

Arkansas Children's Hospital

800 Marshall Street,

Little Rock, AR 72102

FAX



Date: December 9, 1996

Number of pages including cover sheet: 2

To:

Ms. Carol Rasco

Phone:

Fax phone: 202-456-2878

CC:

From:

Blanche Moore, Director

Government Relations

Phone:

(501) 320-1481

Fax phone:

(501) 320-3553

REMARKS:

☐ Urgent

☐ For your review

☐ Reply ASAP

☐ Please comment

MEMORANDUM

To: Jill
From: Aimee Berry
RE: List of people for 12/13 conference call
Date: December 12, 1996

Following is a list of people that will be on the 12/13 conference call:

Dr. Tom Badger
Director, Arkansas Children's Hospital Research Institute
Little Rock, Arkansas

Dr. Dennis Bier
Director, Baylor Medical School Human Nutrition Center
Houston, Texas

Dr. Jon Bates
President and CEO, Arkansas Children's Hospital
Little Rock, Arkansas

Dr. Floyd Horn
Washington, DC

Blanche Moore
Director, Arkansas Children's Hospital Government Relations
Little Rock, Arkansas

Dr. Irwin Rosenberg
Director, Tufts Medical School Human Nutrition Center on Aging
Boston, Massachusetts

Questions -

- HNI - kind of research they're doing now

Chronic disease

— 1

osteoporosis

cardiovascular

Certain cancers — Breast/prostate. —

Breast — ~~Phyto~~ ^{Phyto}-estrogens extracted from
Soybeans earlier in life. —

Clinical research

More animal studies

Clinical studies? ~~equivalent~~

What's the next step or in the phyto-estrogen
research?

Clinical trials — long-term, longitudinal studies.

— metabolism —

— second protocol for women ~~&~~
who have been in studies for 25 years

All centers — Animal science

— v. large clinical research program

— body composition measurements. —

ROI grants at NIH ^{not big enough for}
long term longitudinal studies —

— What do you mean by integrated program —

— What does it mean to fully fund centers. —

— modern ag science should support — say
"tell us what do —

osteoporosis $\longleftrightarrow$ — nutritional difference. —

osteoporosis
heart disease

She's so good!

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

BRIEFING MEMO
December 13, 1996
9:00 - 9:30 am

FROM: Elizabeth Drye
SUBJECT: Human Nutrition Initiative Conference Call

PARTICIPANTS:

Arkansas Children's Hospital

Dr. Jon Bates, President and CEO

Blanche Moore, Director, Government Relations

Dr. Tom Badger, Director, Arkansas Children's Hospital Research Institute

Baylor Medical School Human Nutrition Center, Houston, TX

Dr. Dennis Bier, Director

Tufts Medical School Human Nutrition Center on Aging, Boston, MA

Dr. Irwin Rosenberg, Director

USDA, Washington, DC

Dr. Floyd Horn

← nice confidential approach to budget

DPC

Elizabeth and Pauline

PURPOSE:

To listen to the research centers' reasons for supporting USDA's Human Nutrition Initiative in the FY98 budget.

BACKGROUND:

USDA's description of the initiative is attached. The amount of the funding request is unclear. The write-up implies USDA wants to double the current funding, from \$59-112 million annually, but OMB understands that the proposed doubling would take place over a 5-year period.

Pauline did some checking on the proposal. OMB staff think it has merit, but because USDA submitted the proposal at passback, not in their original request, we may not be able to find

the money for it. Further, OMB staff think the newly-funded work is more important than the base program, but is not optimistic that USDA will redirect base funds.

AGENDA:

Since we have little time, the group will jump right into how the initiative would benefit their research centers. Tom Badger will direct the conversation. The two other center directors -- Dr. Bier and Dr. Rosenberg -- will talk about how the initiative will affect their work. Other participants will answer any questions we have.



