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*Enclosed copy of  
16 Expert Committee*

July 27, 1977

William C. Sherman, Ph.D.  
Director of Nutrition Research  
National Livestock and Meat Board  
444 North Michigan Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Dear Dr. Sherman:

I refer to your December/January 1976-77 "Review of Trials Continued" in the Livestock Newsletter. I recently went to the original sources on these reports and on a number of others which you may not have reviewed. I prepared the enclosed summary of the meat of those reports. Having also been involved in preparation of a few of these reports, and having been familiar with all of them I was interested to see your reporting of them. I hope you will accept kindly my observation that there may have been significant omissions and a few distortions in your summary in the reports, as well as a frequent mixing of editorial interpretation and reporting. I hope also you will not take badly my impression that it may be better in the long run to deal fully and factually with the reports and to provide separately one's editorial interpretation. To do otherwise I would like to suggest is neither the best reporting technique nor good science. It certainly does not contribute to a full understanding. I think it is very important to the public health and to the agro-economy that we listen to each other carefully and report accurately so that we can find areas of common purpose and agreement.

I must say that I have been much encouraged recently to see distinguished members of the meat research community consider that as much as 4 out of the 12 billions of fat produced annually from meat animals in this country is an inefficient, unneeded commodity and may "depict poor management, poor breeding programs and wasted resources." I think if we can talk reasonably about development and consumption of less fat and more lean meat, then we will have made together significant advances in meat production--and in the public health. I am referring here to the excellent monograph entitled: "Biology of Fat in Meat Animals," North Central Regional Publication #234.

Cordially,

Henry Blackburn, M.D.

HB:lmb

pc: C.E.Allen, W.Hueg, University of Minnesota