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Oglesby Paul, MD  
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Dear Oley,

A couple of days ago, I received the copy of the letter which Henry Blackburn wrote to you on April 4, indicating that you will hear from me in regard to the history of the Council which Henry and I are putting together for publication. It will be obvious to you from having listened to Henry in Tampa that he has - happily - taken the lead in this endeavour. I was very sorry that I could not come to Tampa but it seemed a redeeming feature that I understood you could not come either. However, I knew you were there before I learned from Henry's letter that Russ Luepker had "twisted your arm" because Elizabeth Barrett-Connor passed through Zürich soon after the event and gave me an eye-witness account. In any case, I am happy that we are on the road with this history. As a matter of fact, you may remember that we talked about this when Jean and you were in Zürich in, alas, 1986 (I had to check the year from my correspondence file). At that time, a history of CVD epidemiology was on the horizon but Henry decided very wisely that the history of the Council should be brought under cover first and separately. Henry sent me a draft of this history a couple of months ago but I could not yet go over it thoroughly, as I will explain later. I still hope that the final version is going to reflect some degree of division of labor and not be quite as top-heavy with Henry's input as things stand to-day. In the course of this division, I committed myself to ask you some questions but, because of the delay on my part, some are already included in Henry's letter of April 4. May I add a few more?

1. In 1964, a letter was sent by you to a rather large number of people, inviting them to become fellows of the new Council of Epidemiology. It would be helpful to know how this list was compiled, your own role and the considerations, scientific and otherwise, which influenced the choice of those who received the letter.
2. Henry has assembled what seems to be a reasonable documentation of the key events between the late 1950s and the mid-sixties which marked your and Felix' determined and forceful leadership. Could you think of particular anecdotes and happenings which would give an impression of the "climate" that pervaded this fateful and critical period? Which of your own thoughts, feelings and hopes might be put on record?
3. Are there any specific points which marked the road toward the establishment of the Council you would like to see highlighted? Or any individual actors named? What were the

main roadblocks, what was decisive in overcoming them?

4. In what ways, in your view, has the Council been successful and effective, how might it have done better and what would be your hopes for the future? Any messages you would like to see transmitted?

Some of these questions were originally Henry's and there are others which have crossed my own mind, in the hope that Henry goes along with them. No doubt, some questions will only come in the course of going over Henry's draft which, as I said, I have only scanned so far. In any case, no one is closer than you to the developments which led to the Council and guided it and we are most anxious to include your recollections and thoughts, even before the next draft is being submitted to you.

The reason for my tardiness is that the last 2 1/2 years have been very difficult for us. Doris, as I think you know, broke her hip just before Xmas 1991. The upper part of the femur was replaced but, somehow, the operation was not a success and Doris had constant pain, despite analgesics, throughout this period. She was handicapped a good deal and I found it more and more difficult to keep up with whatever work I am still doing and my correspondence. Last February, Doris had a second operation, this time a total hip replacement, and -touch wood- she is wonderfully much better so that we are almost looking forward to a new life. At the time of the meeting in Tampa, we were at Bad Ragaz, about an hour from Zürich on the way to Chur, where there are excellent facilities for post-operative therapy (and a very pleasant hotel). Obviously, Doris needed me and it was unthinkable to go away. By the way, Doris came to Atlanta when I gave the Ancel Keys Lecture, - it was a painful experience for her but it was a wonderful time for both of us all the same. She could not come to Fukuoka to the most memorable symposium in honor of Ancel's 90th birthday but she is so much better now that we will go to Venice together the day after to-morrow where there is a "mini-symposium" on the Seven Countries Study (on the occasion of the meeting of the ESC Working Group on Epidemiology and Prevention) and I was asked to give the last of three talks.

When you have a chance to respond to this letter, please write directly to Henry, perhaps with a copy to me. And when Jean and you have a chance to visit Zürich again, please come! With all good wishes and kindest regards, also to Jean and also from Doris to you both,

Cordially,

Fred.

Frederick H. Epstein, MD, FRCP  
Professor of Preventive Medicine

Copy: Henry Blackburn, MD