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Memo to: John Lawrence
From: Jerry Blizin
Subject: ACSH

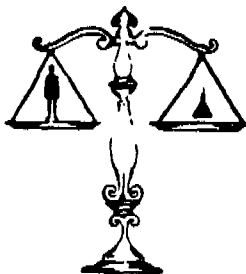
Date: 7/18/78
Copies: B. Downey
J. Hadley ✓
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J. Callaghan

Enter now the American Council on Science and Health, brainchild of Dr. Elizabeth Whelan of Harvard. She held a press conference today with Norman Borlaug the Nobel laureate, to announce ACSH's plan to combat "chemical phobia" with scientific position papers, among which will be papers on vinyl chloride and plastic wraps, additives, hair dyes, etc. (see pamphlet.) A copy of her press release and opening statement is attached.


J.B.

Enc.

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AMERICAN COUNCIL ON SCIENCE AND HEALTH
1995 BROADWAY (NEAR 68th STREET)
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10023
(212) 362-7044

Dr. ELIZABETH M. WHELAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NEWS RELEASE

FOR RELEASE: July 18, 1978

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Grace Angst (202) 785-1471
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**COUNCIL FORMED TO
COMBAT CHEMICAL PHOBIA**

Washington, D.C., July 18--A new scientific association, the American Council on Science and Health (ACSH), has been formed "to promote a clearer understanding of how chemicals relate to the environment and to human health."

In an introductory press conference today, Dr. Elizabeth M. Whelan, ACSH Executive Director, and Nobel Laureate Norman Borlaug, stressed that the Council will "combat the chemical phobia now rampant across the country."

Dr. Whelan, author, epidemiologist, and public health researcher at the Harvard School of Public Health, noted that the Council is funded by contributions from individuals, foundations, and community and governmental agencies. It will be directed by a Board of Advisors* consisting of 26 medical and scientific experts in the fields of toxicology, epidemiology, public health, and animal and plant nutrition.

* See enclosed brochure

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"Americans are worried," Dr. Whelan said, "about chemicals, food additives, convenience foods, pesticides, drugs, and toxic substances in the workplace. Chemicals in the environment have become a highly emotional issue and sometimes scientific facts are overlooked. Although everyone wants to make the right decisions to protect the public from dangerous substances, there is often disagreement on what can and should be done," she stated.

"The American Council on Science and Health," she said, "will serve as a voice of science and reason on key public health issues." It will present facts and figures on the benefits and health risks associated with specific chemicals, lifestyles, and working conditions, and it will encourage the development of rational public health policies.

The Council will prepare detailed position papers based on extensive literature reviews and consultations with leading public health, nutritional, medical and environmental specialists from around the world.

Two versions of each paper will be developed--a detailed technical report for the scientific community and a non-technical summary for the general public.

Members of the Council will also be available to discuss topics related to health and the environment with media and at legislative and regulatory hearings and in other public forums.

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ACSH papers will deal with topics such as saccharin, nitrates and nitrites, food additives, pesticides, drugs, vinyl chloride, asbestos, microwave ovens, air and water pollution, "cancer clusters," health statistics, lifestyle effects on health, and legislation dealing with the regulation of food chemicals, among others.

The American Council on Science and Health is a non-profit, tax xempt organization. Donations which are tax deductible may be sent to ACSH at 1995 Broadway, New York, New York 10023.

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AMERICAN COUNCIL ON SCIENCE AND HEALTH

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New York, New York 10023
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Dr. Elizabeth M. Whelan, *Executive Director*
Research Associate, Harvard School of Public Health

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Social Historian of Medicine (specifically, Food and Drugs)

The American Council on Science and Health is a non-profit association exempt from federal
tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code

and is funded by foundation grants and contributions from individuals, community and
business agencies.

The Council will not accept funds from corporate sources with financial interest in the results of
chemical, food or pharmaceutical production. The Council will accept funds from corporate
sources with no direct economic interest in our results of investigation.

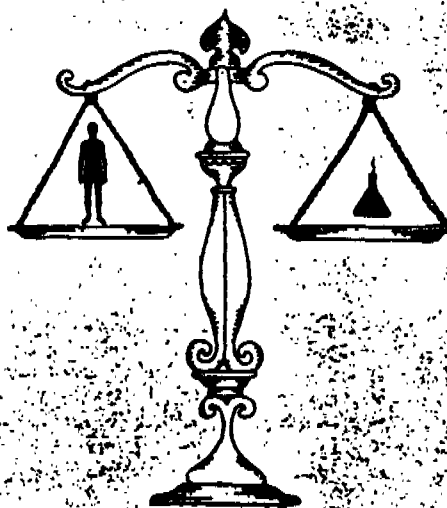
All donations to the Council are tax deductible.

