

February 28, 1977

John E. Harris, Ph.D., M.D.
Chairman of the Committee to Advise
the Dean Concerning the Headship of
the Department of Medicine
A-684 Mayo Memorial Bldg.
Campus

Dear Dr. Harris:

Thank you for your memo of February 5th. I do have a general idea about the Department of Medicine head which I will convey because it may be different from the views of those within the school.

Though excellence in research, teaching and patient care, and academic standing in the medical community are essential, I believe that Internal Medicine is, or should be, changing. I think the elitist, super-specialist legacy is one that will persist for some time, simply by the momentum and vesting in this approach to education in internal medicine the last 25-30 years. I sincerely believe that a new era in Internal Medicine should involve leadership with a broad view both in regard to the internist as a family practitioner, and the internist as a thoughtful person with a concern for preventive as well as diagnostic and therapeutic medicine.

I would make a strong plea for a person with a preventive medicine or public health outlook and experience, having a respect for research in this area as great as that for metabolic and other researches, and a concern with more than the technological advancement of medical diagnosis and treatment.

I think a strong leader in these directions would be more healthy than one totally concerned with basic investigation and/or maintaining Internal Medicine elitism. None of these comments refer to the current chairman, who, of course, has a wide experience and concern with clinical trials, etc., but rather to considerations of his replacement.

Sincerely,

Henry Blackburn, M.D.
Professor and Director, and
Professor of Medicine

HB:jp



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
TWIN CITIES

Department of Ophthalmology
Medical School
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LAB OF PHYSIOLOGICAL
HYGIENE

February 4, 1977

Henry Blackburn, M.D.
Professor and Director
Physiological Hygiene
Box 197 Mayo Memorial Building

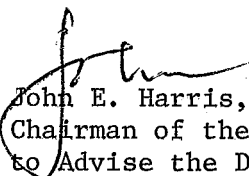
Reply on tape.

Dear Dr. Blackburn:

As you know Dr. Richard Ebert will be retiring as Head of the Department of Medicine effective July 1, 1978. Dean Gault has formed a search committee to advise him concerning a worthy successor to Dr. Ebert. The committee is now meeting in regular sessions and earnestly solicits your input into its deliberations. This would include your thoughts as to the direction the leadership of the department should take as well as to individuals you consider to be potential candidates for the headship.

The committee would like to meet personally with you. However, if this is inconvenient your input in the form of a letter addressed to the committee would be appreciated. The committee generally will be meeting at 4:00 P.M. on Tuesday afternoons. If you can meet with us, please contact my office at 373-8842.

Sincerely yours,


John E. Harris, Ph.D., M.D.
Chairman of the Committee
to Advise the Dean Concerning
the Headship of the
Department of Medicine

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