

May 29, 1975

Sven Punset, M.D.
The Finnish Heart Association
Koroistentie 6 f
00280 Helsinki 28, FINLAND

Dear Sven:

This is a belated reply to your March 14th letter with details on the very exciting activities that you have going on. Please keep us informed of the results of your drinking water analyses and of your ECG Pulmonary correlations.

To my knowledge we have safely received all of the filter papers and analyses are underway and you can have the results as they come off. Unfortunately we have a horrible drive to catch up with recruitment needs for MRFIT and are seeing 150 to 160 people a day which keeps the Laboratory really busy. Because of the inconvenient to of the Helsinki method for the spots they would like to shoot for a completion date of September first. If this is extremely inconvenient to you, let us know and we'll try to get somebody extra to do these this summer though it would be better not to have to hire anyone at this time. I would indeed be grateful for the Minnesota form 10's as I plan to start in the middle of the summer classifying all sudden death, silent infarcts and all coronary endpoints for all areas in respect to Dr. Keys work on a 10 year analyses this summer and my work hopefully on the 10-year results in regard to baseline electrocardiographic findings. It would be useful to do the 15-year classifications at the same time. I will check with Nedra and Ancel as soon as he returns in regard to payment on agreement to Martti and I'm sure there will be no problem there.

On May 22, Dr. Prineas forwarded you photocopies of the 1964 electrocardiograms and I would appreciate your acknowledgement of their receipt. I am very sorry, I thought this was done long, long ago.

Enjoyed very much the marvelous pictures you have taken and am planning to return them very soon when they are copied. I will keep the color print of the surrealistic activities of some early morning near the Arctic circle. Wild!

Your idea of a gathering around the time of the Nurmi Symposium of the field and other people associated with Seven Countries Study is a splendid idea and I of course, would enjoy this very much. Finally, I see in your last paragraph that you requested the cholesterol determinations in 3 or 4 months and hoped to get them on punch cards before summer. As a matter of fact, we only received the cholesterol determinations on April 29th, and due to the overwhelming increase in recruiting activity that we will have to carry on through the summer, I'm afraid we're going to have to all sit back and anticipate the September first date, much to my regret. However, I will

consult with Dr. Keys on this, and if he has funds to hire summer help, it is conceivable that we could start on this in a couple of weeks and speed it up a little bit. At any rate, we will do our best.

My current preoccupation is certainly not very contributory to good research but I thought you might like to see what happens when an industry decides it's being threatened. I hope it doesn't happen from the dairy industry in Finland. They have turned on a few of us viciously and my Plum Brandy analogy is an attempt to vent frustrations and to put the issues into focus.

Cordially,

Henry Blackburn, M.D.

HB/kn

encl: Plum Brandy

PC: R. Prineas
A. Leon
P. Neibling
A. Keys