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January 9, 1978

Dr. Henry Blackburn
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Dear Henry:

This finds us about a week into our visit in Pioppi, and well settled. In the guest room downstairs, I am surrounded by about 30 manila folders, with the reprints for work on the up-date of the ICHD Report organized on the big double bed by subject. I am proceeding slowly but persistently with that task. About two hours each morning and each afternoon are spent on work of that kind.

One of the nice parts about being here is the opportunity to catch up on reading, including various scientific articles "in the pile" for weeks or months, but never quite gotten to at home. Yesterday and today after lunch and in the early evening I finally read your piece for the Levy book, plus the memo you sent me of your meeting with the meat experts at the University, and the document from the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology commenting on the U.S. Senate Committee's Dietary Goals for the United States. All of these have been very valuable and informative for me, and I am grateful to you for sending them. I could readily talk into the dictaphone for the next hour or two on all of these, but will restrain myself, since I am working hard to avoid getting diverted from the ICHD task!

Since I am not sure that I asked the staff to send you a copy of my draft for the Levy book, I am doing so on this tape. As you will note in leafing through my draft, the areas of overlap between us are small. You cover a whole series of vital matters I deal with not at all or only touch on. I am looking forward with curiosity to the reaction to my draft from the editors, and will prepare a final one after hearing from them.

I have a few substantive comments concerning your text, but they can wait until I get back and we have a chance to see each other.

Dr. Blackburn

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January 9, 1978

Much could be said about the Commentary from the group assembled for the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology. Again, I will exercise restraint and limit myself to just one comment: The remarkable ability to cite the NAS-NRC-AMA statement, the ICHD statement on hypertension, the British statement -- but not a word about the ICHD report on the Primary Prevention of the Atherosclerotic diseases or any American Heart Association statement on that theme, despite the presence on the group of Dr. Robert E. Shank, member of the Nutrition Committee of the A.H.A. and responsible for organizing a big A,H,A. sponsored meeting on diet and heart disease to be held sometime next year. In the same vein, more or less, I also note Fred Stare's and Jack Filer's presence on that Task Force, the only other ones in the group I have any real familiarity with, although on occasion I have come across one or two of the others. One could easily spend all too many months on the defensive writing detailed analyses in response to such documents, a task that I am convinced is hardly worth the effort. P.S.: George V. Mann's piece in the NEJM is of course cited!

Well, let's make time to exchange about these various areas, in particular our two papers for the Levy book when we see each other next, e.g., at the up-coming MRFIT Design and Analysis Committee meeting in Minneapolis on Monday, February 6.

Let me take this opportunity to thank Nellie and you for the warm and pleasant hospitality at your home recently.

All the best to you and yours for the New Year from Rose and me.

Cordially,


Jeremiah Stamler, M.D.

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encl.

Dictated by Dr. Stamler and signed in his absence.