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Professor Michael J. Oliver
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SCOTLAND

Dear Michael:

Thanks for your kind letter. It's always a valuable lesson to get caught in consistencies. Thanks. I realized, of course, that I could take advantage of your good humor to illustrate my point: recommendations for individuals versus populations.

I agree there is wide variability in population rates between 200 and 220 mg/dl average values. I therefore can't offer direct evidence but, for the nonce, adhere to the multiple risk concept and the principle of continuity. I'll look into whether other risk factors account for the great variability in this part of the population distributions.

Your comment about avoiding confusion by not discriminating between the upper and lower half of the population is where our agreement can rest for now. It doesn't quite get to the population view of social learning of behavior - which is "where it is," I think.

I look forward to your reaction to our WHO Expert Committee Report. It is the most succinct statement we could mobilize on the population approach.

My tone and preface in Berlin, in distortion of your statement, was entirely meant to "have fun." I am sorry if it came over as "gladiatorial." I systematically avoid public debates, pro against con, but find a little satire useful to make a point. It was meant to be in good humor, as you took it. It will not appear in this manuscript.

Regards,

Henry Blackburn, M.D.
Professor and Director

/jml

J 7/16/82

Enclosure *# W. BERLIN MS.* HEALTH SCIENCES