

Chiropractic with the American Medical Association
1969-1971

KE 0019368

March 1, 1971

Dr. Mappes
Der Staatliche Gewerbearzt
463 Bochum
Marienplatz 2, West Germany

Dear Doctor Mappes:

Please accept my thanks for your letter (and the enclosure of a copy of the alleged outcome of the Amsterdam Conference). I do not see just what the effects of the publication of the "final paper" from the Amsterdam Conference will (or should) have on your official activities. This group has, so far as I know, no official authority, nor do I believe that international standards should be established by such an organization of professional men. This may be an wholly unacceptable attitude in a member of the International Commission and Association, but I have lived too long and have seen too much of the manner of the operation of people in this area of life to have much confidence in its effectiveness. Standards change and must change as we learn more, and I do not believe, excepting for the purposes of government, in fixing them firmly in regulations. I have spoken against this in meetings of the International Association, and I shall do so again, if necessary. To advise, on the basis of evidence, is one thing, and this, in my view, is the proper role of the physician. To adopt standards for performance within an area of authority is, I believe, a governmental function, for such standards must be adjusted to fit local circumstances. As illustration, let us suppose that the length of the work-day or of the work-week differ as between two countries or provinces. The permissible concentration of lead (or of many other substances) in the air of workrooms must be adjusted accordingly. So also does the standard depend upon the diminution of the risk associated with the existence of competent and effective medical supervision of employees.

Despite what I have said above, however, I understand your concern for standards set by professional bodies which represent authoritative or presumed authoritative status.

Finally, let me say that I have no present knowledge about who it was that issued the report which has been published. The conclusions so stated may or may not be correct, but I know of no authority behind them. I would appreciate it if you would send me a copy (reprint) of the report as published. I intend to inquire into this and to bring the matter to the attention of the governing body of the Association at its next meeting in the Argentine Republic. This manner of adopting and promulgating international standards is not correct and should not be permitted to occur. As a report on a professional judgment, it is inaccurate since no consensus was formally adopted by the group in Amsterdam, while as an official judgment of a professional body, it is in no sense representative of the view of the majority of members, for, indeed, the members were not consulted.

You may or may not know that I have been editing the original papers presented at

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the Amsterdam Conference, to the extent that those made available were accepted for publication by the Editorial Board of the Archives. In any case, it is not a little strange that I did not even know about the report until your message. I, therefore, have some reason to be concerned, and I shall make it my business to find out.

Cordially yours,

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

RAK:wb

Dictated but not read

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