

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

CENTER FOR RESEARCH IN DISEASES OF THE HEART
TECUMSEH HEALTH STUDY
201 Catherine Street

ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN 48108

Call

December 11, 1972

Dr. Henry W. Blackburn
Professor
Laboratory of Physiological Hygiene
University of Minnesota
School of Public Health
Stadium Gate 27
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

Dear Henry:

Shiela Mitchell talked to me in Dallas, suggesting that Max Halperin might be invited to present a critical review of the recent Turpeinen article in the Lancet,--to forestall any impression that this study might have settled the question and none further are needed. As a matter of fact, Shiela's suggestion was part of a broader issue to which I will refer later. I suggested to Shiela that we should buttonhole Bill Kannel at the Executive Committee meeting on Sunday but, as you will know, we were under great pressure of time because the room was needed at noon,--and there was no chance to speak to him. Then, Shiela wrote to me and I called Len Cook immediately but it turned out that the Program Committee had just met. I believe, at this point, it would be best if you would take up this matter directly with Shiela, either during one of your visits to Bethesda or in New Orleans. Shiela thinks that what she has in mind is something that should initially be discussed with you, as chairman, rather than the Program Committee. As a matter of fact, it would be best if you could talk to Shiela before the meeting in New Orleans, in case you might want to bring up the matter with the Executive Committee.

Obviously, it will be best and most appropriate if Shiela told you herself about her concerns and aims. I will merely state here that she considers it important for cardiovascular epidemiologists to have at each meeting some exposure to and confrontation with current issues and problems while, as it were, the damage is being done rather than after it has already appeared in print. I have a feeling--and I may be wrong--that Shiela also has in mind that it would be valuable from time to time to convey to active workers some of the matters which trouble NHLI staff. In any case, this is certainly something which should receive serious consideration and thought.

Thank you for listening and all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,



Frederick H. Epstein, M.D.
Director and Professor of Epidemiology

FHE/ca

cc: Dr. S. Mitchell and Mr. L.P. Cook