A.H.A. communication of June 16th just reached me here, and I hasten to reply: No, my name is not to be included in a list of persons for the Egg Board Review Committee.

At first blush the A.H.A. decision not to establish formal liaison with the Egg Board looks like a bit of progress finally, and maybe it is -- but why the "informal help", and what really under the circumstance is the distinction between "formal" and "informal"?! Why are you as President -- with a host of tasks -- drafted to help the Egg Board recruit a Review Board, and why is Dr. Hurley with his secretary, office, etc. similarly committed? The Egg Board's aim is to sell more eggs, for the greater profit of egg producers, as is abundantly clear from the 12 or more pages in the Federal Record on the Board. It really has no objective interest in or concern for health, diet and health, eggs and serum cholesterol, etc., as is also clear from the Federal Record. Its goal and the A.H.A.'s are at variance, unless A.H.A. is departing from the dedication inscribed on its stationery, "We're fighting for your life". Under Richard Ross' Presidency the A.H.A. properly opposed the creation of the Egg Board, with one serious shortcoming that testimony was given to the Congress only "from the top", without involving and rousing the affiliates, chapters, etc. "at the grass roots". I completely support the resolutions of the Executive Committees of the two Councils with the most expertise on the basic issues involved, i.e., the Council on Arteriosclerosis and the Council on Epidemiology, whose actions were a sound extension of the policy represented by Ross' testimony. First, the A.H.A. should have nothing whatsoever to do with the Egg Board's activities, in research, in

public mis-education, or anywhere else -- nothing, "formal" or "informal". Second, it should be working to put an end to the legislation creating the Egg Board -- by seeking its repeal in the Congress and challenging the constitutionality of its check-off provision and its other aspects in the courts.

Given this precedent of help, formal or informal matters little substantively, what next -- Tobacco Board, Meat Board, Dairy Board, Alcohol Board, Sugar Board, Salt Board?! where is the A.H.A. going -- that's really the basic issue and for what?! -- apparently, I infer, because some colleagues "smell" some new money for their research in difficult times? But A.H.A. cannot -- must not -- sell its birth right for such a mess of pottage. The money needed is there, from the public, if A.H.A. remains single-mindedly devoted to the public interest and makes that clear to the public through its effective work. That's the approach of the great founders such as P. D. White and L. N. Katz, and the previous Executive Director of distinction, Rome Betts, plus distinguished staff like George Wakerlin and Campbell Moses. Its the approach on which I was reared, e.g., in L. N. Katz's Department. All the diplomacy needed can be developed and pursued broadly and effectively within such a policy of adherence to principle, i.e., the scientific facts and the public interest.

I urge that Dr. Hurley and the A.H.A. office cease and desist -- and be so instructed firmly -- in regard to the Egg Board, in all aspects.

Please forgive me if this letter sounds harsh. I wholeheartedly dislike writing such critical communications, and do so very rarely, only when I'm convinced the issues are major, the persons I'm addressing deserve the confidence and respect of a frank statement, and the need is overriding.

Best personal wishes.

Cordially,

Jerry /AD
Jerry Stampler

My apologies for the long-hand!

P.S. The A.H.A. must also do battle to protect N.H.L.B.I. from Egg Board political pressures!

cc: Dr. Richard Remington
Dr. Henry Blackburn ✓
Dr. William Connor
Dr. Charles Vil
Dr. Richard Havel
Dr. William Kannel
Dr. A. J. Miller
Mr. Raymond Restivo
Dr. James A. Schoenberger
Dr. Fredrick J. Stare
Dr. Robert W. Wissler