Yearly subscription rate (including Council newsletters, publications as they become available)
\$75.00.

See P. 3

The American Council on Science and Health

ACSH



An Educational Association Promoting
Scientifically Balanced Evaluations
of Chemicals and Human Health

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AMERICANS ARE WORRIED ABOUT CHEMICALS.

Why We Formed

Food additives. "Convenience foods". Pesticides. Drugs. Chemicals in the workplace. Are they safe? Do they cause cancer, birth defects, nervous system disorders? Do we really need all of them?

The anxiety is understandable. For a decade we've witnessed bannings or proposed bannings of many commonly used chemicals—cyclamates, Red Dye #2, DDT, TRIS, aldrin, dieldrin, and most recently, saccharin and hair dyes. We frequently hear of "cancer causing agents" in the air we breathe, the food we eat and the water we drink. As a result, many Americans believe that we are in the midst of an epidemic produced by an array of noxious industrial chemicals. Furthermore, they believe that the only answer is to ban any substance which might be linked, no matter how remotely, with cancer or some other public health problem.

Why We're Different

"Environmental chemicals" have become a highly emotional issue.

Everyone wants to make the right decision when it comes to protecting the public from dangerous substances, but there's often honest disagreement on what can and should be done.

Unfortunately, the disagreement sometimes deteriorates into polarization. Scientific facts become clouded by emotions. Politics, economic interest and media magnification blur the issues further. People "choose up sides". Self-appointed consumer advocates, seeking to represent the public interest, frequently contend that American industry is threatening the public's health. Industry representatives often adopt a defensive stance or remain silent. The public, in the middle, is left confused.

The American Council on Science and Health will attempt to play a difficult role. It will serve as a voice of science on key public health issues. It will present facts and encourage the development of national public health policies based on reasonable assessment of benefit and risk.

The Council's financial base is unusual as well. It is funded by contributions from individuals, foundations, government and community agencies, and is free from financial ties with interest groups.

What We Plan To Do

The staff and advisors of the American Council on Science and Health will prepare detailed overviews of the benefits and health risks associated with specific chemicals, working conditions and lifestyles. These analyses, in the form of position papers, will be based on extensive literature reviews and consultations with leading public health, nutritional, medical and environmental specialists from around the world.

Two versions of each position paper will be made available: a detailed technical report prepared primarily for the scientific community and a summary report written for a general audience and intended for wide circulation.

Members of the Council and designated Council advisors will be available to discuss the position papers at legislative and regulatory hearings and in other public forums, including media interviews.

Linked to Cancer

Natural is safer than processed

Over the course of the next few years, the Council plans to release scientific position papers on these and other subjects

Foods and Food Additives

Saccharin • Nitrates and Nitrites • Cyclamates • DES (Stilbestrol) • Red Dye #2 • Red Dye #4 • Red Dye #40 • Colorings in General • Food Additives: Do We Need Them? • MSG • Hyperactivity and Food Additives • "Health Foods" • Salt in the Human Diet • Vitamin Supplements • Safety of Baby Foods • "Filth" Levels in Food • Dietary Aflatoxins • Aspartame (sweetener) • Toxins in Natural Foods • Sugar and Sugar Products in the Diet

Pesticides

DDT • Aldrin and Dieldrin • Heptachlor and Chlordane • 245-T • Pesticides: Do We Really Need Them?

Drugs

Oral Contraceptives • Post Menopausal Estrogens • Over-the-Counter Drugs • Laetrile

Other Environmental Issues

Vinyl Chloride and Plastic Wrap • Asbestos • Microwave Ovens • PCB's and PBB's • Aerosol Sprays • Hair Dyes • Kepone • Air, Water Pollution • "Cancer Clusters"

Health and Lifestyle

Tobacco and Cancer • Tobacco and Heart Disease • Tobacco and Emphysema • Alcohol and Disease • Over-nutrition and Cancer • Marijuana • Diet, Heart Disease and Cancer

Community Health Measures

Fluoridation • Swine Flu Vaccinations

Health Statistics

Cancer Trends in the U.S. • U.S. Trends in Heart Disease • New Jersey: "Number One" in Cancer?

Legislation/Regulatory Philosophy

Toxic Substances Bill • The Delaney Clause • What is a "Cancer-Causing Agent"? • More Mice Little Men • OSHA's Carcinogen Standards

The American Council on Science and Health will serve as an educational resource to the community,

—providing scientists to appear on radio and television talk shows

—providing scientists for newspaper, magazine and wire service interviews

—encouraging scientists to testify at federal, state and local legislative and regulatory hearings

—making available background materials for students and other researchers interested in topics relative to health and the environment

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OPENING STATEMENT

By

Dr. Elizabeth M. Whelan

Executive Director
American Council on Science and Health
1995 Broadway
New York, New York 10023

(212) 362-7044

Tuesday, July 18, 1978, 10 a.m.
National Press Club
Washington, D.C.

