

REPOSITORY <sup>1</sup> Los Alamos Nat Lab

CL 4

COLLECTION CL-4

BOX NO. 11331-1

404559

FOLDER Castle General

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April 19, 1954

Mr. Paul Spain  
GTB 7.5  
Baltimore, M. Z.

Dear Spider:

I received a letter from Dick Durant this morning which left me a little disturbed but I believe that there is a solution. He is now starting to see local H&M employees on termination examinations. One man told the lab girl in Dick's office that he had been told to get a white count when he got home. He had a form stating that during his employment he had received an exposure of 35 mr. It so happened that the man's white count was a little below normal but I would doubt if his exposure to 35 mr had anything to do with this. Another man objected to having his chest x-rayed, feeling that he had already had enough radiation. Two swallows, of course, do not make a summer, but it seems obvious that some lack of understanding exists.

While in the Forward Area I gave my approval to a revised form letter to be handed to terminating H&M employees who had received significant amounts of radiation. Thinking it over, I still feel that the letter itself is adequate and I do not see how it could be greatly improved. It still seems, however, that the men are falling to comprehend what it is all about. Dick, of course, can do a pretty good job when he sees these people in Honolulu but I feel quite strongly that the matter should be straightened out before the men leave PPC.

It is my suggestion that each H&M worker who has received any recorded exposure while at PPC should actually be talked to, either alone or in a group, before he leaves the Forward Area. It is my suggestion that Leo Chalkins should inaugurate this plan and arrange to have Bob Felt carry it on later on. I believe that this should be done even for men who have received comparatively trivial exposures; frequently they are the ones who have the most profound misunderstanding and create the most trouble. It may be necessary to give some sort of explanation to those who have no recorded exposure but know that they were exposed to some fallout. I am perfectly sure that Leo will be able to handle the situation for both groups. These men must be given permanent reassurance that they have suffered no lasting damage, and it is in my own feeling that they will accept this more readily even someone outside of the H&M organization.

I would like to pass on with my blessing one suggestion in Dick's letter. He advises strongly that if any laboratory work is indicated it should be done before the men leave the Forward Area if possible. I, personally, would not

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any suggestion that it might be advisable for a man to have blood counts taken on his return. This suggestion leaves him with a feeling of fear during his trip, and by the time he reaches Honolulu and talks to a few friends he is downright scared.

I hate to offer any suggestion which in any way complicates the termination procedure of men leaving FPG but I feel that the situation may become sufficiently critical to justify such a step. Please let me know if I can be of further help.

Sincerely yours,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY THOMAS L. SHIPMAN, M. D.

THOMAS L. SHIPMAN, M. D.  
Health Division Leader

cc: Henry Johnson, TG 7.5  
Leo Chelins, TG 7.1  
File

*cc. Durant*

TLS/lca