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SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Please address reply to the undersigned at
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SERVICE
SAN FRANCISCO GENERAL HOSPITAL
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94110

September 22, 1977

*Reply on Oct. 10, 1977.
pc J. Shanker is my reply
File FTC reg.*

Henry Blackburn, M.D.
Professor and Director
Laboratory of Physiological Hygiene
School of Public Health
University of Minnesota
Stadium Gate 27
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

Dear Henry:

Thank you very much for sending me your excellent opus on "Diet and Mass Hyperlipidemia - Public Health Considerations." I enjoyed reading it very much and think it is an excellent compendium of the subject. Needless to say, I have to disagree with you in your sentence on page 31 discussing the use of checkoff funds for research; namely your sentence "The latter will in no way be subject to fully appropriate or competitive scientific peer review."

I have enclosed the American Egg Board's brochure which has been widely distributed to individuals and institutions soliciting applications for research funds. Your attention is directed to the statement under "Mechanism of Support" indicating that that support will be investigator initiated grant-in-aid. I direct your attention, also, to the section on "Review Procedures" which are patterned after traditional NIH and AHA approaches for funding worthwhile applications.

Finally, I hope you will agree that those recruited for the Scientific Review Panel to serve as a study section are competent and do not represent a group in any way biased in favor of the American Egg Board; i.e. they represent a true scientific peer review group.

I am aware, more than most, of the battles which you and Jerry went through with the National Commission on Egg Nutrition. I also appreciate that having been well burnt you are not about to accept that

Henry Blackburn, M.D.

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September 22, 1977

things can change. However, I do hope that as a scientist whom I respect as much as anyone I have met, you will keep an open mind on this issue.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,



Elliot Rapaport, M.D.
Professor of Medicine

er/hb
Encl.



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
TWIN CITIES

Laboratory of Physiological Hygiene
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Stadium Gate 27
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

October 20, 1977

Elliot Rapaport, M.D.
Professor of Medicine
University of California
School of Medicine
University of California Service
San Francisco General Hospital
San Francisco, California 94110

Dear Elliot:

Many thanks for your September 22 letter received in New Zealand. At the time of writing the Mass Hyperlipidemia report, I had not seen the arrangements that you had made with the American Egg Board. As you know, I remain profoundly disappointed and skeptical about the Heart Association's decision in this regard. However, it is clear that composition of that Board is such that the applications to it will receive competent review. The problem is the context under which they will be submitted. I personally feel it is probably inappropriate to study the egg in isolation, as the egg is no more a national problem than the milk shake. Let me know when they set up the National Milk Shake Board.

I can understand that you consider it is my burnt fingers that keep me from reacting rationally to this "reasonable" proposition that you have made. It goes far beyond that on matters of principle which I will enjoy discussing with you in person. Of course, I will keep an open mind on the quality of the peer review and will be more than a little fascinated to see the nature of the applications and their sources.

Cordially,

Henry Blackburn, M.D.
Professor and Director

HB:msh
pc: Dr. Jeremiah Stamler

*Dictated by Dr. Blackburn in New Zealand;
transcribed and mailed in his absence.*