

November 26, 1973

CONFIDENTIAL

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Dear Jerry:

I have missed discussions with you for a long time. All sorts of things have happened since I last saw you. We particularly missed you at Atlantic City. I hope Rancho Grande, or whatever, won't be conflicting again. We need you! I am going there in April and would like to know how it goes.

In the furies of late I am making rather hopeless efforts to get out from under commitments. One of the most serious has been to resign from the ICHD Report updating. Possibly a mistake, but I figure it would take large chunks of time I won't have this year. Tried to reach you in L.A., unsuccessfully, before making decision. I think Irv Wright was disgusted; he will try to get Bill Kannel to do it.

Moscow was a personal disaster; I discovered very upsetting things about our friend Bernie Lown, and neither of us handled our disgruntlement well (confidentially).

My staff has some serious reservations about the MRFIT intervention program, which is dampening their enthusiastic participation. It will probably work out, but is already interfering with my getting good group leaders to accept the task in the absence, they feel, of a program which can be given in any documentable fashion. There is, as you know, much conflict in the smoking, nutrition, behavioral and Task Force efforts.

I am a bit disturbed at the Editorial Committee's failure to constructively criticize my Orsay report and say what, if anything, my MRFIT report can contain. I do feel we have a commitment to produce a manuscript for our French friends.

In the enclosed, I have stuck my neck out on a number of issues and would welcome any corrections of gross inaccuracies, but will understand if you don't have time. Also, it is now too late to modify anything except in the galley stage.



Jeremiah Stamler, M.D.

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Otherwise, our MRFIT pretest goes well and our move to our new laboratory, Ancel, etc. progresses satisfactorily.

Regards,

Henry Blackburn, M.D.  
Professor and Director

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*PROGRESS*

Enclosure - ~~Essay~~ ms.