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**FAX COVER SHEET**  
**THE AMERICAN LEGION**  
**NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS**



**FAX # (202) 861-2728**

**This transmission includes this sheet and \_\_\_\_\_ pages.**

**Deliver to:** Nancy

**From:** Dick Christian

**Comment:** \_\_\_\_\_

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R.W. Trewyn, Ph.D.  
1187 Middleport Drive  
Columbus, OH 43235-4060  
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August 3, 1990

CC  
MARK V...  
DR. EPSTEIN

Richard S. Christian, Consultant  
National Veterans Affairs and  
Rehabilitation Commission  
The American Legion  
1608 "K" Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Mr. Christian:

I wanted to let you know that I have received a response to my letter of June 14, 1990 to Secretary Derwinski. It happens to be a rather insulting diatribe from one Lawrence B. Hobson, M.D., Ph.D., Director, Environmental Medicine Office, which questions my scientific capabilities as well as Commander Epling's credibility ("a non-scientist who makes unsubstantiated claims about a scientific activity"). As soon as I complete a twenty-year literature search to evaluate the scientific expertise of said Director, I'll be drafting an "appropriate" response. At that time, I'll send you copies of his letter and mine. It does appear that a nerve was struck however.

Based on the number of recent articles I've seen questioning the federal studies related to Agent Orange, it looks hopeful that something might finally get resolved. I think it is important to stress, nonetheless, that more basic research is imperative as it relates to the individual components of Agent Orange as well as the complex mixture, since epidemiology alone could fail to identify significant, but rare, biologic effects. For example, not all birth defects can be detected at birth, and some, in fact, may not be manifested until yet the next generation. Likewise, specific carcinogens generally give rise to a limited number of types of cancer, but that doesn't mean they can't give rise to other types under unique circumstances. Therefore, it will be important for veterans exposed to Agent Orange to have the broadest possible coverage to insure they are not denied their due. The more scientific data to draw from the better.

Keep up the fight!

Sincerely,

*Ron Trewyn*  
Ronald W. Trewyn, Ph.D.



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Enclosure

I have reviewed the report of the Agent Orange Scientific Task Force on the human health effects associated with exposure to herbicides and/or their associated contaminants - chlorinated dioxins, entitled, A Review of the Scientific Literature, and dated April, 1990.

I endorse this report and agree with its conclusions.

  
Signature

R.W. TREWYN, Ph.D.  
Printed or Typed Name

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