

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
MD ANDERSON
CANCER CENTER

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

MEMORANDUM

June 7, 1988

TO: Guy R. Newell, M.D.
Chairman, Department of Cancer Prevention

FROM: Charles A. LeMaistre, M.D. *CAL*
President

RE: The Doc (Doctors Ought to Care) Tobacco Archive

Please note the attached information about the tobacco archives accumulated by Dr. Alan Blum as he conceived, developed and administered DOC.

Dr. Blum is not certain he will be able to secure the budget needed to properly house the archives. I would appreciate your views expressed to Alan as to preservation and use of such materials.

Should a library, or an office interested in the subject of smoking or health, become responsible, the costs would be reduced but still substantial. I have reviewed in my own thinking the pros and cons of the Office of Smoking and Health, CDC, the ACS, the Texas Medical Center Library, and even libraries at components like the School of Public Health or the Anderson. I have not discussed with Alan any of the above nor do I know if any would in his view be acceptable.

I do feel the archives are a specialized and valuable resource for the public and professional education job yet to be done.

CAL:ann
Enclosure

copy: Dr. Palmer Beasley
Dr. Alan Blum
5510 Greenbriar, Houston, TX 77005



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June 13, 1988

Alan Blum, M.D.
5510 Greenbriar
Houston, Texas 77005

Dear Alan:

Dr. LeMaistre has shared with me your document on the Tobacco Archive and asked me to express my views to you. I think they are a most valuable set of materials, for all the reasons you state and perhaps others.

The Tobacco Archive you have assembled must be preserved for learning by future cultures as long away as hundreds, maybe thousands of years. Factually, it documents a unique event in all of mankind's recordings, and holds many lessons for the future. My second reason for considering them so valuable is that they document a major shortfall in the functioning of a democratic political system -- namely, there is no built-in way to safeguard health and lives of so many citizens when the "benefits" accrue to so relatively few. Do you think such safeguards were considered by Jefferson, Madison and the others, but discarded as a danger to the most fundamental premise of democracy, namely freedom in its broadest possible interpretation? That's a good historical research question in itself.

Let me suggest some possibilities for generating interest in preserving your Tobacco Archive:

The Kennedy School of Government at Harvard: In thinking back, the singular most significant contribution to health of the Kennedy administration was the courage and foresight of assembling the First Surgeon General's Committee on Smoking. John Kennedy is cited for space, art, the humanities, civil rights, etc., etc. He is seldomly if ever (except frequently by me) given credit for this magnificent achievement in health.

The Jimmy Carter Health Center at Emory: For different reasons than above, this group might, and should, have a keen interest in the Archives.

A Health-Oriented Foundation: The Robert Woods Johnson Foundation comes to mind, or maybe the Ford Foundation, the Mellon, and there are many other potential ones. These could easily be explored. Also, the Mary Lasker Foundation or Dana Foundation come to mind.

National or Private Museums: National or private museums such as the Smithsonian, the Mellon, or perhaps a museum supported by one of the foundations.

A Major University with a Health Law Program: Benno Schmidt's son is the President of Yale University. I don't know if Yale Law School offers a specialty in health, but I cite it as a prototype.

The National Library of Congress should be interested, I just don't know under what regulations they choose subject matter for special collections.

The National Library of Medicine should have an interest, but I suspect the lower in the bureaucracy one goes the red tape increases exponentially.

Individual Philanthropists such as Armand Hammer, Mary Lasker, Nellie Dana, and others.

Finally, I also thought of the Office of Smoking and Health, the ACS, The Texas Medical Center Library, or even our own library, but I honestly think the value of the Archive far outshines scope/mission of these groups.

It was very good to see you again at the press conference. Congressman Andrews is a very impressive young man whose heart is obviously in the right place.

Please give me a follow-up on your success in finding the most suitable home for the Tobacco Archive.

Sincerely,



Guy R. Newell, M.D.
Chairman & Mesa Petroleum Co.
Professor of Cancer Prevention

GRN/dhw

cc: Palmer Beasley, M.D.
Charles A. LeMaistre, M.D.