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28th February 1977

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Prof. M. O.
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Dear Henry,

Many thanks for your letter. Please note my name. I think it would be an excellent idea to write an Editorial together for Preventive Medicine, and I would gladly take part.

I enclose a table I have made from data supplied by the Meat & Livestock Commission which shows the astonishingly high carcass fat of Scotch Beef. This is traditional, and doubtless in the Highlands, living in the crofts in olden days, it was very cold and the more fat they had, the better.

The absurd situation now is that at present they can still only get a subsidy from the government if beef is sufficiently fat instead of only getting it if it is sufficiently lean. However, it is now so expensive to import feedstuffs for animals that behind the scenes I have been invited to help them, point out that fattening for the market is not only unnecessary for flavour, succulence and tenderness, and also uneconomic, but now considered to be unhealthy.

The dairy people are another problem altogether, and frankly dishonest by exaggerations, distortions, misquotations and selective omissions. However, having got both feet now into this kind of trouble, I intend to continue. There is nothing to lose and potentially I suspect in the long term a good deal to win.

You certainly have a problem about eggs, and I doubt if my colleague Michael Oliver has helped this campaign. He knows my views. I still have not finished my Counterblast Editorial for sheer lack of time, but intend to do so.

I hope wiser counsels will prevail with the AHA.

With kind regards,
Yours sincerely,

Richard
R. W. D. TURNER

PS Ian Robertson is in the University Department of Animal Health and hence more or less a farmer. He is a very useful colleague in this battle because we can join forces. Not so long ago I did not understand the term finishing for the market, but now I can bring all sorts of impressive phrases as the occasion offers. I did not even know what an 'entire' bull was, but doubtless you knew all along.

Encls
RWDT/AMM