

September 20, 1961

Air Mail

James M. MacMillan, M.D.
Tides Inn
Irvington
Virginia

Dear Jim:

I am pleased to report to you, for the benefit of the **Litigation Research Group**, on the status of the final report of the investigations carried out in this Laboratory on various aspects of the fluoride problem, and on other relevant matters:

1. Report on Experimental work

There are two manuscripts on my desk, representing the third drafts of certain parts of the report. Two additional manuscripts are very near this same stage, and Dr. Cleveland expected to complete the third draft of these for my review by the end of this week. This, however, will have to wait until next week, for I have asked him to concentrate his effort on the completion of the last of the series of reviews (on Fluoride) that have appeared in Occupational Medicine. The editor of Occupational Medicine has asked me to get the last of these into his hands before the end of September, in order that the series can be completed in 1961. You will remember that this was one of the tasks we undertook. It has been a large and difficult job and I am greatly relieved that it has finally been completed. (Incidentally, if the sponsors would reconsider at this meeting the numbers of reprints of these combined reviews which they would like to have it might be useful, since this is the last chance that will be afforded. Moreover, it is not likely that any such comprehensive review will be made again. We shall order what we require plus such numbers as are requested by the sponsors according to our present records (which, as I indicate above, can be revised now).

Returning to the report of the experimental work, the four manuscripts or drafts referred to above are concerned with various phases of the work, and have been so divided for our own convenience. They will be combined into one large report with appendices. It will take two or three weeks of my time, parcelled out as circumstances require or permit in relation to other tasks, to complete the editorial review of these manuscripts, after which the final report will be multilithed. It would be useful to me at this time to have some idea of the number of copies that should be sent out to the sponsors. We shall, of course, prepare some extra copies. The experimental work will be prepared in a different manner for publication, and the reprints of such publications (there will be more than one article) will also be available some time later. This work, therefore, will not be buried in this report.

2. Financial Report

A financial report will be made in detail on the completion of this entire project. (Mrs. Campbell expects to continue work on the bibliography of organic fluoride compounds, and I anticipate that there will be some nominal residue of funds for this purpose. I shall speak of this later.) The details of the accounting for the second quarter of 1961 are now being assembled but are not available to me. The essential and approximate facts can, however, be assembled as follows:

The total sum involved or committed to the project	-	\$466,246.00
The total receipts to date (9-19-61)	-	465,481.00
Outstanding sum pledged	-	\$1000.00*
Expenditures recorded (6-30-61)	-	456,581.01
Further expenditures estimated through 3rd Qtr.	-	<u>2,600.00</u>
Anticipated balance	-	\$ 6,300.00**

* The sum of \$1000.00 outstanding, according to the records of the Accounting Office is charged to Monsanto Chemical Company. I am not sure, right now, that this sum has actually been pledged. My uncertainty is due to the fact that Mr. Bruegman is out of town and I cannot be sure of the facts without his concurrence. All other pledges have been fulfilled.

** This balance of funds is entirely fictitious for the reason that, as the funds were reduced to a low level, the allocation of overhead cost, which normally would have been charged to this project, was suspended so as not to have a recorded deficit. No overhead has been charged against this account since June 30, 1960. If full charges had been allocated there would be a deficit now of about \$5,500.00 instead of a balance of \$6,300. We do not expect to retrieve this deficit now or in the future by resuming our normal accounting practice. Rather, we expect to use the nominal book balance (after the completion and issuance of the report) to continue and, if possible, to complete the bibliography of the organic fluorides. We have invested a fair amount of time and effort in this, and its completion is a matter of salvaging this investment - an intangible salvage, to be sure, but then intangible items are really our only products.

3. Work recommended in future

No detailed consideration has been given to a further program of investigation to be carried out in the Kettering Laboratory, or in the field of industrial operations by members of the staff of The Kettering Laboratory with or without the collaboration of representatives of the sponsors. We have had no incentive, in terms of the expressed interest of the sponsors, collectively, in further work, for making a proposal along such lines. Certain individuals or organizations within the group have, however, manifested some interest in such developments, and it is my opinion that there is work which should be done. I am not constrained, therefore, by a

certain "cooling off" of the interest of the group as a whole, to react negatively to this situation. Despite the fact that the further litigation which was anticipated with apprehension some years ago has failed to appear, the industries involved are vulnerable in the field of occupational disease hazard and in the field of community health relating to air pollution. This vulnerability will continue to exist until there is a further elucidation of the human manifestations of fluorosis. The means of investigating this matter, as we have pointed out previously, is in industry. Both for our own information and for the sake of the industries involved - their exposed employees and their responsible professional and administrative people - we have an intense interest in pursuing such an investigation. There are many facets of the investigative approach if one were to approach it on a comprehensive basis; there are specific clinical problems for investigation, some of which can be looked into in brief; there is a basic question concerning the non-specific effects of prolonged exposure to apparently harmless quantities of fluoride (this by the way, is the thing on which George Walcott based his entire campaign against fluoridation). I am sure that a sound and (in the long run) economically feasible program of investigation could be worked out that would capitalize on the available information and extend it for the very practical purposes of human safety and liability insurance. We would be happy to work with any or a group of the sponsors, in developing and implementing such a program, once it has been determined that such a program should be undertaken within certain limits of cost - preferably in the form of a maximum or minimum budgetary allotment on an annual basis. We have learned, the hard way, that it is not possible to anticipate the cost of conducting a complex biological experiment that extends over a period of years. There are too many variables that cannot be appraised in advance. We shall never again (during my administration) undertake such an experimental program on such a financial arrangement.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Mr. Seamans for his information, and as a response, in all appropriate courtesy, to his letter of August 16 which was brought to my attention after Labor Day.

With kindest regards.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Kehoe, M. D.

RAK:ss

cc: Mr. Frank L. Seamans