

NEWS UC

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(Editors and Broadcasters: For your information and publication and broadcast if desired.)

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Statement by Dr. Warren Bennis, President of the University of Cincinnati, regarding the whole body radiation case.

Because of the complexity of the whole body radiation study at the University of Cincinnati and in order to work with you in keeping the facts uppermost, I am providing you with the following information:

1. A distinguished committee of UC faculty members, nine from the Medical Center and two from the non-medical faculty, has investigated in great detail the whole body radiation research. The study committee was commissioned by Dr. Clifford Grulee, Dean of the Medical College, at the request of Dr. Edward Gall, Vice President and Director of the Medical Center. This report is now in my hands. I have great confidence in this committee and its methods of investigation. Its members have made detailed findings, and also recommendations about the project. A summary of the committee's report was made public Feb. 1.

2. The full text of the study report is being reviewed in the interest of making certain that no one's privacy or legal privilege is being violated. I anticipate that this text will be made public about Feb. 15.

3. After I have carefully weighed all the recommendations I, as President of the university, will make any final decision that is necessary. This decision will be taken in the best interests of patients, the proper continuation of important medical research, the predictability of success in the research project and its method of financing. I do not have a deadline for reaching my decision but it will be done without loss of time and as soon as possible.

(2)

4. I have also asked for a review of all university research having to do with human subjects. Future guidelines for research at all departments of the university will be sought in this study. My interest is to have as thorough consideration of this subject as possible in order to arrive at the best decision.

5. The research in whole body radiation has been in progress, with help from federal funding, since 1960 and safeguards as to care and welfare of patients have been used throughout. These safeguards have been upgraded periodically through the years, by our own people and reviewed by our own committees in 1966, 1967, 1970 and 1971. They have not waited to act until after the recent arousal of public interest in the project.

6. The University has been willing and anxious from the outset of this public interest to cooperate with appropriate legislative inquiry. We have been concerned first, however, about the medical welfare and legal rights of patients. We are now seeking additional expert medical advice in this area from sources outside Ohio. We have also sent letters to these patients asking if they want to consent to being identified and talking with representatives of the Senate. We are forbidden by state law and by rules of the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare to make identification on our own initiative.

7. Since September 1, 1971, to my knowledge, no patients have been given whole body radiation treatment at the UC Medical Center, except for one patient who received re-radiation at his own request to diminish pain, and one patient referred by a private physician for a condition where whole body radiation is very widely used as a method of treatment. The decision was made in November 1971 to suspend whole body radiation for the present.

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