



The University of Texas System Cancer Center

M. D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute
Texas Medical Center • 6723 Bertner Avenue • Houston, Texas 77030

Office of the President

October 2, 1985

Alan Blum, M.D.
Editor
New York State Journal of Medicine
P. O. Box 5404
Lake Success, N. Y. 11042

Dear Alan:

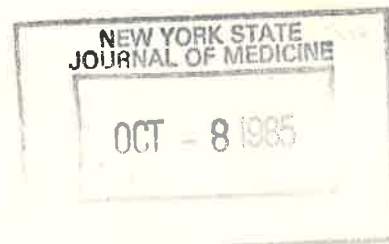
Thank you for your letter. I have explored the possibility of some reflections on the workings of the "Kennedy-Terry" committee with some of the surviving members. The consensus is that we should each document our views and opinions before we are senile, but now is not the time to release the reflections. They favor consideration of compiling the reflections. I have agreed that I will pursue the matter no further until 1986 when I will contact them again.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Charles A. LeMaistre, M.D.
President

CAL:ann





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December 15, 1993

Charles A. LeMaistre, M.D.
1515 Holcombe, Box 91
Houston, Texas 77030

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 correspondent 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.

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.

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Dr. LeMaistre
December 15, 1993

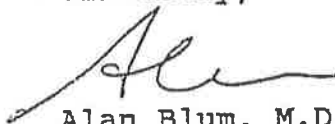
Please let me know if you'd like to get together in January--either for a public commemoration or a private discussion. In any case, I think the time has come to reveal a lot more of what went on in the preparation and aftermath of the Surgeon General's report, and I'd value the opportunity to help draw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

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

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
MD ANDERSON
CANCER CENTER

Office of the President

December 22, 1993

Alan Blum, M.D.
Associate Professor
Department of Family Medicine
Baylor College of Medicine
5510 Greenbriar
Houston, Texas 77005-2646

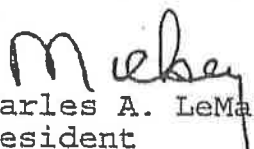
Dear Alan:

Thank you for your letter. I have given a great deal of thought to the 30th anniversary of the Surgeon General's Advisory Report.

Your wishes may become reality in that some are considering de-briefing the surviving four and Peter Hamill at one long session which would allow us to re-enforce our memories and diminish our exaggerations. Since I have said that I would participate if they raised the money and organized the session, I believe it best not to go forward with other projects at this time.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,


Charles A. LeMaistre, M.D.
President

CAL:jlb

Blum

January 6, 1994



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

Thank you for your prompt and thoughtful reply. I hope you'll still consider getting together to talk an hour or so into a tape recorder, but in the meantime as the plans for your meeting with the other Surgeon General's Advisory Panel members take shape, please keep me informed. I would still like to have the opportunity to be there or at least to assist in writing up your and the others' views and experiences, much as I have done with such individuals as Dr. Koop, Joe Califano, Jesse Steinfeld, Leroy Burney, and Alton Ochsner over the years.


To commemorate the 30th anniversary of Smoking and Health, I have just installed an exhibit in the foyer of the Texas Medical Center Library. Included in the display is a copy of the Report, as well as several actual newspapers that covered the historic press conference. The original broadsheet page from The New York Times containing the photographs of the members of the Advisory Panel is also on exhibit.

Next Tuesday, January 11, from 12-1:30 in Room 007 of the Library, I will be moderating a discussion of the significance of the Report and showing vintage TV cigarette commercials and excerpts of an original CBS Reports documentary by Harry Reasoner, which aired in March 1964.

The discussants include pathologist Don Greenberg, pulmonologist Dan Jenkins, pediatric oncologist Don Fernbach, otolaryngologist Richard Stasney, Family Medicine Chairman Bob Rakel, Community Medicine Chairman Carlos Vallbona, radiologist Joel Dunnington, Houston Post columnist Juan Palomo, and Judge Dale Gorczynski. Several have asked if you might be able to participate. Although I realize your schedule that day might preclude your attending, I do hope you'll consider sending a taped or written comment via Dr. Dunnington. (I have also left word for Dr. Goepfert and Dr. Gritz). I also hope you'll drop by the Library to see the exhibit. I'd love to get a photograph of you by the display.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,


Alan Blum, M.D.
Associate Professor

COMMEMORATIVE EXHIBIT

THE 30th ANNIVERSARY OF THE SURGEON GENERAL'S REPORT ON SMOKING AND HEALTH

Lobby, Texas Medical Center Library
Now through January 31st

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Additional Special Event

"The Health Community's Role in Ending
the Tobacco Pandemic:
Commitment or Cop-out?"

Tuesday, January 11th 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.
Room 007 TMC Library

Dr. Alan Blum will moderate a discussion with
leading medical researchers and clinicians on the
legacy of the Surgeon General's Report .

Plus... excerpts of a March, 1964 CBS Reports
television documentary, along with TV cigarette
commercials from the 1960's.

For more information, call 798-7729.