



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
TWIN CITIES

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MEMORANDUM

To: Art Leon  
From: Dr. Blackburn  
Date: February 17, 1977

Thanks for your good memo about your miserable experience on the St. Paul Campus and with Koerner. I really don't believe we have anything to gain and much to lose by carrying on a debate with Dr. Koerner or the Agriculture Campus. The positions are too polarized and the interests too thoroughly vested. I would think that we might quietly mention to friends and contacts on the Medical School Curriculum Committee and to the Dean of the Medical School that nutrition education seems to be distorted, if not incompetent, and indicate our facilities, competence and availability for offering a more competent program.

I have the general feeling that we're in for a period of backlash and controversy that can best be countered by speaking out forthrightly and in print, but not engaging in personal debates or polemics. We must obviously preserve our competence by continuing to carry out effective applied nutritional research studies, otherwise, we will very soon be both out of date and not credible.

I think there is very little to be gained by the exchange of reprints or information, or further conversation with Dr. Koerner, or for that matter, St. Paul Campus. I think that on issues where we can collaborate, with individuals that are reasonable, we should push collaboration. I think we should continue to express our views in our own classes. If you encounter anyone in the Nutrition faculty who is seriously interested and is looking at these matters let me know. I would be interested to make, for example, computations of the impact of the prudent diet on the agro-economy. Otherwise, it seems to me that official seminars and confrontations will not be profitable.

Incidentally, I have had no comments whatsoever from my January 25 memorandum to the St. Paul Campus staff. Obviously they probably regard it as provocative and the "official reports" as incompetent.