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TWIN CITIES

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January 6, 1982

TO: Carl Caspersen, Richard Crow, Robert Jeffery, Art Leon,
Rebecca Mullis, David Murray, Cheryl Perry, Ronald Prineas,
and Henry L. Taylor

FROM: Henry Blackburn

RE: A Working Group on Physical Activity and Diet in Youth is Needed

I have encouraged our initiative in this area for three years, but have not developed leadership in this area. It appears even more important, now that the Laboratory smoking researches are no longer on the front burner in support they can command. Though we have lost opportunities to take initiative here, I would like to assure that we lose no further ground, assuming we have the skills in good supply.

I would like you to prepare your ideas so that we can get together and define working groups to develop applications in these areas. I think we're seeing that this critical area could provide support in fields of common interest in the Laboratory. I would hope to see these ideas and skills brought together in time for a March 1st NIH deadline for those projects in which there has already been discussion, and July 1st deadline for those that we develop together now.

A great need in the Laboratory is for a track record at NIH for a continuing strong and appealing research program in applied Physiology and Nutrition and related behaviors. Despite excellent individual successes, I am hoping that this will be an area in which we can develop a common strong program and challenge you to this. I am willing to be convinced otherwise if you present me with good alternatives.

My persistent hints and suggestions, encouragements and admonitions of past years now culminate in this challenge to you. I am willing to work hard with you on these matters, but now require your undivided attention to them.

HB/ljb