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CONFIDENTIAL
PAGES. (ORIGINALS - SCHEIDT)

February 1, 1982

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

Stephen Scheidt, M.D.
Senior Editor
Cardiovascular Reviews & Reports
525 East 68th Street
New York, N.Y. 10021

Dear Steve:

The letter of George Mann contained no new information and many inaccuracies and distortions. Most distressing, of course, were the really ugly slurs on the character, motives, and competence of Dr. Keys and myself. He completely fails to separate scientific from personal criticism. Despite the obviousness of the excesses, it was, nevertheless, damaging as well as unpleasant for me. I feel that you've contributed nothing substantial to scientific discourse and have clearly not been humane in your treatment of others in this publication. The Golden Rule is still a pretty good way to deal. Moreover, you have clearly accentuated rather than resolved controversy about diet and heart. One can only hope that you might re-examine your "editorial excitement" and delight on receiving George Mann's letter and your reasons for publishing it.

Admittedly, you went through the motions with me, offering space to reply. I made the mistake of conveying my last message to you through my secretary during a terribly preoccupied and troubled time in our lives here. It was my strongly expressed preference that the letter not be published without a reply from me and that such a reply could not be among my first priorities. Actually, I didn't think you would publish such vitriol. I assure you, however, that if you had left a clear message that you were going to publish it despite my protest, that you would have received a reply for simultaneous publication.

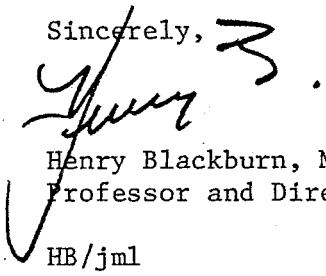
At this late date most of the impact of a reply from me would be lost, and thus I will not make one. George Mann almost borders on the disturbed. Not too long ago I sent him a congratulatory note on his Progress article in the New England Journal of Medicine on obesity. He sent me back a signed reprint, "To Henry Blackburn, trumpeter facing the rear of the column." Anybody who returns kindness with meanness probably doesn't deserve the national audience you provided.

I simply want you to know that I consider you to have done a disservice to your journal, a disservice to important arguments about diet-heart, and a

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disservice to me by publication of George Mann's letter. I can understand neither the mind of a person who would write such a letter nor the motivations of a person who would publish it. I trust you will recognize that this letter is a personal one to you only and is not for publication. Sorry.

Sincerely,



Henry Blackburn, M.D.
Professor and Director

HB/jml