



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
TWIN CITIES

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

*ALL COPIES - SCHUMAN*

January 27, 1981

*A typical exchange  
w/ Len! AB*

Professor Leonard Schuman  
Department of Epidemiology  
School of Public Health  
Health Sciences Unit A  
Room 1-195

Dear Len:

I've looked into the issue of the volatile storage room, a history obscured by time. It is the recollection around here that the room was designed by J.T. Anderson and H. L. Taylor to provide for volatile chemical storage in association with our Chemical Laboratory directly across the hall. Obviously, subject to mutual interest and agreement, such specialized facilities in the Laboratory could be shared with any School of Public Health program and it was natural that your material should be put there. The recollection of our chief technician, Peggy Neibling, is that the volatile materials that you stored there were dated back to 1956 and that she left messages for you a couple of times, indicating 1) that the chemicals were old, and 2) that our plans to convert the space to file storage because of limited needs for volatile storage, and 3) building engineers permission that we could keep up to ten gallons of volatile materials directly in our Chemistry Laboratory. She recalls no action on either side and has no more idea than you about where the materials went. She considers it a possibility that a parttime student laboratory assistant during that period may have inadvertently moved your materials to the chemical stockhouse or to the Lipid Research Center Laboratories at the time that he transferred our materials there. This is only a supposition and we know no more about it. I would think that if you have needs now or should develop needs for volatile storage that you might be able to get permission from Buildings to keep them in your own laboratory facilities. If a larger need were to develop for use of this special type facility you might describe the need and we will obviously have to consider and discuss it. Most of our present chemical techniques are getting away from large amounts of extraction as we move to enzymatic methods and it is doubtful that we will ever want to use that specialized space for volatile storage. Thus the change in emphasis and methods of research here has led us to "convert."

With respect to the shared Library, I acknowledge and respect the gentleman's agreement that you had with my predecessors and have

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ordered that no routine meetings be held in the Library. I indicated to you that they were being held there without my knowledge or permission. However, during the next six to eight week period before we are able to occupy temporary space off-campus, during the building program for our new Laboratory under the Stadium, we do have remarkable needs for meeting space. Apparently you have similar needs as your staff has operational meetings there in addition to academic presentations and little student use. Thus, I would like to request special and occasional permission to use the Library, but we will certainly avoid it and respect, on principal, its academic purpose. I don't need to cite the litany of our problems with space for you, but until we get our new community program group settled, we are going to be terribly overcrowded here, and it will continue for another few weeks until our temporary move.

Now with respect to the shared reception room. We have rarely (never?) observed anyone from your office use the room as a reception room. It is rather far from your center of operations. We also found on our own side that it did not work as a reception room without a receptionist. That is why about a year ago we put a desk in there so we could put in a receptionist during times of visits from experimental subjects. We consider it still a part of a joint reception area and obviously may be used for your purposes as well as ours. The permanent presence of a secretary there makes reception appropriate and feasible and she will serve as your receptionist whenever you would like people to be received or waiting there.

The CO<sub>2</sub> fire extinguishing system in the volatile gas room is still in good working order and is inspected annually. So we will maintain the capabilities of that facility, though we do not plan, and hope it will not be necessary, to use it for those purposes. I think that you will find that the fire code will allow you to store small amounts of volatile materials in your Laboratory space which is probably sufficient for ordinary activities.

Cordially,



Henry Blackburn, M.D.  
Professor and Director

HB:jml



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
TWIN CITIES

Division of Epidemiology  
School of Public Health  
1360 Mayo Memorial Building  
420 Delaware Street S.E.  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

*CONFES - SCHUMAN*

July 29, 1981

Dr. Henry Blackburn  
Professor and Director  
Laboratory of Physiological Hygiene  
School of Public Health  
1360 Mayo Memorial Building  
420 Delaware Street S.E.  
Minneapolis, MN 55455

*Norm: Please investigate  
& respond promptly.  
HB.*

Dear Henry:

Before reporting the loss to our police department, I should like to know whether you could make an exploration within your department as to the whereabouts of the extremely expensive lectern which has disappeared from Conference Room 1-104. If this has been temporarily placed in use elsewhere then we should inform our staffs to replace all equipment which normally should not be removed. You may be aware of the extreme laxity that has prevailed in these Conference rooms since anyone can remove any equipment without anyone's knowledge when doors are left open (and lights blazing). I have long ago informed my staff, and have once again done so, that use of these rooms must be considered a privilege. Hopefully, to eliminate the problem of the Conference room doors being left open I have ordered signs for each room which will read: "This Conference Room must be locked when not in use or unattended." Any light you can shed on this matter will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Leonard M. Schuman, M.D.  
Professor and Director

LMS:sn