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June 23, 1959

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Dr. Charles L. Dunham
Division of Biology and Medicine
Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Dunham:

The purpose of this letter is to discuss yours of June 12, 1959 to Dr. W. C. Johnson of the University of Chicago.

Before proceeding to the main point I should like to first digress slightly to comment on one or two of Lapp's statements. I agree with Lapp's implication that the Semiannual AEC Reports are meager sources on this subject--but hardly through any fault of ours. We, in this division of the laboratory, have made little less than valiant efforts on occasion to submit adequate material for such use to no avail, as written and oral protests to you and others will testify.

Lapp has (as expected) done a poor job of "checking the literature," with no excuse for such obvious incompetence since L. D. Marinelli mailed, by letter of request, to Lapp a copy of the Janeway Lecture on December 10, 1958. This document, besides adequately discussing the consequences of drinking the deep well waters, offers a completely comprehensive bibliography of our work on the subject. We readily admit that there is no politically oriented "summary publication"--may the powers that be preserve us from such. In addition, Lapp is quite aware of our semiannual reports (of the Radiological Physics Division), which are just as available to him as they are to all.

Now to the main point--exception is taken to your statement that there is still no statistically valid data on the average radium burden of the Chicago inhabitants or the radium burden of inhabitants in communities with high radium content in the water supply. The facts are in print--the data is statistically very good--it is the best work in existence and there is no disagreement or controversy with our professionally competent colleagues in the business. Admittedly the present efforts to determine the actual content of skeletal material along with measurements on intact humans will increase the precision of our predictions but not their general validity.

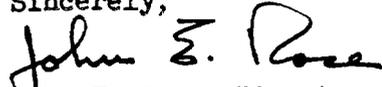
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With full realization that the onerous demands on your time prevent detailed familiarity with all the details of our work on this matter, I can only submit that you have been insufficiently advised by your staff.

With apologies for the delay in answering due to a vacation from which I returned only yesterday,

Sincerely,



John E. Rose, Director,
Radiological Physics Division

JER:is

cc: Reading File