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 LOS ANGELES 24, CALIFORNIA

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 DEPARTMENT OF BIOPHYSICS & NUCLEAR MEDICINE
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 LOS ANGELES 24, CALIFORNIA

April 3, 1962

H. D. Bruner, M. D.
 Assistant Director for
 Medical and Health Research
 Division of Biology and Medicine
 Atomic Energy Commission
 Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Dave:

Thanks for your letter of March 15, 1962 regarding I¹³¹ assays in foetal and maternal thyroids. Dr. Donald Hutchinson of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and I are attempting to arrange a modest program to provide some of the information you want.

The emphasis will be on counting newborn infants in the Total Body Counter. (One problem is to convince the people who run the New-born Ward that we can avoid exposing the infants to infections and can prevent introduction of infectious agents into the ward itself). If any I¹³¹ or other abnormal activity is detected, the mother will also be examined in the Total Body Counter Facility, using a collimated detector as well as the four naked crystals. Quantitation will perhaps not be as accurate as we could wish for since I will have to rely on constructing some phantoms to simulate the infantile thyroid and body. Once we get set up and run a few cases we will be ready to look for possible foetal contamination following any weapons testing program. I rather doubt we'll find anything but we'll "play it by ear" and might even try to get some foetal thyroids at autopsy if the situation warrants.

Best wishes,

Yours truly,

Mac

N. S. MacDonald, Ph. D.

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