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CABLE ADDRESS: KONIJAY
TELEX NO. 428788

February 14, 1980

Memorandum for Messrs. Ahrensfield
Crohn
Greer
Henson
Pepples
Stevens

Re: Dr. Carl Becker and "Tobacco Glycoprotein"

As you know, during the last several years, Dr. Carl Becker has been publishing articles in the scientific literature claiming that he has identified a glycoprotein in tobacco leaf, smoke and condensate. He further claims that this so-called tobacco glycoprotein ("TGP") is responsible for numerous conditions and diseases (in both smokers and nonsmokers), including allergy, cardiovascular disease and sudden death. Dr. Becker believes that TGP causes cardiovascular disease and perhaps sudden death, by affecting the clotting system.

In light of these claims, we asked Dr. Russell Stedman to examine Dr. Becker's reported procedures for isolating TGP from tobacco leaf, smoke and condensate and to obtain some of this material for further testing. This work, which Dr. Stedman performed at the Franklin Institute, demonstrated that Dr. Becker's so-called TGP included a substantial artifact. In additional work at the Institute, Dr. Stedman did a preliminary characterization of the artifact (probably a polyacrylate) and isolated an amount of artifact sufficient for biological testing by Dr. John Salvaggio in New Orleans and Dr. Rodger Bick in Bakersfield, California. I understand that Dr. Salvaggio currently has tests underway in his laboratory to determine the allergenicity of the artifact.

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Enclosed you will find copy of Dr. Bick's letter to me of January 29, 1980, together with report on his studies of the TGP artifact. In essence, he concludes that the artifact produces the same biological activity as that ascribed by Becker to TGP and that Becker "erroneously" interpreted this biological activity as activating the clotting system. Dr. Stedman has reviewed this report and is eager to collaborate with Dr. Bick on a joint publication, as well as additional research if necessary. In his view, Dr. Bick's work seriously impairs, if not destroys, Dr. Becker's theories about TGP causing cardiovascular disease and sudden death.

As you will note from the enclosure, the assays which Dr. Bick performed, as well as the time he spent on this project, resulted in a charge of \$9,718.83. I would appreciate your approval to pay Dr. Bick this amount from Special Account #4 as a consultant on this project. I have discussed this matter with Bill Shinn who agrees that it should be handled in this manner.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please give me a call.

Sincerely,

Tim

Timothy M. Finnegan

cc: Ms. Janet C. Brown
William W. Shinn, Esq.

RC-6033440