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January 15, 1945

Mr. Donald E. Cummings
203 E. Cosgrave Street
Ironwood, Michigan

Dear Don:

I just received your letter of January 11 which I have gone over very carefully. I am in thorough agreement with what you say and do not think there is any question at all but that all of us, at least those of us in the Homicide Club, are in thorough accord in this matter.

I did not talk with many of the delegates present at the Pittsburgh meeting and I did not get any impression one way or the other as to their main interest being in fighting claims. I presume that it would be so for some of them and possibly for the majority of them but I do not think from what I knew of the Mellon Institute that you could get the Mellon Institute to set up an organization chiefly interested in claim fighting.

Dr. Keller outlined his position to Dr. McConnell and myself and also to Pendergrass and Sayers very frankly. I am sure that he would agree to every statement that you made in your letter to me both from what he said and from my knowledge of him. Not it is possible that Dr. Heidlein may take a different view but I doubt it.

I was not inclined to pay too much attention to some of the reactionary statements that were made by one or two of the speakers as they were special pleaders and were recognized as such by the audience. It may be that the effects of their statements were out of proportion so far as the audience was concerned. If so, I think that is too bad.

Possibly Dr. Heidlein and Mr. Fickens did not make sufficiently clear what they had in mind in setting up a central co-ordinating agency. I find it difficult to believe that they would be so short-sighted as to have any kind any set-up that was not organized on the broadest and most useful scientific lines. However, time will soon answer the question.

I would appreciate it very much if, after the Chicago conference, you would write and tell me what your impressions were and whether anything is coming out of that.

With best regards and many thanks for your letter, I am

Sincerely,

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