

CORRES - BURCH



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
TWIN CITIES

Laboratory of Physiological Hygiene
School of Public Health
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611 Beacon Street S.E.
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

April 21, 1980

Dr. George E. Burch
Tulane University
Department of Medicine
1430 Tulane Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana 70112

Dear George:

Your policy of publishing controversial views is great. It's a bit far-fetched, however, to expect Kurt Oster, who has no idea how to evaluate epidemiological data and is a paid lecturer for the American Egg Board, to give an informed, reasonable or "unbiased" argument.

There is probably more misinformation and miscomprehension and bias in his editorial than in any editorial in recent years, and certainly more than any other issue of a distinguished journal. It was below the editorial standards of the American Heart Journal to give this particular expression such a distinguished platform.

I would not like to reply to this editorial, because it should not be given any recognition. The AHA Nutrition Committee of the Heart Association also agrees that it should not be dignified with a reply.

Whereas on scientific articles you feel the need for using your editorial board, you don't feel that need for editorials. The impact of editorials can often far exceed that of an original article. I, for one, would be happy to provide my "modest expertise" in preventive cardiology, nutrition and exercise to editorial reviews as well as to original research. I fear you goofed here. The Oster quality and tone is atrocious, never before equalled in the journal.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'H. Blackburn'.

Henry Blackburn, M.D.
Professor and Director

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