

STATE OF NEW YORK



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
HERMAN E. HILLEBOE, M. D.
COMMISSIONER

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DIRECTOR

ROSWELL PARK MEMORIAL INSTITUTE

BUFFALO 3, N. Y.

July 1, 1953

Mr. Alfred Lyon
Phillip Morris & Company
100 Park Ave.
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Lyon:

In response to your request following our recent conversation at Mr. Rosenstiel's home in Connecticut, I am summarizing our work concerned with the possible carcinogenic properties of tobacco and appending an outline of our future studies.

No attempt will be made to summarize the literature on the entire subject of tobacco and cancer as it was obvious that you and your associates were acquainted with the salient facts. References pertinent to our researches, however, will be included.

Our motives in making this request for support from your company stem from our wish to enlarge and intensify our studies concerning tobacco in the hope that definite answers may be forthcoming in a period of five years or less. Our particular situation for enlarging such a research project is excellent since we have an experimental farm in association with our Institute and in addition the State is going to erect a three-story animal building on the experimental farm in the forthcoming year. In addition, we have a basic staff with experience and interest in this particular field.

Dr. Morton Levin, Assistant Commissioner of the New York State Health Department and a trained epidemicologist, has written several important papers on the subject of tobacco and lung cancer and is eminently qualified to enlarge such studies. Here at the Institute several of us have previously engaged in attempts to find carcinogenic components in tobacco and also have carried out studies concerned with the carcinogenic properties of arsenic. Therefore, the basic staff necessary to carry on both epidemiological and biological research in this field are already present at the Institute and are at the present time engaged in such research on a small scale.

It is important to point out that the solution of the problem of a possible association between tobacco and various cancers does not depend on the formulation of a new theory nor does it have to wait for the development of new biological or chemical techniques. If the numerous statistical studies are correct in indicating a definite association between tobacco and an increased incidence of carcinoma of the lung, larynx, and oral mucosa, the problem is merely one of solving the various multiple factors that in addition to tobacco make up those agents which finally cumulate in provoking the development of malignancy.

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Mr. Alfred Lyon

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Certainly, if an ingredient or series of ingredients or irritants associated with the manufacture or consumption of tobacco can be definitely implicated and identified by the proposed studies, it is evident that the removal of such noxious materials would prove a real boon to mankind. Certainly, people will not cease the use of tobacco even though its deleterious properties are proved; even some of the investigators who are most interested in the tobacco-cancer problem and have concluded that there is a significant relationship remain heavy smokers.

Commissioner Hilleboe, Dr. Levin and I are most hopeful that your medical advisors will approve the proposed researches outlined separately and lend us adequate support for our enlarged studies on this very important problem.

Sincerely yours,


George E. Moore, M.D., Ph.D.

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