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Felix Gutzwiller, MD
Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine
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8006 Zurich, Switzerland

Dear Felix:

We are still reeling from the loss of Fred Epstein. According to Andy, your eulogy at the funeral service was sensitive and beautiful. I hope you will be kind enough to send me a copy of it.

I am in discussions with Andy Epstein and Millicent Higgins and Steve Fortmann here. We have come to a meeting of minds and now are contacting Doris and you concerning a recognition of Fred and celebration of his life and contributions (not a memorial service) in this country. The alternatives we considered were a small meeting soon in Bethesda, versus the American Heart Association fall meeting in Anaheim, versus the AHA Council on Epidemiology meeting in San Francisco in March, 1996. All of us are leaning toward the latter, despite its delay, because this is the organization that meant most to Fred and would be likely to be attended by most of his friends here. I am actively negotiating this issue with American Heart Association people at the moment. How does this sound to you? There would probably be a short session with comments of a few of his close associates and family at the time of the main banquet.

On another subject, Andy plans to return to Zurich with Tony and go through his father's papers. I wonder whether you have had any discussion with him or with Doris concerning your access to the papers as a person familiar with his career and close at hand. The most pressing issues are the figures 1, 2, and 3 for Fred's Ancel Keys Lecture which I am editing here. He mentions in the hand-drawn figure enclosed that the figures are "redrawn professionally" in Zurich. Presumably, they were the basis for the slides that he presented in Atlanta. Whatever, it is important that we get those promptly in order to expedite publication of the Keys Lecture.

I will broach this issue with Doris, but you should be aware of the need.

Fred and I had discussed over recent years our addressing formally together writing the history of cardiovascular disease epidemiology on completion of our history of the AHA Council. We had concluded that "the early years" would be our most useful contribution, and the more feasible. Because of his experience and his records that go back further than mine, we had agreed that he would take initiative in this, as I took the primary initiative on preparation of the History of the AHA Council. You were aware of his being overburdened in the last years and we had not made finite progress on it. His lectures and publications make many of the points, however, and are a good starting place. I have suggested to Andy Epstein that when he and his brother go through Fred's files that they keep an eye out for a possible file which he may have compiled on the history of CVD Epi. I still am interested in pursuing this, though as you can imagine, much of my interest had to do with the pleasure of collaborating with Fred on this matter (and with him taking the initiative!).

At any rate, I will discuss the issue of his files with Andy and with Doris and keep you informed of our thinking from this side.

Cordially,

Henry Blackburn, MD

Mayo Professor of Public Health

p.s. I just received from Bob Wissler a copy of your superb obituary in the Zurich newspaper. For my effort in the CVD Newsletter, they gave me precisely a one-hour deadline!