

718782

OAK RIDGE ASSOCIATED UNIVERSITIES

INCORPORATED

P. O. BOX 117

OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE 37830

AREA CODE 615  
TELEPHONE 483-8411

January 6, 1971

Dr. Martin L. Minthorn, Jr.  
Biochemist, Medical Research Branch  
Division of Biology and Medicine  
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission  
Washington, D. C. 20545

REPOSITORY DOE Records Ctr  
COLLECTION 7724 Terminated & cut  
of Contracts  
BOX No. 6564  
Louis H. Hempelmann (11-1)  
FOLDER U of Roch AT(30-1) 4284

Dear Martin:

I have read the research proposal of Dr. Louis H. Hempelmann focusing, as you suggested, upon the scientific merit of the study in Los Alamos of the 17 men with detectable body burdens of plutonium. There is no question that such a study is of utmost importance to the AEC and should be given high priority support. There is also no question that Drs. Langham and Hempelmann are the best qualified to carry out this clinical and laboratory appraisal and to gather this and other studies into a definitive report on the plutonium toxicity in man. The idea of carrying out this work in Los Alamos is easily rationalized because of the facilities available there for unquestionable excellent analyses. The protocol leaves me nothing to suggest for improving it.

I suppose there are administrative reasons for having two such divergent programs included in one proposal. It looks to an outsider/insider, like myself, to be an effort to get the weaker part carried by the stronger part, but I fail to determine which is which here. The DNA repair studies are equally meritorious, but face different priority rules. Of these two parts of the proposal, the plutonium body burden one, while not "scientific research", must be supported because of our crying need for human data on a human problem that is terribly important to your division of AEC.

Yours,



C. C. Lushbaugh, M.D.

CCL:ss

Enclosure

4004453

00190