



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
TWIN CITIES

Laboratory of Physiological Hygiene
School of Public Health
Stadium Gate 27
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

September 26, 1975

Professor Ancel Keys
"Minnelea"
84060 Pioppi (Salerno)
ITALY

Dear Ancel,

I concur with your letter to Gyarfas in Budapest. It's fine with me that he makes the follow-up but obviously it is imposing a load on the ECG Center and the chemical laboratory here to do these analyses with no possibility of recompense for the labor which must be borne under other budgets. Our workload here is such that we should, before too long, be able to get to these things. Future commitments must be worked out beforehand by close communications between us. We have recently provided \$2,000 of labor on Finnish spots, not covered by Seven Countries funds.

Due to the hectic schedule they put me through in Finland, I did not get to the private talks I'd hoped to with Martti and Sven on your "commitments" to them. However, our old friendship was cemented and I think we should now proceed in a business-like way to clear up misunderstandings. I'm asking Sven and Martti to send to you their understanding of the agreements verbal and written they believe you have made to them. I would like it if you would respond to me with suggestions how we meet them. What I need clarified is the reason that Sven thinks that \$1,200 times 2 was authorized, and on what basis another \$1,500 for field expenses was agreed upon, apparently informally. Incidentally, he has apparently met conditions for the one agreement of \$1,200 and the 15 year material should be in Menotti's hands. What needs clarifying is the other \$1,200 and the \$1500, both of which must have been some sort of informal understanding, or misunderstanding, between you and Martti. I would like for us to negotiate this satisfactorily for both sides.

I'm willing to commit a present personal consultation fee of \$1200 to your old slush fund to help meet these expenses, and I'm hoping that we might have some acknowledgement by them of the equivalent of \$2,000 labor provided by us for doing the Finland 15 year cholesterol spots.

On the other hand, I'm most anxious to preserve our friendly relationships, whether or not they continue as working relationships, and if there's a misunderstanding, to accept our partial responsibility for it and err on the side of satisfying them.

Ancel, please keep in mind that I'm a little uncomfortable with and sensitive to your or others general broadcasting of "budgetary problems" of this laboratory. I think this is probably unnecessary and potentially unhealthy for the laboratory in the long run. We do have massive responsibilities here, but we also are

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undergoing a normal cut-back period as the studies are going through different stages. The loss of staff is perfectly appropriate to those phases. The temporary overspending of our budgets last winter was partly related to the fact that everything has got more costly and that the Heart and Lung Institute has not built this into our budgets and demanded much more of us than they provided in funds. It is also partly related to Nedra's absence and my illness earlier in the year. But it is now on a very firm basis as well as the accounting practices of the lab being far superior to those in the past (see enclosed example).

At some stage in this, of course, I begin to get pretty hardheaded in terms of making commitments without adequate funds to cover them. If research is worth doing, it's probably worth being covered by funds. Therefore, to handle the 10 year cholesterol spots and ECG's from Hungary without further funding I now agree to, but contributions from your pending grants, if funded, will surely be necessary for the data processing involving these data.

My visit to Ireland was very refreshing and worthwhile. Punsar continues very productively on the Finnish material and our friend Martti is in fine fettle.

Here things go rather well and I'm pleased with the tightening up in our administration and accounting and in the intervention effort now under new management. Bonnie Schmitz and Gail Dolliff will be replacing Nedra's many functions this winter. We will keep Nedra on to the extent of her wishes but are having to reassign some of her responsibilities due to her long winter absences.

As you've seen, Dave Jacobs' small division is capable of some fine things, and we're doing our best to support its function and its modest expansion.

We have assumed considerably more teaching load in the School of Public Health and Medical School than in the past and are becoming somewhat more a part of the total University picture. All of this, plus our huge trial contracts, are diminishing the productivity and thought for some research efforts. And our new staff has not yet come forward with fruitful grant applications. I believe, however, that in terms of formulations and experience, we are about ready to do so, together. The large trials are, on the other hand, providing us with very rich opportunities and the development of new outlooks and skills. For example, I think it is possible that we'll have some very useful and sizeable contributions to make in the field of health behavior and education in the school system and possibly in a regional monitoring program for health characteristics along with mortality and morbidity, as ongoing laboratory functions. Now if only Art Leon could come up with the chemical equivalent of stress and behavior responses we could move ahead here, but that is a tough one.

I suspect that I may be seeing you in Basel, or maybe Madrid, within a month. Enjoy the fall in Italy. I hear it is delightful.

Cordially,

Henry Blackburn, M.D.

HB:mk

Personal copies to: H. Taylor, A. Leon, D. Jacobs and R. Prineas
Enclosure