

SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOW
IN PREVENTIVE CARDIOLOGY

LATELY READER IN MEDICINE
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5th June 1981

Professor Henry Blackburn,
Laboratory of Physiological Hygiene,
University of Minnesota,
Stadium Gate 27,
611 Beacon Road,
Minneapolis, Minn. 55455

HB
Henry
file correct.

Dear Henry,

This is an extra interim note on another aspect of the Conference. Patricia Hausman from the CSPI, whom I happened to meet in Washington, has sent me a copy of her book which, according to the blurb on the cover, you have read. It quotes you as saying, 'Nothing like it exists in any literature. The book not only contains good scientific and political analysis, but also profound insights on how scientific decisions and public health recommendations are made.' My own view is that the book is first rate and was much needed, giving insight into the USA scene which must apply more or less to all countries affected by epidemic CHD. It is the sort of subject I had in mind when suggesting the 1983 Conference, and I should be most grateful if you would start thinking as to how, at least indirectly, these vital themes come into coronary prevention. As Jerry Stamler said in his paper after the proceedings of your New York Conference on Optimal Blood Lipids for Populations, which appeared in PREV.MED., 'the problems are mainly political more than scientific'. I am sure this is true. Could you also start thinking how your WHO Conference in December relates to the 1983 Conference. I have had a talk with Geoffrey Rose but, as he quite rightly pointed out, he is not himself an ideal link-man between a pressure group and science because he wishes to confine himself entirely to science. Nevertheless, he will attend our meetings and be a useful link-man and guide. However, as doubtless you agree, somewhat at the conservative end of the spectrum when it comes to action. This does not mean he is against it, but that he is ultraconservative and, in effect, 'too nice' to criticise anybody or anything in public. If only he would write what he thinks, he would be helpful, but such is his kindly nature that it will not change!

Finally, do you think you could start thinking about a possible questionnaire which could be sent to every country enquiring about their current trends and problems? I simply have not worked in this world as you know, but only as a clinician now concerned about prevention, and introducing a preventive attitude throughout the whole medical curriculum and throughout all medical thinking - and action.

These are the sort of subject we can discuss together in December, but preliminary thinking and writing to me would greatly help in planning.

Our CPG does not have any status whatsoever within or outside the UK and as regards the Conference only willingness to organise, and ideas, and we do not pretend to be otherwise. Consequently we need much guidance from experts. If at any time, perhaps early next year, there was going to be a meeting on the east coast preferably, because I would have to pay my own way, where most of those of you who are going to take part in the 1983 Conference will be present, I would gladly come over. I do sincerely believe this might be the opportunity of the decade and of the century to change the whole worlds of food production, manufacture, public education, politics and all the rest of it. If it is not uniquely useful, then it is not worth having, and I see no objection to publicly grasping at least most /

most nettles with bothhands. The UK lags at least 20 years behind the USA as your campaign really started about 1959, and ours has not really got off the ground.

I will be interested in your personal views on the reasons for Britain lagging behind. I have written mine out.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,



R. W. D. TURNER