

MAR 26 1969

DATE: March 24, 1969

To : Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics

FROM : Dr. Roy Cohn

SUBJECT: Sunday's column

Dear Josh:

It is a pleasure for me to point out to you that your quotation from John Lear, while correct, leaves an erroneous impression. While it is true that high fluoride in the water will result in absorption by the body, there isn't any evidence with which I am familiar that this does any harm in the quantities absorbed. The San Francisco Dialysis Center has been using fluoride in San Francisco water for over two years now without any evidence of the black teeth-hard bone syndrome. In our unit recently, through some shenanigans, a de-ionizer was installed in the line without my knowledge. The cost will probably run around \$40.00 a day, which I regard as much too expensive for the questionable value received. (3-15-69)

In fact, it is possible that fluoridation may have a useful counter effect to the steroids. Our only bone problems in the entire series in the past five years have been aseptic necrosis of the head in three patients, none of whom had hemodialysis.

RC: jr

Dear Roy: I would urge you to take a position on this in a response to Lear in the Saturday Review. You will have to deal with the literature he quotes from the Ottawa group. I am not aware that any one else has (and the Center ~~in SFO~~ must have taken it seriously to have installed the deionizer.) Frankly, I might be more concerned about flooding with Lead than with fluoride; but I don't know where the SFO water supply stands in that regard.

If fluoride can counteract ~~steroidal~~ steroidal osteoporosis it does have an interesting effect on bone metabolism. I wish I knew exactly what that was.

