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December 15, 1993

Charles A. LeMaistre, M.D.  
1515 Holcombe, Box 91  
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Dear Mickey:

I hope all is well with you, and I wish you a happy and healthy new year. It's hard to believe that nearly seven years have gone by since I came to Houston and Baylor--and almost as long since we had a chance to sit down and talk. I'm sure you realize that the next month marks one of those round-number anniversaries of the issuance of the 1964 Report of the Surgeon General.

Two thoughts come to mind. First, as you will recall from the enclosed letter, I've been after you for quite some time to put your reflections on tape, an edited version of which I would like to write up for Tobacco Control (or another journal of your choosing). Until recently I served as deputy editor for news and commentary of Tobacco Control, which is the only international publication devoted exclusively to this subject. I'm now a roving corespondent with the freedom to be extremely selective, and among my goals is to obtain interviews with you and Marc Edell (the attorney who represented Rose Cippolone in her successful landmark suit against the tobacco companies). I've mentioned this to Ron Davis, who edits Tobacco Control, and he would be eager to have such an interview in hand. (I've also spoken with Marc Edell, who has agreed to an interview.) A drawback of sorts is the small circulation of the journal: between 500 and 1000, so I would also be interested in contributing either an essay or interview to either the New England Journal of Medicine or JAMA.

Row - ↑  
THIS WAS NOT INTENDED AS A DIG AT TOBACCO CONTROL; THE "ALSO" MEANT "IN ADDITION TO," HOPEING THAT I COULD HAVE GOTTEN THE FULL INTERVIEW IN TOBACCO CONTROL.

A second possibility would be to have a commemoration of the Report at an M.D. Anderson auditorium, during which I could conduct a briefer and more public interview with you (and still publish an edited version in Tobacco Control). As you can imagine, I have collected quite a few illustrations from the time of the Report, including perhaps a dozen original newspapers from around the world and a copy of a 1964 CBS report on smoking, narrated by Harry Reasoner, that was broadcast two months after the report was released.

Each time we've talked, you've let out a few bits and pieces that I hadn't heard about before. I think it would be especially worthwhile for you to discuss in detail your role in speaking to President Johnson, in the presence of Abe Fortas.

Page 2  
Dr. LeMaistre  
December 15, 1993

Please let me know if you'd like to get together in January--either for a public commemoration or a private discussion. In any case, I think the time has come to reveal a lot more of what went on in the preparation and aftermath of the Surgeon General's report, and I'd value the opportunity to help draw you out on the subject.

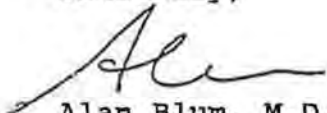
Even if you'd prefer to keep all discussions confidential, I would very much like to interview you on tape for the oral history project I have been creating over the years as part of the DOC Tobacco Archive and International Resource Center (my scholarly, non-activist alter-ego). As you may recall, to the best of my knowledge, I have the largest collection of materials on the sociocultural aspects of the tobacco pandemic over the past half-century. The collection is comprised of more than 1200 archive boxes of materials, including over 10,000 slides and hundreds of video and audio recordings of news stories on tobacco.

REN  
AND  
YOU, TC

The Archive's board includes C. Everett Koop and Professor John Boles, editor of the Journal of Southern History. Next year we hope to purchase a building in Houston to create a museum "about when people used to smoke." Your ideas and assistance in this regard would be greatly appreciated.

Again, I look forward to meeting with you in the coming year.

Sincerely,



Alan Blum, M.D.  
Associate Professor

AB/tw  
Enclosure