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We are here in Washington today to officially announce the formation of the American Council on Science and Health. The Council is an independent educational association dedicated to promoting scientifically balanced evaluations of the relationship of chemicals, the environment and human health.

Before I get into a brief overview of why the Council was formed, who we are and what we plan to do, I'd like to take a moment for introductions.

I'm Dr. Elizabeth Whelan. I'm a Research Associate at the Harvard School of Public Health and Executive Director of the Council. My professional training -- a Masters Degree from the Yale School of Medicine, a Masters and Doctoral degree from the Harvard School of Public Health -- is in the area of epidemiology and public health.

With me here today is Dr. Norman Borlaug, Director of the International Wheat Research and Production Program of the International Maiz and Wheat Improvement Center in Mexico City. Dr. Borlaug holds Masters and Doctoral Degrees in plant pathology from the University of Minnesota. He is a world renowned leader in agricultural research and the recipient of the 1970 Nobel Peace Prize for his revolutionary approach to Third World food problems.

Dr. Fredrick J. Stare, physician and nutritionist, professor of nutrition at the Harvard School of Public Health, founder of the Department of Nutrition, former Chairman of that Department. Dr. Stare holds Masters and Doctoral Degrees from the University of Wisconsin, an M.D. from the University of Chicago, honorary doctoral degrees from Suffolk University in Boston, the University of Dublin, Ireland, Muskingum College in Ohio.

Dr. Robert Olson, a clinical nutritionist, Alice A. Doisy, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Biochemistry at the School of Medicine, St. Louis University Medical Center. Dr. Olson received his Ph.D. from St. Louis University, an M.D. from Harvard Medical School, was Director of the Anemia and Malnutrition Research Center in Chiang Mai Thailand for 10 years, between 1967-1977. He is a member of the Food and Nutrition Board of the National Academy of Sciences.

Other Council Board of Advisors and Directors are listed on the brochure we've distributed. Scientists who have now affiliated themselves with the Council represent a wide variety of medical and scientific disciplines including nutrition, epidemiology, agricultural sciences, pharmacology, education, energy systems analysis, dentistry, entomology, food science, psychiatry and internal medicine.

The Council was formed to meet one specific need: to provide the public with factual, unbiased information on subjects relating to chemicals, the environment and human health.

In recent years, Americans have become noticeably anxious about food additives, convenience foods, pesticides, drugs, chemicals in the workplace. For a decade we've witnessed bannings or proposed bannings of many commonly used chemicals -- cyclamates, Red Dye #2, DDT, TRIS, aldrin, dieldrin and most recently, hair dyes and saccharin. We frequently hear of "cancer-causing agents" in the air we breathe, the food we eat and the water we drink. As a result, many people believe we are in the midst of an epidemic produced by an array of noxious industrial chemicals. Furthermore, they assume that the only answer is to ban any substance which might be linked, no matter how remotely, with cancer or some other public health problem.

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Those of us associated with the American Council on Science and Health feel that facts about chemicals are often distorted, the whole story not told, and that decisions are made more on the basis of emotion and politics rather than science. During this decade, individuals who term themselves consumer advocates and claim to represent the public interest, have frequently contended that American industry is threatening the public's health -- by putting dangerous additives in our food, spraying crops with dangerous chemicals, polluting the air and water with hazardous occupational chemicals. On the other side are the industry executives and scientists who either defend themselves and their products or, more often, choose to remain silent out of fear of tarnishing their public image.

The consumer advocates have dominated, and federal regulatory agencies have succumbed to their pressure and banned or restricted use on a number of chemicals. Only rarely are the voices of more rational scientists heard in discussions relating to chemicals in health. There are such voices to be heard, indeed, by the Council's assessment, these scientists are in the overwhelming majority. But these individuals are scattered around the country and have no mechanism for speaking out on such issues in a coordinated manner; generally ^{or} not "media oriented"; and may, unlike their consumer activist counterparts, be intimidated by the prospect of appearing on TV or radio; or, ^{or} more interested and comfortable in laboratory research than they are in scientific policy decision-making.

The American Council on Science and Health feels that the time has come for the introduction of a new type of "consumer advocate", one who is committed both to keeping the environment free of chemicals which threaten human health and to improving the quality of life in America. The Council is an association of concerned scientists who are alarmed that chemical and cancerphobia has damaged this country

and unless arrested will damage it even more. The Council will provide the scientific information needed by this new breed of consumer advocate, one who wants decisions based on the classic scientific method, following the standard guideline which compares benefit and risk.

