

September 25, 1943

Mr. J. J. Townsend
Public Health Service
Bethesda, Maryland

Dear Mr. Townsend:

In connection with certain work in which the U.S.R.D. is interested, it is desired to secure as much as possible of the available information on the toxicity of fluorine and some of its simpler compounds. Dr. Stafford Warren, one of our consultants, is the individual directly concerned with this work and, I believe, has already been in touch with you or Dean Fairhall.

It was felt that the most effective way of securing the available information was to call a small group of medical men together who have been primarily concerned with the problem of fluorine toxicity. It is desirable, however, that the interest of the U.S.R.D. in this matter be concealed, and Dr. Warren wishes, if possible, to have the invitations to the conference come from the Public Health Service, and in other ways have the Public Health Service appear as the sponsor of what might be called a "Symposium".

The purpose of this letter is to assure you of the importance of this symposium and of the real need for the information in connection with the war effort. However, this picture of the purpose of the meeting is for your information only, and it is desirable that the impression be given that the interest is in industrial hazards only. To this end, the conference might be referred to as "Symposium on Industrial Hazards of Fluorine and Some of its Simpler Compounds" or some similar title which will not reveal any connection with the war program.

It is sincerely hoped that the Public Health Service will be willing to sponsor the conference and to send out the invitations to the contributors under its own letterhead. All the arrangements such as the selection of the speakers and their topics will be taken care of by Dr. Warren.

The conference is to be limited to a small number and will not be open to individuals except by invitation.

Sincerely yours,

James B. Conant
Chairman - NDRC

The PHS was like
"nah, let's call it a conference
on 'Fluoride Metabolism'..."

sent to J. J. Townsend 10/11/43

FEDERAL SECURITY AGENCY-
U. S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH
BETHESDA, MARYLAND

September 29, 1943

Mr. James B. Conant, Chairman
National Defense Research Committee
Office of Scientific Research and Development
1530 F Street, N. W.
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Conant:

I wish to acknowledge your letter of September 25, 1943, in connection with the toxicity of fluorine and some of its simpler compounds and the suggestion that the Public Health Service sponsor a symposium to consider this subject.

It is suggested that this meeting be called with the proviso that the interests of the Office of Scientific Research and Development be concealed, that the invitations come from the Public Health Service but all of the arrangements for this meeting such as the selection of the speakers and the topics be taken care of by Dr. Stafford Warren of Rochester, New York.

I have talked this whole matter over with both Dr. R. E. Dyer, Director of the National Institute of Health, and Surgeon General Thomas Parran of this Service. It is felt that although the Public Health Service is willing to give any possible aid in this matter, yet the Service could not call such a meeting unless it was cognizant of the subject matter to be discussed and also to reserve the right of passing on the qualifications of the individuals who might be invited to attend such a conference. I feel sure that if these suggestions could be given consideration the Surgeon General would be very glad indeed to call such a conference as you suggested.

Very truly yours,

J. G. Townsend, Medical Director
Chief, Division of Industrial Hygiene