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June 28, 1977

Ms. Carol Foreman  
Assistant Secretary for Food  
& Consumer Services  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rm 201A  
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Ms. Foreman:

I have been in correspondence with Bob Berglund concerning the implications for the agro-industry and economy of the recent dietary recommendations of the Senate Select Committee on Human Nutrition. If we start from the assumption that these recommendations (which resemble those made by the Heart Association and a number of official medical bodies over the last decade) are optimal for human health in this country, clearly the implications are great for the USDA and agriculture.

Mr. Berglund was kind enough to indicate that analyses were underway in the Department to consider the economic impact of these recommendations, if they were to be implemented presumably in an evolutionary manner. I have a longterm interest in the health aspects of nutrition and this laboratory has a long and I believe distinguished tradition of contribution to this area under the former direction of Ancel Keys.

I am now collaborating in a publication to be edited by Robert Levy, Director of the NHLBI, on public health aspects of nutrition and cardiovascular diseases. I need very much to have direct and detailed access to whatever estimates or plans you feel free to make available to me about the considerations of the Department in this field.

I have for several days attempted to reach you and left calls in my desire to invite you to visit the School of Public Health at the University of Minnesota and to chat either formally or informally about these matters. Apparently your schedule has been such that it has not been possible to return these calls. As my own needs are now rather urgent for getting an idea of what directions your thinking in this regard might be going, I would be most grateful for hearing from you soon and, of course, we would welcome you here in this Institution.

Cordially,

Henry Blackburn, M.D.  
Professor and Director

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