

SCIENCE SERVICE INC

THE INSTITUTION FOR THE POPULARIZATION OF SCIENCE (organized 1921 as a non-profit corporation with trustees nominated by the National Academy of Sciences, the National Research Council, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science) has as its purpose to educate and the Journalists Professor E. D. HARRISBURG, LEAD RECTOR

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June 9, 1969

Dr. Robert A. Kehoe
The Kettering Laboratory
College of Medicine
University of Cincinnati
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dear Dr. Kehoe:

First off let me thank you for your letter. I greatly appreciate the pains you took to assist me in the article and was surprised and and flattered that you would devote so much time and effort to helping me. I was even tempted to put your by-line on the letter and run it as the article. I still won't compare your word count and mine.

BUT (there is always a but in life), I do not agree with you that the best way to handle a controversial subject is to say nothing about it—even if that subject perforce must be treated superficially. I believe that the public and the scientific community have the right to be informed about the issue. Not to inform them about its existence would be unfair. You seem to disparage lay writers discussing scientific matters. All I can say to that is that if scientists would communicate to the laymen on their terms then lay writers wouldn't have to. If these arguments fail to convince you about the righteousness of reporting the lead controversy, then I must fall back on the words of Socrates, who said 2,400 years ago: "I gotta eat too, you know."

At any rate, I have studiously considered your comments and incorporated them into the article where I saw fit. I have also rechecked some of the things I have said with others in the field and acted accordingly. I have tried to be objective and fair as I could. I wish that I could comply with your desire not to be quoted, but to omit you would be like writing a book about the history of the American Revolution—the one in 1776—and not quote Patrick Henry, John Paul Jones & Company. I did drop one quote, however.

Again, I sincerely want to thank you for all your trouble, and if the office follows its usual procedure and you receive a copy of the article, I await your letter to the editor with bared chest.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

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