

Confidential copies - Mandel



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
TWIN CITIES

Laboratory of Physiological Hygiene
School of Public Health
Stadium Gate 27
611 Beacon Street S.E.
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

August 19, 1982

cbpc: Dean Stauffer ✓ 8/24/82
LB

CONFIDENTIAL

TO: Jack Mandel
FROM: Henry Blackburn
SUBJECT: July 26th Memorandum

Excuse my delay in reply to your excellent July 26th memorandum concerning the "Len Schuman Retirement Day." These are running commentaries off the top of my head.

First, we should probably call it something else. I sort of liked the ring of the Henry Longstreet Taylor Colloquium, but I'll leave it to you. It certainly should not be "retirement day," as you want it to be a significant scientific event.

I am impressed by the number and the caliber of the invitees. But where do you suggest mechanism whereby such distinguished people would be brought here? What ideas do you have for fund raising to the tune of about 10 or 15 thousand dollars according to these plans?

We were able to use a national scientific meeting which brought all but three important people at their own cost in honoring Henry Taylor. It may be crucial that you consider this possibility for Len and look vigorously into the potential for next year before, during or after his retirement date to bring this about.

Your idea is "new" presentations. Can we focus on that idea and discuss it a bit? If you are talking about an outstanding colloquium which would support itself by external subscription, its a little late to start such an undertaking. It should be started immediately and you would have to have the time to be the principal entrepreneur, presumably collaborating with Continuing Medical Education or University Conferences. It is very late to hope to reach a significant audience to make it self-supporting.

I am still not very clear about the program in that you say it should not be old material and yet most of the issues are old and the studies are well-established or already over with?

If we are going to do it primarily to honor Len and not as a major scientific colloquium, then smaller amounts of private support have to be sought. This also would have to be your major responsibility. I was able to get private grants for \$3,000 and a grant from the Minnesota Medical Foundation for \$1,000 for Henry Taylor. All of which, plus the banquet fee, covered our costs with about a \$1.50 left over! You have given yourself a terribly short time line and a very ambitious undertaking.

If you are willing to run with this (and that would be needed), I'm sure that the RAH Committee and the Dean's office and I will all do what we can to back you. On the other hand, since I have had virtually no professional association with Dr. Schuman and since he would probably feel uncomfortable if I took any leadership in this, I don't know how much real help I can be. Besides, it was all I could do to figure out how to scrape up the little bit of money I did for Henry Taylor. Most of the things we all do have little commercial connotation and I had no "chips" to call in. I think you ought to discuss funding with Milt and Abe. The School will be little help.

May I suggest a way out; that you invite only his closest friends, with one or two other distinguished people that presumably the School would be able to support to the tune of a couple of thousand bucks. Put it in the hands of the people who can best discuss Len's contributions with respect and affection and make it small and invitational.

I would be happy to support with Laboratory funds Stallone's visit as a consultant so that you might get him for the after dinner speaker. This would be a superb idea. He is both profound and amusing.

I guess I would rather see the session as a whole day only if you can really devise discussions around major issues and studies. I would think however that noon to 5:30 p.m. might do it. Might the primary audience be the student body and local friends and associates?

Of course, you might find that most or all of the people you suggest are willing to come at their own expense in honor of Len. This you should explore. I am wondering, with your schedule and the delay already, whether you are up to the energy needed to bring this off. Lots of detail, even for a small affair!

Finally, I see no reason for me to be on the program as you suggest. I think it would be much better if I were just in the audience. Maybe we can come up with some idea about some expression of "carrying on" the tradition and that I can make in a quiet gesture.

But I would not think that would be a formal presentation.
Discussion of Len's work should be by his collaborators and
students.

Please set up a ten minute meeting with me to discuss this because I
think we should announce it at least to the RAH Committee as soon as
possible and get moving.

Thanks.

/ljb