

Lawrence D. Low, Director
Division of Compliance

October 30, 1964

Leo Dubinski, Assistant Director for Materials
Division of Compliance

MEDICAL ASPECTS OF INCIDENT INVOLVING ROBERT D. PEABODY

You will recall I had previously suggested to Dr. Bruner that the Division of Biology and Medicine consider the possibility of developing for publication available medical information on the United Nuclear Corporation (UNC) incident in Rhode Island involving the death of Robert Peabody. Today Dr. Bruner called me on the telephone to relate developments since my initial conversation on the subject.

Dr. Bruner reported that he had been talking to Dr. Clarence Lushbaugh, ORINS, and as a result found out that (1) Dr. Lushbaugh and Dr. Fanger (the pathologist in the case) were planning to prepare a paper covering the pathology in the case of Robert Peabody for publication in a national professional magazine--probably the American Journal of Pathology, and (2) Dr. John Stanbury and Dr. Joseph Karus were planning a paper concerning the medical treatment and clinical aspects of the same case. Dr. Bruner indicated that the pathology paper would be quite elaborate and probably would not get published before a year or more. The proposed paper of Drs. Stanbury and Karus would likely be published in the New England Journal of Medicine and this could occur probably within the next three to six months. Dr. Bruner stated that in view of these developments, there would not seem to be any need for the Division of Biology and Medicine to consider further the possibility of developing information for publication.

In the conversation we touched upon the point of possible legal considerations that might be involved in the publication of these papers. I indicated I did not know what limitations there might be but assumed the medical profession surely must be aware of restrictions that usually were applicable and probably they would obtain any necessary clearances with appropriate parties as might be necessary.

Dr. Bruner also informed me that Dr. Lushbaugh had suggested that the Division of Biology and Medicine sponsor a seminar for medical people on the subject of medical aspects having to do with the death of Robert Peabody. He said that he would discuss this further with Dr. Dunham but felt sure the Division of Biology and Medicine probably would think this a

(continued)

C-64

October 30, 1964

worthy idea because of the great interest in this type of situation. He also asked if the Regulatory Program would have any objections. I suggested that perhaps Dr. Dunham might address a memorandum to the Director of Regulation stating at least tentatively what they would propose doing and asking if there were any objections on the part of the Regulatory Program. I indicated that although I was personally in favor of making available information, the problem was a new one to me and I had no idea whether there might be any objections or any limitations on the conduct of such a seminar.

cc: Harold L. Price, REG
H. D. Bruner, BM
H. K. Shapar, GC
F. Western, BS
R. W. Kirkman, CO:I

E. R. Price, SLR
R. L. Doan, DRL
L. Johnson, DML
C. L. Henderson, REG