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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

October 6, 1948

Keller

Shields Warren, M. D.
Atomic Energy Commission
1901 Constitution Ave., N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Doctor Warren:

RE:CH-3868

I have recently been shown a letter from Mr. Keller, the Declassification Officer at Oak Ridge, in which he says that both paper not be declassified at this time, because it is felt that it contains material the release of which would be prejudicial to the best interest of the Atomic Energy Commission, in that it might result in adverse publicity and even encourage litigation". The reason for these statements is that this paper concerns x-ray exposure of human beings.

With regard to the first statement concerning adverse publicity, I thought that this item was taken care of when we stated in the paper that the patients were incurable by any known means of therapy. We could with honesty and sincerity, add a paragraph such as the following to the section headed "Material", on page 5:

"The people used in groups I and II were individuals to whom the medical profession could offer no treatment that was at all specific or known to be helpful. The x-ray exposures that were given had as reasonable a chance as, or even a more reasonable chance than any other known type of treatment of doing the patients some good. Since this manuscript is concerned only with the effects on the blood, the clinical condition of the patients is not discussed at any length."

The third group of patients were volunteers who knew exactly what they were doing and therefore do not become a matter of any dispute.

With regard to the lawsuit part of the program, I think that this could be taken care of readily by the elimination of the initials of the patients. I must confess that the inclusion of the initials of the patients slipped past my editorial eye or they would have been taken out. With the initials removed, there will be no means by which the patients can ever connect themselves up with the report. You will note that the location of the patients has been omitted except for the acknowledgement at the end of the article to Doctors Brunschwig and Hamann of the Billings Hospital and Max Cutler of the Chicago Tumor Clinic. I think that with the changes suggested

* the Medical Advisor and the Insurance Branch have recommended "that the

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there could be no possibility of either adverse publicity or litigation.

Might I therefore request that you or someone designated by you, review this article and see whether you can agree with my conclusion and thus declassify it so that it can be included in the Medical Volume of the National Nuclear Energy Series, Plutonium Project Portion.

Thanking you for your attention to this matter and regretting the trouble it causes you, I remain

Yours sincerely,

Rbt. S. Stone
Robert S. Stone, M. D.

RSS:ab

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