

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

BIOLOGICAL TESTING

Telephone conversations 7th December, 1979.

Dr. R.A. Sanford, U.S.A.

I briefly explained our current concern, already well known to the C.A.C. countries regarding the level and direction of effort in the life sciences department. I explained that we were currently giving thought internally with the view to forming at least a preliminary decision within the next week or so. I explained that at this stage I am inclined to the views:

1. we should maintain some activity if only for defensive purposes
2. we have established a sound scientific expertise in inhalation testing which would be difficult to recapture should we elect to stop work
3. the other half of our activity namely mouse skin painting by external contract would not be so difficult to re-start - at almost any time in the future
4. the tobacco companies are in the position that they cannot overtly use "good results" with new products, additives etc in a competitive marketing sense; they use biological studies to screen out possible "bad products" or to guide developments.

I suggested, therefore, that we might well decide to recommend cessation of mouse skin painting and this would mean we would not undertake the proposed B16 study on cocoa (or alternatively expanded tobacco).

Bob confirmed the attitude expressed at the Research Conference that despite B & W's interest in casings, and hence in cocoa, they did not feel that their interest would justify a significant proportion of the total results or expenditure of GR&DC.

He agreed it would be relatively easy to take up mouse skin painting, or alternative relatively short term testing, by placing work with contract organisations.

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Mr. R.M. Gibb, Canada

I introduced the subject on the same lines as above, knowing of course that ITL have no direct interest in testing of casings. Bob Gibb was firm, however, that in his view there was no immediate interest in mouse skin painting to check expanded tobacco; there was surely enough evidence available from Reynolds and Philip Morris that expansion of the leaf did not lead to an enhancement of noxious components.

Bob explained that the subject of mouse skin painting had been discussed at the Research Conference for many years broadly on the lines that "enough has surely been done and what more can it tell us". He believes it has continued, however, because there has always been one more experiment to do e.g. cocoa.

In summary he believes that ITL would go along with whatever B.A.T at the Centre decreed was necessary for the Group as a whole. If that meant stopping the major part of the work, ITL would not object.

L.C.F.

L.C.F. BLACKMAN
7.12.79

c.c. Mr. R.J. Pritchard ✓
Mr. A.L. Heard
Dr. D.G. Felton

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