

19 July 1979

Mr. John Stafford
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Dear John:

I have just returned from vacation to find your letter of 19 June on my desk. For the past three weeks, I have played with my grandson and gone boating in Lake Michigan and now you bring me back to dead mice.

I also find that Ted has responded to your letter telling you of some of the actions which the CMA is taking. I am very happy that he's acting here, because several weeks ago it was agreed that as between the AiHC and the SPI that the latter organization would take the lead, however, all they did was to protest mildly to the CPSC and nothing was done in public.

The matter which seems to me to have received inadequate attention is the contrast between the published conclusions of the author on page 19 and the press release which was prepared by the CPSC. The former said that no cancer was caused by this experiment and the latter said that there was. I strongly urged the SPI simply to send these two items to several science writers for their action, but this was not done. I am very disappointed that the agency was permitted to revise scientific results for their own publicity purposes.

It is immaterial whether or not a single dose produced cancer. As you point out, this phenomena is well known with other carcinogens. I am afraid that this has been overlooked by those who may have thought about replying and that the only consideration was whether or not a scientific attack should be made on the paper. This would have been a most improper action.

I have not heard of any further publicity on this point for nearly two months now. As far as I know, nothing is being done other than what was in Ted's letter. You should, of course, feel free to do anything which you think is wise. The paper is supposedly out for review at this time and thus, if and when it receives formal publication, the whole subject may reawaken. At that time, the SPI may feel more inclined to act. I can not predict what will happen then.

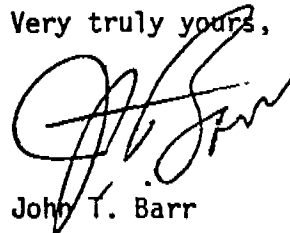
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My thanks for your efforts in exploring this subject and, I am sorry I could not give you more definitive news. We will keep you advised if anything further developes.

If you or Ted really want some warm weather as you profess, I advise you to visit my daughter in Oklahoma City. It was over 100 degrees several days in a row while I was there and that is enough summer for me this year.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John T. Barr", written in a cursive style.

John T. Barr

JTB:cmk

cc: Dr. T. R. Torkelson, Dow ✓
Mr. R. N. Wheeler, UCC
Mr. M. J. S. Gibbons, ICI Americas
Mr. J. Lawrence

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