800 Marshall Street, Little Rock, Arkansas 72202-3591. (501) 320-1100 or TDD (501) 320-1184

Jonathan Bates, M.D.
President and Chief Executive Officer
Betty A. Lowe, M.D.
Medical Director

Philip K. Cimmore, M.S., M.H.A.
Chief Operating Officer/Administrator

Larry C. Woodward, F.A.H.P.
Director of Development
and Community Affairs

John Criss
Chief Financial Officer

Scott Gordon, L.C.S.W.
Director of Business Development

Blanche Moore
Director of Government Relations

Dawn Smith
Chief Information Officer

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Henry Rodham Clinson
Louis Rosen

Frank D. White

December 9, 1996

Ms. Carol Raaco
Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Carol:

We are writing to request a meeting with you to review a USDA Initiative which will bring the six USDA Human Nutrition Research Centers to full operating capacity. The Arkansas Children's Nutrition Research Center here at ACH focuses its research on the link between diet and cognitive development in children. As the newest of the USDA Nutrition Research Centers, we would benefit most by the initiative.

As you know, USDA's Agricultural Research Service is the government's lead agency for human nutrition research. This new ARS initiative would strengthen the nation's capacity to reduce health care costs and give American consumers and health care providers a critical tool for maintaining health, fighting chronic diseases, reducing premature death rates, and generally improving quality of life. Importantly, the initiative could impact the development of food assistance programs as model nutrition education programs in ways absolutely unprecedented.

The timetable of the budget process creates an urgency for this issue to be addressed. We hope that you and/or your staff will be able to give some time this week, if possible, to meet with several of the Center Directors about this important program.

Sincerely,

Skip Rutherford
ACH Board of Directors

Dr. Jon Bates
President/CEO
Arkansas Children's Hospital

Blanche Moore
Director, Government Relations
Arkansas Children's Hospital

ELIZABETH - THIS IS THE
NUTRITION PROPOSAL
MENTIONED LAST WEEK.

SUBJECT: \$53 Million Investment In A Human Nutrition Initiative (HNI) GREG FRATER

Issue:

The annual cost in the U.S. for treatment and care of diseases linked strongly to diet exceeds \$200 billion. Americans annually spend \$56 billion to treat cardiovascular disease; \$86 billion for obesity; \$10 billion for osteoporosis; and \$4 billion for cataract surgery.

Food is fundamental to life and health. What people eat can profoundly affect growth, development, aging, and the ability to enjoy life to its fullest. Over the past 25 years, human nutrition research findings have led to dietary changes that reduced the incidence of diseases such as heart disease, thereby reducing health care and associated economic costs. However, public investment in human nutrition research has not kept pace with the need for this research.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is the government's lead agency for human nutrition research aimed at maintaining good health throughout the life cycle. USDA advances knowledge about food, nutrition and health maintenance through research conducted in the intramural laboratories of the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and through extramural research supported at universities. ARS nutrition research is critical to fulfillment of the Department's mission in nutrition education and food assistance, but ARS research accounts for only a fraction of federal outlays for food and nutrition assistance. Compared to the cost of federal food assistance programs, for example, ARS human nutrition research programs are funded at less than 0.2 percent of food assistance program costs.

USDA is poised to tap new technological and biomedical avenues to bring the state of nutrition research to a new plateau, through a national *Human Nutrition Initiative (HNI)*. Administration support for the *HNI* will dramatically improve health benefits for Americans. The USDA *HNI* builds on the President's goal of providing more opportunities for U.S. children to lead healthy and productive lives. For example, nutrition research is needed to understand the link between diet and cognitive development in children, as well as the impact of prenatal and early childhood nutrition on physical and intellectual health in later life. Cutting edge approaches to nutrition research can also help in the identification and even creation of foods that can meet special nutritional needs of obese and other at-risk Americans. Advanced research also can provide knowledge about the nature and role of beneficial food compounds, such as naturally occurring components in fruits and vegetables that can prevent breast and prostate cancers once their modes of action are understood.

