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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON  
 LABOR AND PUBLIC WELFARE  
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

January 11, 1972

Doctor Warren Bennis, President  
 University of Cincinnati  
 Cincinnati, Ohio

Dear Doctor Bennis:

This is in reply to your acknowledgement of December 15th, and Dr. Gall's letter of December 22nd, in which he said "that communication with these patients and with the parents of children who were involved in this study must be respectfully denied."

I find the University's decision especially unfortunate, because the most crucial question in the inquiry is the patients' perception and understanding of the experiments in which they were participating: i.e., how did they see its purposes, and its potential benefits and risks, including their awareness of the military purposes of the project.

It has come to my attention that the University made the patients available to National Educational Television (NET) for production of a documentary on the project last September. At that time the TV team was provided with the names and addresses of patients who had participated in the project, and was permitted to film and tape record interviews with the patients and doctors involved. These interviews indicate that the patients had not been informed about the military purposes of the project.

In view of this information, I find the University's response to the Subcommittee difficult to understand. The Subcommittee is entitled to an explanation as to: (1) why the University gave the TV crews access to the patients, but denied access to the patients or their families when it was requested in the public interest by a Senate Subcommittee; and (2) the reasons for the apparent discrepancy between what the medical officials told the TV team, and what they have since publicly stated regarding the patients' information on the purposes of the research.

Doctor Warren Bennis

Page 2

The Subcommittee has made no pre-judgments regarding this project, but is solely interested in establishing the facts of the case. We believe the issues raised by the project are extremely significant to the formulation of more effective national policies and procedures regarding human experimentation. We would appreciate the University's co-operation in achieving these objectives.

Sincerely,

*Edward M. Kennedy*

Edward M. Kennedy, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Health