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NAS - correspond 7/19/88  
✓ SK  
Keys

July 26, 1988

TO: Ansel Keys  
David Jacobs

FROM: Henry Blackburn

SUBJECT: National Academy of Sciences Diet & Health Report

Up until this moment I have not involved either of you in our preparation of the National Academy of Sciences new Diet and Health Report. Now, however, I am hoping that either or both of you would take time to peruse at least the lipid-CVD sections of the chapters.

I also enclose the external review of our draft by the no longer anonymous reviewer. It provides many insights. We have an unusual insight into the thinking process as well as scientific faculties and personality of reviewer G who you should know (confidentially) is Scott Grundy. You would probably divine this after reading a few of his criticisms. I think this is such a significant insight into his thinking and misinterpretations that you would do well to scan this and take an hour to dictate, if you would, your reactions to his criticisms. It should also help in our subsequent reviews of Grundy's work and our understanding of his attempts to change the thinking of the scientific community.

Obviously the most obvious part of his misunderstandings come from not separating the individual from the population effects. His ignorance of attributable risk in Critique #9 is one of many such indications.

But what also comes through strongly is his idea, which as far as I know is a new one, that the effects of all unsaturated fatty acids is simply the result of the removal of saturated fatty acids. I think an editorial by one or two or preferably all three of us would be useful to put this into perspective. It could point out in a sober way, in which letters to the editor cannot, the different conclusions that can be derived from experiments on the same general topic. We might show how his conclusions can be appropriate or inappropriate to the questions and to the design of his experiments. We might point out that his experiments are inappropriately designed to answer the important questions of specific fatty acid effects. At any rate, I thought you should have access to the remarkable insights provided by his critique.

I would ask you to keep this among our group and to decide what, if any, constructive response we might make as a result of gaining these insights. I also have enclosed my replies to his critique for our Committee.

Specific question for Dr. Keys: Did you take stearic acid out of the Keys equations and how much difference did it make? Does hydrogenation of vegetable oils produce stearic acid? Do we have experiments on hydrogenated vegetable oils and their hypercholesterolemic effect? What do we know about the dietary cholesterol/dietary fat interaction in humans?

/nmf

Enclosures

P.S. I have circled the critiques most appropriate to your consideration.