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Dr. Karl Z. Morgan
Director, Health Physics Division
Oak Ridge National Laboratory
P. O. Box P
Oak Ridge, Tennessee

Dear Karl:

In a recent publication of I. F. STONE'S WEEKLY, published May 4, 1959, Vol. VII, No. 17, is an article entitled "Strontium May Be 60 Times Deadlier Than the AEC Says." It is published at 5618 Nebraska Avenue, N.W., Washington 15, D. C.

It seems to be some sort of a union house organ but in any case it says in a number of different places the point I made to you last Friday which, I am afraid, rather disturbed you. It says, for example, on page 2, in speaking about MPCs for strontium, "This, briefly, describes the background of the problem faced by Subcommittee 2 of the National Committee on Radiation Protection and Measurement as it attempts to revise the maximum permissible level for the boneseekers (like SR90). In the interim there is honest confusion. No single value can claim universal acceptance as defining the border between hazard and safety. According to AEC logic, the old maximum figure of 100 SU is overly conservative and should be raised to 200 S.U. At the other extreme a figure as low as 3 SU could be justified. There is an urgent need for more research, and for a dispassionate application of what we already know." "The committee has adopted the figure advocated by the AEC."

In almost every case, therefore, there is confusion either deliberate or ignorant (but the reason is not really what matters) over the role of the AEC and yourself in setting MPCs. In this article you are repeatedly identified as the agent by which the MPC is set by the AEC.

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It is for this reason that I earnestly submit to you that your position would become completely untenable if you were also to generate the data on which you, as chairman of the committee, use for calculations with MPCs. I grant you that one might take the attitude of just as well being shot for stealing a sheep as a lamb, but I am sure you will agree that people such as the writer of this article, can take unfair advantage of your dual relationship to the AEC and the NCRP.

With best personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

H. D. Bruner, M.D.
Chief, Medical Research Branch
Division of Biology and Medicine

P.S. If you can't get a copy of this, I will be glad to send you a photostat.

H.D.B.

OFFICE ▶	BMM					
SURNAME ▶	HDBruner:mf					
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