

November 2, 1977

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Dear Sieg:

Many thanks for your October 3rd letter, which was forwarded to me while touring New Zealand on a delightful Heart Foundation lectureship. I am having a ball and thus not even going to read George Mann's madness until I get in a quiet period without responsibilities. At the moment, I am making three talks a day. I believe, however, that George Mann's ravings, including recent medical intelligence you must have seen in the *New England Journal of Medicine* as well as his testimony, will eventually act to thoroughly discredit him. Apparently, you are new in exposure to his personal attacks. He has been carrying them out for at least 20 years equally viciously. I have thought and actually discussed the possibility of censure of some sort by the Heart Foundation, but I have finally decided with Bill Kannel and others that there is probably little to be gained by this. It would be an unprecedented action which would serve to martyrize him when it is perhaps better that he hang himself.

In addition to George Mann's obvious emotional problems, I have come to learn over the years in discussions and correspondence with him that he simply fails to grasp any of the epidemiological principles or public health concepts with which we are involved. So, it is a matter of ignorance as much as anything else which leads him to his own peculiar views.

I think it would be worthwhile to let our friend Schettler know that George has generally discredited himself with those in our field in this country, but that he is definitely a tool and a paid consultant of food interests in

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the dairy, egg and meat industries. He will do as much mischief as possible, and he is without ethical constraints. But I guess I'm forced to conclude after a number of years that the best way to deal with George is to ignore him.

Cordially,

Henry Blackburn, M.D.
Professor and Director

HB:msh

P.S. I would be grateful for your slipping into an envelope for me the point labeled "b" on page 21 of the George Mann Testimony in which he states that Dr. Keys has refused to acknowledge the two most striking observations of the Seven Countries Study. The second point did not appear in your photocopy.

*Dictated by Dr. Blackburn in
New Zealand; transcribed and
mailed in his absence.*