

"Minnelea," 84060 Pioppi (SA)  
24 Feb. 1974

Dr. Henry Blackburn  
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*Circulate to  
Acad. Staff.* 3-7-74

Dear Henry:

After a pleasant interlude in Purchase and an overnight stop in Rome we got here at 4 p.m. on the 22nd in rainy and blustery weather to find our house and the Stamlers' in very good shape. The local folk all are complaining about more than a week of bad weather but apparently all of January and the first half of February were days of bright sun, calm seas and temperatures up to the 70s and low 80s. Our outdoor ma-min thermometer says the lowest reached from late October until now WAS 41 and inside the unheated house the lowest was 48. Just now the night min. is in the low 50s and today at noon, with a cloudy sky, the reading in the shade on the seaside terrace was 67. So we eat lunch out of doors but are glad to have the central heat at night.

I am substantially all over my 'flu but now Margaret has a bit of it, mild but tiresome. Several of the locals talk about the colds that are going 'round and blame it on weather too warm in January. Surprisingly, they do not gripe much about the gas shortage, great inflation, Italy going alarmingly in the red, etc. The new price of gas works out at \$1.60 a gallon even after allowing for the fact that the dollar-lira exchange is now 650 lire per dollar versus 570 when we left in November. Also, currently there is no driving on Sundays but on March 10 the plan is to shift to alternate Sundays according to the last digit of the licence.

Here, in a vast pile of mail accumulated since the first of November I found the copy of your big review; sorry I had no notice of this earlier and so did not respond until now. Naturally there are some points on which I might take some issue but over-all I am all with you in your appraisal. I trust it will see print soon and do the job it should in educating, persuading, etc. And by now you may have had time to go over my chapter that somehow got out of hand and became more wide-ranging, historical and critical than I had planned originally.

All the best to you and you family and to the staff in the several labs,

As ever,

Ancel Keys