

April 21, 1989

Alan Blum, M.D., Chairman
Doctors Ought to Care (DOC)
5115 Loch Lomond
Houston, Texas 77096

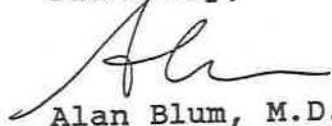
Dear Councilwoman Tinsley:

I want to express my sincerest apology for any embarrassment I may have caused to you as a result of my letter in regard to your forthcoming appearance at the Virginia Slims Cigarettes Tennis Tournament. I did not intend to convey my personal opinion in a public forum, and I mistakenly believed I had taken every measure to avoid any institutional affiliation apart from my role as chairman of DOC. I have also apologized to Baylor College of Medicine for having failed to make certain that the viewpoint expressed appeared to be strictly my own.

The subject came up during the course of a conversation I initiated with a Chronicle reporter after learning from the program chairman of the national conference on Minorities and Cancer (in Houston, April 21-22) that there might be sparse attendance at a dinner in honor of Secretary of Health and Human Services Sullivan on Saturday, April 22. In noting the irony of such an august occasion occurring on the eve of a tobacco-sponsored sporting event in our city, I did mention that I had written to you (as an admirer and as chairman of a national health promotion organization) in regard to your appearance at this event.

It was not my original intention that this letter become a public matter. Moreover, my criticism was directed at the Philip Morris Tobacco Company rather than the civic institutions with whom it has sought to forge ties--and the appearance of support. I wrote out of the deepest respect for you as one of the foremost health advocates in government, and I again apologize to you for my failure to have made this clearer and to have kept it a private matter.

Sincerely,



Alan Blum, M.D.

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bc: Robert E. Rakel, M.D.