

59

PHILIP MORRIS

INCORPORATED

100 PARK AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017

JOSEPH F. CULLMAN, JR.
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

June 22, 1970

Dr. Gerald D. Dorman, President
American Medical Association
10 Columbus Circle
New York, New York

Dear Dr. Dorman:

I am aware that Doctors Oscar Auerbach and E. Cuyler Hammond are scheduled to read their papers regarding the widely publicized study of the effects of cigarette smoking upon dogs before the annual convention of the American Medical Association in Chicago on Wednesday, June 24.

The Auerbach-Hammond study has been characterized in the American Cancer Society news releases as a scientific breakthrough that should cause the tobacco industry to reassess its policies. Based on this allegation, the Tobacco Institute has three times asked the American Cancer Society to submit the underlying data to an independent and impartial scientific panel for evaluation. Three times the American Cancer Society has refused to do so.

I am writing to you now because the AMA has scheduled a press conference for Doctors Auerbach and Hammond on Tuesday, June 23, during your convention. On the basis of a news release, it would appear that the subject of this press conference is the same Auerbach-Hammond study which was released at a prior press conference held by the American Cancer Society on February 5 at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York.

As of today, the Auerbach-Hammond study is still unpublished in any scientific journal. Moreover, a recent news story reported that the Auerbach-Hammond manuscript, which was submitted some time ago to the Journal of the American Medical Association, has not yet been accepted for publication. Specifically, a spokesman for the AMA Journal was recently quoted as stating that scientific reviewers assigned by the Journal have

1005091734

Dr. Gerald D. Dorman

June 22, 1970

Page 2

questioned the "validity of the pictures" submitted with the manuscript to the Journal's review board. The term "pictures" undoubtedly refers to photographs of microscopic sections of the dogs' lungs which were offered to substantiate the claim that certain of the dogs developed lung cancer. Since the reviewers found reason ~~to~~ doubt the "validity" of the pictures, the implication is that they were unable to confirm Dr. Auerbach's claim that the dogs developed lung cancer.

As a result, the American Medical Association would now appear to have been placed in the position of lending its facilities and auspices to providing additional publicity for a study which has been and is being seriously questioned by the scientists who are reviewing the findings for the AMA's official Journal. The fact is that the Auerbach-Hammond study -- to date unpublished and unsubstantiated in any way -- already ranks as one of the most widely publicized studies of all time.

On June 17, the American Cancer Society News Service released a letter from the Surgeon General of the United States Public Health Service, Dr. Jesse L. Steinfeld, in which he declined the request of the American Cancer Society to conduct a formal analysis of the Auerbach-Hammond study. He appears to have concluded, without examining the data, that no formal review is necessary to establish the validity of the study. This opinion seems to be in conflict with the opinions of at least some scientists assigned to review the Auerbach-Hammond manuscript by the editors of the Journal of the American Medical Association.

It seems to me that in the interest of scientific truth it might be helpful if the American Medical Association at this point would release the substance of the reviews in its possession concerning this study, including any negative findings. Full disclosure to the AMA's membership -- as well as the press and lay public -- would possibly provide more facts against which to judge the additional publicity that will undoubtedly result from the press conference scheduled for June 23.

Yours very truly,

Joseph F. Cullman 3rd
Chairman of the Executive Committee

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