

NAVAL MEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE
NATIONAL NAVAL MEDICAL CENTER
BETHESDA, MARYLAND

Date 13 June 45

Dear Prof. Steenbock:-
I hope you will see fit to insist that the Cooperator print your truthful side to this story.

This is important for public attitude toward research.

Sincerely
C. M. McCay

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very distasteful to me... concerns both my personal integrity and that of my associates. Apparently the greatest cause for alarm on the part of the government is the unexpected success of our licensing program. This success has been possible because of the tremendous interest in irradiation and the great gain that could come to the public through the prevention of rickets. For the most part, this gain has been possible without any increase in price of the irradiated commodities. In other instances it was necessary to follow the usual processes of the drug trade which, as you know, is rather expensive because of the tremendous overhead. However, when you take it that the cost of vitamin D for therapeutic use has ranged from 2 to 6¢ per million units, the cost to the public has been very small indeed. And, furthermore, it is important to state that at no time has the foundation had a monopoly on vitamin D. As you well know, vitamin D has always been available from fish oils and furthermore since the issue of the Steenbock patent there have been a number of competing processes which have been in operation continuously and outside of the control of the Foundation.

The Foundation feels that it has been thoroughly justified in its program of attempting to bring to the public vitamin D in various foods and medicines so far as was sanctioned by the American Medical Association or other competent organizations. I personally feel that the Foundation has done a wonderful piece of work. It has nothing to be ashamed of and I am thoroughly proud, if I can say so with all modesty, of having made it possible for the Foundation to do this effective work.

W.A.R.T.

June 28, 1945

Lt. Comdr. C. M. McCoy (H-5), U.S.N.R.
Naval Medical Research Institute
Bethesda, Maryland

Dear Comdr. McCoy:

I want to thank you for sending me the page from "The Cooperator" of which I had heard but had not had the opportunity to read. As the clipping states, this article was taken from the June issue of "This Month" a publication of recent origin. I did not reply to your letter at once inasmuch as the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation was about to have a meeting at which its future program regarding statements by the Department of Justice was to be decided. I can now state that the trustees have decided to stand up for their rights and for those of the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation in the suit already filed in the Seventh Circuit of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago, and later in the United States Supreme Court, as apparently would follow.

Needless to say, the publication "This Month" is an irresponsible one, being of very recent origin, namely, in its first volume, and printed in Canada for obvious reasons. A magazine of this type needs to publish something sensational in order to get started, and apparently it seized upon the statement of our Department of Justice as a great opportunity. Unfortunately, a considerable portion of the laity considers an accusation of the Department of Justice as tantamount to a decision of one of our federal courts. Personally it is very distasteful to me to have to be on the defensive in such a matter which concerns both my personal integrity and that of my associates. Apparently the greatest cause for alarm on the part of the government is the unexpected success of our licensing program. This success has been possible because of the tremendous interest in irradiation and the great gain that could come to the public through the prevention of rickets. For the most part, this gain has been possible without any increase in price of the irradiated commodities. In other instances it was necessary to follow the usual processes of the drug trade which, as you know, is rather expensive because of the tremendous overhead. However, when you take it that the cost of vitamin D for therapeutic use has ranged from 2 to 6¢ per million units, the cost to the public has been very small indeed. And, furthermore, it is important to state that at no time has the foundation had a monopoly on vitamin D. As you well know, vitamin D has always been available from fish oils and furthermore since the issue of the Steenbock patent there have been a number of competing processes which have been in operation continuously and outside of the control of the Foundation.

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T. A. R. I.

I wish that I could answer in detail each of the various accusations made by Mr. Carter in his publication. However, obviously, this is impossible in the pages of a letter. Furthermore, it appears more appropriate that all of this should be done before the proper judicial body. I shall therefore have to ask our friends to wait until all of the evidence is made of record before the proper tribunal.

Thanking you for your interest, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

Harry Steenbock

HS:GD