

The American Legion
National Headquarters

nancy

↓

OCT 8 1990

2.

AOJL





Comprehensive Cancer Center

Suite 302
410 West 12th Avenue
Columbus, OH 43210
Phone 614-292-5022

 FAX TRANSMITTAL MEMO
 TO: Dick Christian
 DEPT: Amer. Legion FAX #: (202) 861-2728
 FROM: Ron Trewyn PHONE: (614) 292-7015
 CO: OSU FAX #: (614) 292-4767
 Post-it brand fax transmittal memo 7671

NO. OF PAGES
3

Dick -
 Thought you might like
 to see the tasteful, low key response
 I sent to Hobson. So much for being
 on his Christmas gift list.
 I'm still working on the other
 material. I'll give you a call
 soon.

Best wishes,
 Ron

R.W. Trewyn, Ph.D.
1187 Middleport Dr.
Columbus, OH 43235

October 1, 1990

Lawrence B. Hobson, M.D., Ph.D.
Director, Environmental Medicine Office
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20420

Re: 10B/AO


Dear Dr. Hobson:

Please allow me to apologize for the long delay in responding to your letter of July 6, 1990. I certainly wouldn't want you to think that your insulting, derisive comments went unnoticed....they didn't! Unfortunately, I was out of town much of July, August, and September, so drafting an appropriate response took some time.

I find it curious that in your reply to my letter to Secretary Derwinski about Agent Orange you chose to attack me personally -- questioning my scientific capabilities -- rather than dealing with the issues involved. I really don't think that was called for, but so be it. However, it's my turn now.

First, let me say that at least I have some scientific credentials; the type based on years of scientific peer-review. A 20-year computer search of Chemical Abstracts and Medline yielded a total of three -- count them, THREE -- publications listed under Hobson, L.B. Are you kidding me? The next time questions are raised about scientific capabilities, perhaps they should be raised a bit closer to home. Based on what I've seen, I'll grant you the ability to comment on what "is understandable and acceptable at a non-scientific level." Beyond that, forget it!

Finally, when you and your associates are insuring that "all veterans are treated fairly" with regard to Agent Orange, you might want to begin with a review of the Hippocratic Oath. To date, there appears to have been a total reliance on the "hypocritic" version.

Sincerely,

R.W. Trewyn, Ph.D.

cc: Edward J. Derwinski
Secretary of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Services Washington DC 20420
and Research Administration



Department of
Veterans Affairs

JUL 06 1990

In Reply Refer to: 10B/AO

R.W. Trewyn, Ph.D.
1187 Middleport Drive
Columbus, OH 43235

Dear Dr. Trewyn:

Your letter of June 14, 1990, to Secretary Derwinski regarding Agent Orange was recently referred to me.

I can understand and appreciate your desire to see that your fellow Vietnam veterans receive fair treatment from the Federal government. In fact, I share your interest in seeing that all veterans are treated fairly.

I am unable to understand, however, how you, as a scientist, can come to the conclusion that no "reputable science ... has been applied to" the investigation of Agent Orange, 2,3,7,8 - tetrachlordibenzo-p-dioxin, or the phenoxy herbicides. This would require a thorough knowledge of the research into these subjects and the background to evaluate it. You seem to have based your opinion on an article by a non-scientist who makes unsubstantiated claims about a scientific activity.

The entire subject of Agent Orange and its possible adverse effects on humans has become highly charged with emotion and many discussants are completely partisan in their opinions. This is understandable and acceptable at a non-scientific level. It is less understandable and not at all acceptable when a scientist, as scientist, considers the research and observational science of the subject.

If you would care to look at the scientific information on Agent Orange and related subjects, I suggest that you consider the Review of Literature on Herbicides, Including Phenoxy Herbicides and Associated Dioxins. You should be able to review volumes I through XIV in your medical library or at the VA Clinic in Columbus. Volumes XV and XVI covering 1989 will become available shortly.

I do hope you will consider carefully the scientific issues involved in this distressing situation.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lawrence B. Hobson".

Lawrence B. Hobson, M.D., Ph.D.
Director, Environmental Medicine Office