

February 24, 1956

Mr. Edward R. Murrow
C B S
New York, New York

Dear Mr. Murrow:

You have probably followed closer than I the various statements concerning survival after coronary thrombosis since the President's attack.

The data I have seen given the public, even by one of our leading cardiologists, is incomplete and thus is misleading. Case histories of patients surviving such attacks and continuing effective careers have not been balanced by histories of those who failed to do so.

I believe that politics aside, the statistical chances of survival for say a five year period, should be presented to the public. They may then better make their decision on whether to take the chance of re-selecting Mr. Eisenhower.

I refer you to a recent article on 5 and 10 year survival in cases who lived more than 2 months after a "Coronary" "Ten-year Prognosis of Acute Myocardial Infarction" by Morris Weiss, University of Louisville, The American Journal of the Medical Sciences, January, 1956. It is readily understandable and gives references to other pertinent articles on the problem.

You might be interested in having a professional statistician analyze the chances of Mr. Eisenhower's survival in a given period, comparing this to the expected mortality of men at different ages who have not had myocardial infarction. The factors of the President's age, his present absence of angina, heart failure, or other complications, and the weight of the Presidency which is not subject to accurate analysis, are considerations of importance.

If the chances of Mr. Eisenhower living 5 years are on the order of 6 in 10, compared to 9 in 10 or better for healthy men at various ages it is most important that the public know this before his candidacy is official.

I should prefer that my name not be publicized.

Very sincerely yours,

Henry W. Blackburn, Jr., M. D.
University of Minnesota