ARS currently operates six Human Nutrition Research Centers, providing USDA the infrastructure and critical mass needed to make the national *HNI* successful. Integrated research programs at the six centers cover the full spectrum of nutritional issues for all population sectors, from infants, children, and teens to new mothers and the elderly. The *HNI* seeks support of the Centers at full operating capacity, which requires nearly doubling funding from the fiscal year 1996 level of \$59 million to \$112 million annually. We propose that the additional \$53 million in funding be "reinvested" from savings in other areas. All new funds would be directly applied to research programs rather than infrastructure or facilities.

Background:

One of the core goals of the Clinton Administration is to improve Americans' health and the nation's health care system. A major investment in nutrition research is an essential component of disease prevention that would help meet this goal. A 1996 policy document of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, National Science and Technology Council, Committee on Health, Safety, and Food, specifically proposed a human nutrition research initiative to address the challenge posed by the diet-disease link.

Additionally, intense consumer interest in health, nutrition, food and diet is evidenced by strong mainstream national media coverage of these issues. The number of publications, Internet sites, and radio and television programs devoted solely to healthy lifestyles, including science-based diet and nutrition information, grows daily.

USDA-ARS has a network of human nutrition research centers in Houston, Boston, Little Rock, San Francisco, Beltsville, MD, and Grand Forks, ND, staffed by renowned scientists with expertise in areas of nutrition that cover the spectrum of the life cycle. Program successes at the centers are well-documented, and the research programs there have the additional advantage of being closely linked to USDA's strong food and agricultural science programs, which can impact foods and products based on need. Unfortunately, these centers have not been funded to capacity and important cutting edge work is being neglected.

Impact:

A *HNI* would strengthen the nation's capacity to reduce health care costs and give American consumers and health care providers a critical tool for maintaining health, fighting chronic diseases, reducing premature death rates, and generally improving quality of life. Additionally, greater knowledge of diet and nutrition will encourage commercial development of new and more nutritious foods; provide a sounder basis for dietary recommendations; facilitate individualized dietary guidance for nutritionally-vulnerable groups; generate knowledge necessary for resistance to acute infections and immune disorders; and promote establishment of more effective food assistance programs. Importantly, the *HNI* could impact the development of food assistance programs, including the Food Stamp Program, as model nutrition education programs in ways absolutely unprecedented.

Message:

Given the immense media and consumer interest in health, diet, and nutrition issues, the *HNI* has the potential to attract major national attention and support. Media and consumer interest is likely both at its inception and over time, as the *HNI* produces findings important to health-conscious consumers and health providers.

The *HNI* meets the Administration's goal of improving the every day lives of all Americans, particularly children. It can serve as an important cornerstone in the effort to reform health care, and may provide invaluable assistance to those most vulnerable to welfare reform provisions. It additionally has the potential to promote job creation and other economic benefits, based on the likelihood that new health information will generate new commercial food products and private health care programs.

Possible Issues:

Source of funding is an issue. It may be possible to identify savings generated by the government's National Performance Review and other reinvention activities for reinvestment in the national *HNI*. The federal role in coordinating nutrition research programs, reducing health care costs, and promoting the health of all Americans can best be served by reallocating a portion of these savings to agricultural appropriations subcommittees in support of this effort. Departments and programs in a downsizing mode may resist moving away from the status quo, and jurisdictional issues may arise among appropriations subcommittees. Nevertheless, the proposal is strong and significant bipartisan support is anticipated.

Timing:

The infrastructure is in place, and a plan of work is complete. *HNI* funding should be part of the President's fiscal year 1998 budget, now being developed. The *HNI* can be implemented immediately following the Administration's commitment and the identification of funding.

Summary:

Causes of malnutrition and nutrition-related diseases are multiple and complex, and cost America more than \$200 billion annually in health care. Through a national *Human Nutrition Initiative* built around USDA's existing human nutrition research centers, the Administration can play a key role in identifying relationships between diet and health and providing the scientific base for the next major impetus to improve the health of this nation's populace. The USDA *Human Nutrition Initiative* would help to optimize health and productivity, reduce disease risk, decrease health care costs, and improve quality of life, and would bridge age, gender, racial, cultural, social, and economic differences to enrich the lives of all Americans.