

TESTIMONY
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE
LAW AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

APRIL 11, 1994

MR. CHAIR, MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE, I AM JOSEPH
A. STEGER, PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI.

I APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE A CHANCE TO
PRESENT THE ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE UNIVERSITY OF
CINCINNATI RELATIVE TO THE WHOLE BODY RADIOTHERAPY
STUDIES CONDUCTED, AT THE THEN GENERAL HOSPITAL,
SOME TWENTY TO THIRTY YEARS AGO.

THERE HAVING BEEN SOME SEVEN INDEPENDENT
INVESTIGATIONS OF THESE STUDIES MOSTLY 20 TO 30

YEARS AGO, WHEN THE CURRENT UNIVERSITY WAS ASKED BY THE PRESS AND THE FAMILIES TO SUPPLY DOCUMENTS OR RECORDS, WE BEGAN TO COMPILE IMMEDIATELY ALL THE RECORDS WE HAD RELATIVE TO THE STUDY. MUCH TO OUR SURPRISE, ALTHOUGH IT WAS A COMPLICATED TASK, WE STILL HAD IN OUR ARCHIVES OR WE FOUND SOME 8,200 PAGE OF DOCUMENTS--ALL OF WHICH WE HAVE MADE PUBLIC. AND WITH THE HELP OF SENATOR GLENN AND CONGRESSMAN MANN, WE SECURED THE ORIGINAL D.O.D. CONTRACT.

AT THE SAME TIME THAT WE WERE UNDERTAKING TO LOCATE AND REPRODUCE DOCUMENTS, WE BEGAN A SEARCH FOR THE PATIENTS' FAMILIES (SOME 88 FAMILIES). AS OF THIS DATE, WE HAVE LOCATED 38 SURVIVING RELATIVES AND WE ARE STILL TRYING TO LOCATE 50 OTHER PATIENTS' CLOSE RELATIVES.

WE ALSO ESTABLISHED A HOT LINE SO THAT PEOPLE COULD CHECK TO SEE IF THEY OR A RELATIVE HAD PARTICIPATED IN THE STUDIES. WE HAVE HANDLED OVER

1,000 CALLS AND CROSS CHECKS TO ASCERTAIN BY PATIENT RECORDS (OF THESE 1,000 SOME CALLS) IF ANY OF THE INQUIRERS OR THEIR RELATIVES HAD BEEN IN THE STUDY-- OBVIOUSLY FEW HAD.

WE ALSO FEEL A SOCIETAL OBLIGATION TO THE SURVIVING RELATIVES. ALTHOUGH WE ARE NO LONGER THE SAME ENTITY UNDER WHICH THE STUDIES WERE CONDUCTED, WE HAVE OFFERED SOCIAL WORK SUPPORT AND/OR PASTORAL COUNSELING SHOULD THEY WISH.

WE AS A PUBLIC ENTITY SHALL CONTINUE TO COOPERATE IN ANY WAY WE CAN TO PROVIDE INFORMATION SHOULD WE UNCOVER ANY ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS. AT THIS TIME, WE ARE 90% CERTAIN THAT WE DO NOT HAVE ANY OTHER DOCUMENTS THAT HAVE NOT BEEN REPORTED.

THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING MY TESTIMONY. I SHALL BE GLAD TO ANSWER ANY OF YOUR QUESTIONS.