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Walter F. Coulson, M.D., Chief
Sunita Bhuta, M.D.
Klaus M. Lewin, M.D.
Joseph M. Mirra, M.D.
Donald E. Paglia, M.D.
Dorothy L. Rosenthal, M.D.
Jerry Waisman, M.D.
William L. Wolfson, M.D.

DIVISION OF SURGICAL PATHOLOGY
UCLA
CENTER FOR THE HEALTH SCIENCES
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90024

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Eugene P. Cronkite, M.D.
Medical Department
Brookhaven National Laboratory
Upton, L.I., NY 11973

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NA E.P. Cronkite
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FOLDER "Paglia, DONALD E."

Dear Eugene:

Now that nearly everyone on the Thyroid Review Committee has responded, we are about ready to bed down the Marshalls report. A little more telephone time with Bob Conard and Margaret Dienes should provide the final proofings and polishes before publication. I'm satisfied that the total report will be an accurate and balanced reflection of what was done and how it was done. What it all means is another matter, but I suspect that that will be the subject of considerable future scrutiny by all sorts of interested parties.

I enclose copies of two notes recently received in response to redrafting of the histopathology section. I hope they're as gratifying to you as they were to me. They're also instructive: First of all, I learned that Dave Reid is a gentleman capable of admitting error, clearly an attribute that adds to one's stature. But, as I also told him, these never seemed to me issues of right vs. wrong, but more matters of proper scientific procedure and presentation -- fundamentals that you and Vic taught me as a pup. None of it really involved sophisticated pathologic interpretations as much as defining with precision the protocols followed and results produced. Basic stuff.

Over the past few years, that position rarely seemed to be recognized whenever the possibility of a pathology review was suggested. Certain individuals I spoke to directly appreciated it, but the lack of enthusiasm on the part of most others was underwhelming, to say the least. I was particularly impressed with the adamance of past opposition as I recently thumbed through some of the correspondence on this subject that has accumulated in my file over the past couple of years. And the antagonistic response of the Thyroid Advisory Panel at NIH the year before will long remain distressingly vivid.

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Nonetheless, you, (I assume with Vic's concurrence), went ahead with all this: the bother and expense of assembling all the materials as well as coerscing the consultants to participate, even holding the report in abeyance until it all could be done properly. That must have been very difficult to do in the face of such broad resistance and consistent opposition from individuals and groups of such stature. It hasn't escaped me that you did all that largely on the basis of my saying it should be done. I suspect that it didn't even occur to you that I might have been wrong....that we could have gone through the entire review process without anything of substance being accomplished or anything changed. I guess that's been the most impressive part of this entire affair to me: that you didn't even seem to perceive a risk in supporting my position, or, at the very least, felt it was a risk worth taking if I said it was.

That was a very special thing to do, Eugene. Yet I guess it's basically no different than the support you have always been ready to provide for me, personally as well as professionally. Every once in a while, though, I have to stop and reflect on my incredible good fortune in having had you - and Vic - for that kind of guidance and support. And I can't help but be moved to acknowledge the debt one owes his mentors. Your recent election to the National Academy seems but a belated, official recognition of those qualities and accomplishments which many of us have been privileged to enjoy and observe first hand over all these years that you have generously shared them. I want to extend my congratulations to the Academy, my gratitude to you.

With warmest personal regards,



Donald E. Paglia, M.D.
Professor
Division of Surgical Pathology

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