

FEB 12 1959

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Mr. Fisher
Mr. Chadwick

Henry J. L. Bechen

Telephone 2-9-59, from Mr. Don Kurvink, Radiation Surveillance Network Operator, Pierre, S.D.

Mr. Kurvink telephoned concerning an allegation made by Mr. Floyd Fishel, a farmer, living nine miles east of Belle Fourche, S.D., on Highway 24, (Telephone B.F. 944J3), that 15 of his yearling calves have died, and one or two others are sick, because of radiation.

The South Dakota State Department of Health, not having a staff veterinarian, has not yet made a direct investigation. I requested that Mr. Kurvink suggest to the State Commissioner of Health that a State Department of Agriculture veterinarian be contacted immediately.

According to Mr. Kurvink's information, Mr. Fishel has had an examination made to ascertain the reasons for the deaths. Reportedly, the results indicated intestinal hemorrhage, but were inconclusive. Evidently, also, someone from a civil defense organization has made some radiation measurements on Mr. Fishel's farm, and further action in this regard may be taken by Mr. Art Sherwood of the State civil defense agency.

Mr. Kurvink is undertaking to obtain further details, such as when the animals died, and the exact nature of the steps already taken to make a diagnosis. At least until definite diagnosis is available, I advised Mr. Kurvink that I did not think radiation measurement or sampling was indicated.

William

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Mr. Donald Dunning
FBI Region VI
Don Kurvink
O. R. Placak ✓
Roscoe Cooke