

LAW OFFICES  
SHOOK, HARDY, OTTMAN, MITCHELL & BACON

515 GRAND AVENUE  
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64108  
TELEPHONE BALTIMORE 1-1381  
AREA CODE 816

SAM B. SEBREE (1886-1956)  
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October 21, 1966

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Re: Richard J. Hickey, Ph.D.  
(Proposed Special Project)

Richard J. Hickey, Ph.D., has talked with Alex Holtzman about support for his studies on a multivariate approach to air pollution and disease in human populations. Alex has furnished me with a substantial amount of material about Dr. Hickey which I will be most happy to send you. It is, however, rather voluminous.

In essence, Dr. Hickey is willing to prepare a statement for Congress provided he is able to complete the analysis of certain data which he has acquired. Dr. Hickey's field is biophysical chemistry and he has made a series of multivariate statistical studies on the correlation between a number of measurable substances in the air at various locations and mortality rates in the same areas for chronic diseases. By applying methods of multivariate analysis, he is able to demonstrate that the concentration of certain air pollutants (most of which have not been identified in cigarette smoke) "predicts" with considerable accuracy mortality rate of such diseases as lung cancer.

Dr. Hickey believes that the Public Health Service has been excessively preoccupied with smoking and lung cancer and may be avoiding a multivariate approach which could lead to conclusions inconsistent with presently existing views on smoking and health.

Dr. Hickey has been refused support by the Public Health Service to continue with his work. His application has also been

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rejected by the Scientific Advisory Board and at present he has no funds for the continuation of the work. I have been advised that the Scientific Advisory Board's rejection of his application was evidently based on the fact that Dr. Hickey would not be developing new data.

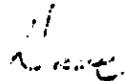
We believe that if Dr. Hickey is supported, he will not only prepare a statement for Congress based on his analyses but will also continue to submit material for publication. I am enclosing one of his papers which appeared in the December, 1967, issue of the Archives of Environmental Health. He has submitted a second paper which has not been accepted yet.

Dr. Hickey has advised Alex Holtzman that "bivariate" studies such as those done in connection with smoking and health would probably not hold up if subjected to proper scrutiny. You may be interested with respect to Dr. Hickey's views on smoking and health in the enclosed letter to Alex dated October 10, 1968. Note particularly that Dr. Hickey seems to be considering an analysis similar to Brownlee's for publication.

We have talked with Dr. Hockett about support for Dr. Hickey and Hockett definitely feels that Hickey should be assisted in the continuation of his work.

Dr. Hickey has estimated that approximately \$30,000 "would be sufficient to keep him going for one year." I strongly recommend your approval of a special project to Dr. Hickey in that amount. I would most appreciate an early response since Alex indicates that if Dr. Hickey is not able to obtain funds he will probably be leaving the University and going into private industry.

Sincerely,

  
David R. Hardy

DRH/z

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