

May 22, 1980

Dr. Frank J. Rauscher, Jr.
Senior Vice President
American Cancer Society
777 Third Avenue
New York, New York 10017

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RESEARCH

Dear Dr. Rauscher:

On Sunday, May 18 the CBS television network program "60 Minutes" presented an interview with a Dr. Lawrence Burton. Dr. Burton has operated an immunology research center in Freeport, Grand Bahama Island since March of 1977. His clinic treats cancer patients with what he describes as an immuno-augmentative therapy program.

I first learned of the Burton clinic from my mother, Virginia MacConnell in December of 1977. She had cancer diagnosed by doctors in Cincinnati, Ohio as adeno sarcoma. She had undergone surgery for her cancer several months before and was receiving radiation therapy in Cincinnati to stop further growth of the disease. The radiation treatment was causing her great discomfort. She soon became disillusioned with these methods and the possible treatment with chemotherapy drugs, which were being advised by her doctors. She joined the Burton clinic in January of 1978 and sent me a description of Burton's work which Burton himself had given her. I have enclosed a copy of that description.

I visited her in the Bahamas in March of 1978. During that time an interview with Burton was arranged. I was curious about several things that were in his written description. I am currently, and was then a graduate student working on my Ph.D. degree in biochemistry under Dr. Nathan O. Kaplan at the University of California, San Diego. Dr. Kaplan's group is heavily involved in human cancer research from several different approaches including immunology.

I talked with Dr. Burton for approximately forty minutes in his office located in small clinic building. From my observation of his laboratory and from his conversation, several things were revealed to me about Burton himself and his operation:

- (1) Burton kept no medical or scientific literature in his office or laboratory, and in fact had not published in any journal referenced by Citation Index since 1971. He did not keep any records of data on anything whatsoever and admitted that *fact* openly. Clearly indicative that he was not really doing research.
- (2) Burton's laboratory workers were all young Bahamians with only high school education and had no scientific background. None of these people were allowed to know or work on the entire pro-

cedure from start to finish.

- (3) Burton's discussion rambled from one unrelated subject to another, he used scientific terms improperly. When I asked him a question about the nature of his "deblocking protein" component, as to whether it was a protease, he answered with a long dissertation on adreno corticotropic hormone (ACTH) and something about measuring liver damage by alkaline phosphatase. He always tried to talk fast and over my head so as to try to confuse me and leave me with the impression that he was highly knowledgable, but little of what he said was accurate or even related to the question.
- (4) When I was shown thru his lab, I was told that the procedure that was used for processing his patients' blood involved heating and centrifuging at low and ultracentrifuge speeds. Optical density measurements were being made at some point. I was completely unable to understand how he separated or assayed for four different immunological components which he used in his cancer treatment with no other equipment present to be seen in his lab.
- (5) Burton's Ph.D. degree is shown in Dissertation Abstracts to be in zoology from New York University in 1955 under Morris H. Harnly. He is not a medical doctor himself and stated in our meeting of his alleged medical director Dr. Carl C. Markwood M.D.: "Markwood works for me, I can push a button and have him down here in five minutes".
- (6) His wife Esther Burton, his administrator, asked my mother for a starting contribution of \$5000. in the first week that she attended the clinic. She stayed there for over six months. I do not know exactly how many thousands of dollars the Burtons received from her in all that time. There was pressure on the patients of this supposed "not-for-profit foundation" to contribute on a regular basis. Those who were not contributing regularly were usually asked to leave. One of Burton's workers, whom I spoke with outside of the clinic, described a person who didn't give Burton money as a "free-loader". Burton was known to ask people to leave when they became gravely ill. People constantly feared being asked to leave. At one point my mother wrote to me and stated that over ten of the fifty-three in the Burton clinic were asked to leave, all within a few days.
- (7) No patient stayed at his building, they came there for ten minutes or so several times during the day to be injected or have their blood sampled. At any one time four to five patients might have been in his waiting room adjacent to his lab.

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My mother died on December 8, 1978 four and one-half months after she was asked to leave the Burton clinic.

WPM/wpm

enclosures

cc: Dr. Nathan O. Kaplan

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William P. MacConnell". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

William P. MacConnell