



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
TWIN CITIES

Laboratory of Physiological Hygiene
School of Public Health
Stadium Gate 27
611 Beacon Street S.E.
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

January 2, 1980

Mr. Walter J. Ellis
Director
FASEB Newsletter
9650 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, Maryland 20014

Dear Mr. Ellis:

The final paragraph in the recent summary of the Waxman Subcommittee Hearings in the FASEB Newsletter helps explain much controversy and ill will in the scientific community, when a responsible person, in one of the most responsible of scientific institutions, does not seem to understand the importance to each other of science and its application, the need for effort in each, the importance of research in applications, and the manner in which policy and decisions for the public health are rationally formed.

Your "Golden Fleece Award" to the kids in the housing project is out of context, and attempts to discredit important ideas which are ready for preventive applications.

One wonders if you consider this sort of careless expression of bias your editorial function, to incite greater ill will and controversy rather than bringing ideas and people together and developing appropriate partitioning and priorities?

It is precisely this sort of attitude that has led to the suggestions and for new institutes having to do with scientific matters of prevention and the public health which bench scientists often do not understand, or on which they make uninformed stands.

See congressional file under subject

It is appropriate that FASEB take stands for "basic research" but not derogate issues of applied research or needed public health programs. To read such biased thrusts in the FASEB Newsletter must be distressing to all those concerned with the public health. Might I suggest, finally, that you consider the appointment of a working committee on research in prevention, health promotion and the public health so that FASEB statements may be informed, well thought out and constructive in these fields.

Sincerely,

Henry Blackburn, M.D.
Professor and Director

HB/sa

Enclosures: Henry Waxman Nov. 9, 1979 letter and PC of FASEB Newsletter

BPC: A. Stunkard and E. Wynder