The Council's source of concern is fourfold:

First, continued bannings of useful and safe items without any scientific justification served to make life unnecessarily less enjoyable for all of us. We are a wealthy nation -- and we can manage without a few chemicals. But we can't do without everything.

Second, the concern over chemicals which have never been shown to threaten human health has led to a serious confusion in our federal research priorities.

Third, the current panic over chemicals is having the unfortunate effect of inhibiting industrial research for the types of additives, pesticides and drugs which could increase our chances for a longer, more productive and comfortable life. Government over-regulation, through questionable interpretation and implementation of legislation designed to protect the consumer has added years and millions of dollars to the development of such products.

Fourth, frequent false alarms about alleged cancer-causing agents, have been distracting Americans from real health threats by confusing individual priorities for personal preventive medicine.

The American Council's staff and advisors have now begun to prepare detailed overviews of the benefits and health risks associated with specific chemicals, working conditions and lifestyles. Our first position papers, to be released late this fall, will focus on five specific subjects: saccharin, the Delaney Clause, cancer in New Jersey,

naturally-occurring carcinogens in food, and the relationship between diet and heart disease. In future months, position papers will be released on such topics as fluoridation, nitrates and nitrites, vinyl chloride, and pending federal legislation, including the newly proposed carcinogen standards of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

These analyses, in the form of position papers, will be based on extensive literature reviews and consultations with leading public health, nutritional, medical and environmental specialists from around the world. Two versions of the position paper will be made available: a detailed technical report prepared primarily for the scientific community, and a summary report written for a general audience and intended for wide circulation. Members of the Council and designated Council advisors will be available to discuss the position papers -- and indeed will seek out such interviews -- at regulatory hearings and in other public forums, particularly radio, television and press interviews.

The American Council on Science and Health is a nonprofit association exempt from federal income tax under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Council plans to seek funds from individuals, foundations, government and community agencies. The Council intends to remain free from financial ties with corporations with a financial interest in the topics we are investigating. In other words, we have not nor intend to take money from the food or chemical industries. We have received an initial \$100,000 grant from the Sarah Scaife Foundation (Pittsburgh) to initiate our efforts. We are now actively seeking other grants, and particularly encourage individuals who recognize the need for a more balanced approach to chemical and food regulation to support our efforts.

Contributions -- all of which are tax deductible -- should be sent to the American Council on Science and Health, 1995 Broadway, N w York, New York 10023.

We can now take questions if there are any. But I must remind you that the Council has just recently formed. Our purpose here is to let you know of our existence, and encourage you to use us as a resource for information on chemicals, the environment and health. Given that we have not yet issued position papers, we cannot now speak as a group on specific issues.

NEW COUNCIL WILL TAKE ON DELANEY CLAUSE

The newly-formed American Council on Science and Health has put the Delaney clause near the top of its list of priorities -- and intends to issue a position paper on it some time this fall, Executive Director Dr. Elizabeth Whelan indicated at a Washington, D. C., press conference announcing the Council's formation last week.

Other position papers are to be issued this fall on saccharin, naturally-occurring carcinogens in food, the relationship between diet and heart diseases, and cancer in New Jersey, she stated, with future papers planned on nitrites and nitrates, vinyl chloride, and fluoridation.

Whelan said the Council was formed "to provide the public with factual, unbiased information on subjects relating to chemicals, the environment, and human health," and added that the Council is concerned that:

-- "... Continued bannings of useful and safe items without any scientific justification served to make life unnecessarily less enjoyable for all of us. x x x "

-- "... The concern over chemicals which have never been shown to threaten human health has led to a serious confusion in our federal research priorities."

"... The current panic over chemicals is having the unfortunate effect of inhibiting industrial research for the types of additives, pesticides and drugs which could increase our chances for a longer, more productive and comfortable life. Government over-regulation, through questionable interpretation and implementation of legislation designed to protect the consumer, has added years and millions of dollars to the development of such products."

-- "Frequent false alarms about alleged cancer-causing agents have been distracting Americans from real health threats by confusing individual priorities for personal preventive medicine."

The Council "intends to remain free from financial ties with corporations" with food or chemical financial interests, Whelan said, and will seek money from foundations and from individuals. ACSH will provide scientific information for concerned scientists "who are alarmed that chemical and cancerphobia has damaged this country," she indicated.

Formation of the Council was hailed by Rep. Martin (R-N.C.) as "timely." Martin noted that the saccharin episode has given "backbone" to politicians and scientists who want to differentiate between potent and not-so-potent carcinogens.

The Congressman described the saccharin report prepared by Dr. Morris Cranmer, National Center for Toxicological Research (See FOOD CHEMICAL NEWS, July 3, Pages 3, 4, and 5; and July 10, Page 9), as putting the risks in "perspective."