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September 4, 1979

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Mr. Max H. Crohn, Jr.  
Mr. Joseph Greer  
Mr. Arnold Henson  
Mr. Ernest Pepples  
Mr. Arthur J. Stevens

Re: Research Proposal: Dr. Theodor Sterling

Gentlemen:

Dr. T. D. Sterling has recently submitted a research proposal titled "Evaluation of the Interaction Between Geographic, Geocultural, Smoking and Health Variables and Indices". Bill Shinn gave a brief description of this project at the Committee of Counsel Meeting on June 14, 1979. At this time we are requesting formal approval for this proposal as a CTR Special Project.

Dr. Sterling is planning to obtain data on cigarette consumption by county for a large sample of approximately 350 U. S. counties from computer tapes of the Health Information Survey for 1965, 1970 and 1975. Information on mortality from chronic and acute diseases for these same counties will be analyzed in relation to consumption data by standard statistical methods. In particular, Dr. Sterling is interested in whether high cigarette consumption correlates with increased or decreased lung cancer mortality. In addition, county data on geographic and geocultural factors such as climate, industrialization, housing patterns, and use of herbicides and pesticides will also be collected. Analyses will be focused on whether there are detectable patterns among these cultural, geographic, smoking and health variables.

The National Center for Health Statistics and the

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Bureau of U. S. Census have assured Dr. Sterling of their cooperation in providing him with the relevant data.

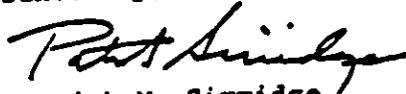
The project is expected to be completed within 18 months and is budgeted for \$54,710. The major expenditure is for salaries for a Computer Specialist and a Geographer. Dr. Sterling will supervise the project as Principal Investigator.

It is our view that this project is deserving of support because, among other reasons, it constitutes a much needed investigation of local consumption and local mortality data.

Dr. William Gardner of CTR has discussed Dr. Sterling's project with us and also supports its funding.

An early response to this request is appreciated.

Sincerely,



Patrick M. Sirridge

PMS:sh

cc: Mr. DeBaun Bryant  
Mr. Alexander Holtzman  
Mr. Henry C. Roemer  
Ms. Janet C. Brown  
Mr. Edwin J. Jacob

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