

October 23, 1968

Henry H. Schroeder, M.D.
9 Belmont Avenue
Brattleboro, Vermont 05301

Dear Doctor Schroeder:

In the course of an exchange of correspondence with Dr. Isabel Tipton, to whom some of the materials involved in our experiments with human subjects have been supplied for some years, the desirability of a discussion of some aspects of her work (as well as that of others), between you and myself came to her mind. On mentioning this to me and suggesting that she might try to bring about such a meeting, I agreed that this idea was good and also generous, but that it would hardly be the most appropriate professional stance on our part, mine in particular, to require an intermediary for such a meeting. That she might be present would certainly be acceptable, if not essential. I think I should say that my reaction to her kind suggestion does not arise out of discrimination against a woman in that role, but rather that I object to the implication of the need for diplomacy between us.

In short, it would be a pleasure to me to sit down with you and to discuss our interests and such differences in viewpoint as may exist. I have been accused of a rather remarkable variety of defects of intellect and character during the past several years, in which I have been involved in several controversies that I did not seek or create. This is hardly surprising, so long as it derives from laymen, or is concerned with public policy. However, I am extremely jealous of the personal and professional respect of competent colleagues. I do not hesitate to disagree with them, if such must be the verdict of my experience and judgment, but I like the basis of disagreement to be clear and, so far as possible, subject to further inquiry. How far this attitude has any application to our respective views is a matter to determine, but it is of sufficient moment to prompt me to write to you.

Just how, when and where my suggestion can best be fulfilled is something else, but I would be glad to suit my convenience to yours in making it possible. Should this meet with your approval, and should you foresee some convenient means of our meeting, I will do my best to fit into it.

Sincerely yours,

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

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