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Leverett Saltonstall Building, Government Center

100 Cambridge Street, Boston 02202

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Dr. Matthew Meselson
Harvard University
Department of Biochemistry
Cambridge, MA 02138

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Dear Professor Meselson:

Enclosed, please find a number of items which should be of interest to you. Included is an article by Janet Gardner of the recent symposium at U Mass, which appeared in "The Nation" magazine, on April 11, 1987.

Also enclosed is the newsletter of the "Vietnam-Ranch Hand Association" eschewing the work being done here in Massachusetts on Agent Orange, and tilting toward libel, in my opinion, the scientific credentials of Schecter, Constable, Gross and Ryan.

Most interesting is a letter from Colonel William Wolfe M.D., Chief of Epidemiology at the USAF School of Aerospace Medicine at Brooks AFB in Texas, giving notice to all Ranch Hand Study participants that the current fat biopsy (and possibly the blood serum bioassay) study being conducted by my office should be avoided. An AP story produced last week, and strangely not picked up by either the Globe or the Herald on this development is also enclosed.

Finally enclosed is the Veterans's Administration's review of some state studies conducted on mortality, etc, including the Massachusetts Mortality Study which also are interesting.

Any chance you would consider joining the Massachusetts Agent Orange Medical/Scientific Advisory Board? We meet infrequently, usually on a weekday from 3:30 to 5:00 every three months or so, and Dr. Constable is the Chair. We need experts with a history of research (and struggle) around the dioxin question, and would be grateful if you would consider it. If not, apart from Bob Baughman, who has given us the nod, could you recommend other people whom you feel could assist us. Especially in the disciplines of toxicology, histology, immunology, epidemiology, etc.

Finally you may be pleased to know that the outcome of our symposium was the formation of the National Association of State Agent Orange Programs being formed, with initial membership consisting now of 13 states. Have we heard of this number before? Thank you for your yeoman task of giving the historic overview of the Agent Orange question. I believe many conservative heads did 180's as a result.

Regards,

Joseph V. Bangert