

SPH TASK Force
@corresp

College of Physicians & Surgeons of Columbia University

DeWitt S. Goodman, M.D.
Tilden-Weger-Bieler Professor
Director, Institute of Human Nutrition

630 West 168th Street
New York, N.Y. 10032
Telephone: (212) 305-4055

April 18, 1989

Henry Blackburn, M.D.
Professor and Director
Division of Epidemiology
University of Minnesota
School of Public Health
Stadium Gate 27
611 Beacon Street S.E.
Minneapolis, MI 55455

5-2
pc RL
pc R Shubelle

Dear Henry:

Thank you for your letter and accompanying material concerning the issue of perceived conflict of interest in industry relations. I certainly agree that we must avoid being --or appearing to be-- promotional in our relations with industry. On the other hand, we do want industry --both the food and the pharmaceutical industry-- to be partners in our efforts and programs aimed at lowering cholesterol and coronary risk. The NCEP specifically is trying to promote such partnership activity between many organizations, including industrial ones. Perhaps I should have been a little more reticent about having my name used so prominently in the invitations that were sent out about the Dallas meeting on May 25th. This is, however, not a "special meeting to unveil Olestra"; in fact, Olestra is at least 1-2 years away from serious consideration for approval by the FDA. The meeting will present talks about issues concerned with reducing fat intake by Americans. The talks about Olestra will be mainly scientific, in presenting data about this product, and not promotional. A similar meeting that was held in January in New Orleans was really quite interesting and informative.

I think that our NRC Diet and Health report has been getting quite good press and publicity...and I am hopeful that it will indeed have a real impact on public health and policy in the months ahead. Thank you for your comments about Chapter 7. While you did indeed cause me extra work on the chapter, you also taught me a great deal.

With all best wishes,

Sincerely,



DeWitt S. Goodman, M.D.