

August 21, 1970

G. J. Stopps, M.B., B.S.
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Wilmington, Delaware 19898

Dear Jim:

Thanks for your letter of July 22 about the paper of Dr. Keller. While there was, and is, no doubt in my mind about the quality of his paper, I was disturbed about your involvement. It is good to know, as I strongly suspected, that your professional and scientific interests are not at odds with my own in this instance.

Sincerely yours,

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.
Professor Emeritus of
Occupational Medicine

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EMPLOYEE RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

HASKELL LABORATORY
FOR
TOXICOLOGY AND INDUSTRIAL MEDICINE

July 22, 1970

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.
University of Cincinnati
Department of Environmental Health
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Cincinnati, Ohio 45219

Dear Bob:

I have just returned from four weeks of vacation to find your letter and the Keller manuscript on my desk. The paper arises from some preliminary studies which we sponsored some years ago in trying to answer the question: "Is lead mobilized from the maternal skeleton during the period of high calcium demand by the fetus in late pregnancy?" The results of this and some other studies we carried out at the University of Pennsylvania convinced me that without a specific interest in this particular problem by the clinical group involved and a much more sophisticated experimental design than could be undertaken in the conditions usually found in the outpatient department of an obstetrical service, the question could not be answered. As I am sure you will appreciate far better than most people the relationship between the university person carrying out a piece of research and those responsible for partial or complete financial support can be a delicate one. In the case of Dr. Keller, personal relationships were always good, but it quickly became apparent to me that my original idea of how many mothers would need to be studied and the number of analytical samples required from each mother were inadequate and therefore I regarded the study by Dr. Keller purely as a pilot study and that to carry out a definitive study would require a much more sizeable effort than was feasible at that time.

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Of course the results of the blood analyses were freely available to Dr. Keller to use if he felt a useful contribution to the scientific literature could be extracted from them. I had hoped that the lack of any publication over the intervening years reflected Dr. Keller's appreciation of the sketchy nature of the available data even if it were set out in full, but apparently this is not the case.

I am glad you have expressed yourself firmly and forcibly on the merits of the paper since a similar expression of opinion on my part might be interpreted as an attempt to suppress publication.

I am sorry that you have been bothered by this matter and hope that in giving the background to the "study" you will understand my position. With best regards.

Sincerely,



G. J. Stopps, M.B., B.S.
Assistant Director

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