

*Personal*

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

September 25, 1971

Dean Lee Stauffer  
1325 Mayo  
School of Public Health  
University of Minnesota  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

Dear Dean Stauffer:

I recently met with Ancel Keys and Henry Taylor in Sweden and learned the definitive news of Dr. Key's July, 1972, retirement, and of Henry Taylor's view that he would not himself be a candidate to direct the Laboratory. Dr. Keys is taking a hands-off attitude, leaving Henry Taylor and myself free to make projections with you for the future of the laboratory. I look forward to discussing this with you soon after my return on 18 October.

Obviously a new mission and a sound fundable program are required. I will do some thinking on this in the next period, and discuss some ideas with my laboratory colleagues. With a year or so leeway, I am optimistic. This is because of our interest, experience and standing in epidemiological studies and clinical trials, the very real possibility of our involvement by next year in the community hypertension trials, and the likelihood of some implementation of the NIH Task Force expected recommendations for preventive trials in coronary disease. I would be surprised if we were not in the forefront for grant and contract support in these areas--if I am free to prepare the applications.

The laboratory can maintain its flexibility and competence to move back and forth between field and laboratory, continuing its fruitful contributions to problems and methods in cardiovascular and respiratory diseases. My national and international contacts now can command some good fresh young help, I believe, if I am given the opportunity.

The laboratory can also make a stronger and surely useful contribution to medical school teaching, which I look forward to discussing with you, Dr. Schuman and the Curriculum Committee.

I want you to know that I wish and expect to stand as a candidate to direct the laboratory. If this candidature does not look promising, there are several excellent academic opportunities for me elsewhere. Howard Burchell is also trying to activate something in the Division of Cardiology and we might do well to exchange ideas. I will, in any case, stay in Minnesota long enough to complete responsibilities to current researches and to help my lab. colleagues plan for the future.

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It is gratifying to know from Henry Taylor of your positive position about keeping the L. P. H. as a research unit in the School of Public Health. I hope we can work together to this end.

Cordially,

Henry Blackburn, M. D.  
Professor

HB/rs

Dictated from Geneva