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NATIONAL COMMITTEE AGAINST MENTAL ILLNESS, INC.

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July 24, 1959

Honorable John E. Fogarty
House Office Building
Washington, D.C.

Dear John:

Dr. Michael DeBakey spoke to both Dr. Leonard Heaton and Dr. Howard Snyder on Thursday. He said they were both deeply interested in the problem of precise measurement of cholesterol. Dr. Heaton told Dr. DeBakey that the President is always asking for a cholesterol count, and that the President worries more about it than he does about his golf score.

In talking to both doctors about the inadequacy of heart research in this country, Dr. DeBakey pointed out that English scientists had developed a much more precise measurement of fatty substances in the blood. I enclose Dr. DeBakey's statement before the Roberts Subcommittee, which goes into some detail on the new English method. When Congressman Laird asked Dr. DeBakey why we couldn't duplicate the English achievement, Dr. DeBakey said that we were lagging badly in America in the development of surgical instruments and techniques for scientific measurement of metabolic changes. Dr. DeBakey told Laird that when he visited Russia last fall, he saw a surgical instrument institute in Moscow which is far beyond anything we have in this country.

I think this material can be used with some effect upon Laird in the conference on Tuesday. Here is the President of the United States unable to get a precise measurement of the fatty substances in his blood because of a lack of research knowledge in this country.

Cordially,

Mike

Mike Gorman

Enclosure
MG:bhf