



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
TWIN CITIES

Laboratory of Physiological Hygiene
School of Public Health
Stadium Gate 27
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

March 19, 1976

PERSONAL

Dr. Eliot Corday
436 North Roxury Drive
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

Dear Dr. Corday:

Well, I guess the whole thing was unnecessary, but the A.J.C. has finally published our petulant polemic. Presumably no great harm was done; the preventive trials will go on (up or down) and there is a re-expansion of available research funds this year. No doubt you helped this along with testimony. From my present vantage point on the Advisory Committee for the Cardiology Branch, there is still not enough fundamental research, and surely too much technological gimmickry toward life support of "end-stage" vascular disease.

At any rate, now that our public debate is finished I would like very much to go back to where I thought we were when we started, i.e., when you were kind enough to send me your editorial, inviting editorial remarks, well before publication. I had thought your gesture was a sincere one, and so wrote you a 4-5 page detailed commentary. In the normal course of events I had come to expect, this should have resulted in a friendly scientific exchange in which you would perhaps modify a few statements and reply to me your arguments for not modifying others. This is the sort of communication I had grown to cherish in my three years as Howard Burchell's associate editor. Not only did you not change a single word of the editorial but apparently felt no need to reply to my considerable editorial efforts. In consequence, you may now understand better my reaction and reply to your editorial. I guess communication is the essence in human relations. I felt that I'd been had. Your rather unkind rebuttal in the A.J.C. confirms my feeling, with such clearly improper assumptions as "Blackburn [not even Dr. Blackburn] wants us to conceal our doubts", and "Blackburn seems to insist we must continue to place most of our research eggs in one basket"! Incidentally, I liked some of your research ideas in your testimony, but they were not effectively outlined in your editorial.

Anyway, let's all hope that progress will be made -- on all investigative fronts -- despite such silly polemics.

Cordially,

Henry Blackburn, M.D.

HB:jp
enclosure