

United States Senate

ESTABLISHED (PDA)

Respectfully referred to
CONGRESSIONAL LIAISON
DEPARTMENT OF H.E.W.
330 INDEPENDENCE AVE., S.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

for such consideration as the communication
herewith submitted may warrant, and for a report
thereon, in duplicate to accompany return of
inclosure.

By direction of

SENATOR BOB PACKWOOD

GPO 16-7387-2

Attn: Ann Colgrove

U. S. S.

Thank you very much.

MAY 11 1977

TRACER 24074

1977N-0318

C184

Department of
Animal Science



MAY 5 '77
Corvallis, Oregon 97331 (503) 754-3431

May 2, 1977

The Honorable Robert Packwood
United States Senate
Washington D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Packwood:

I am writing to you as my representative in Washington D. C. concerning the policies the new Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration indicated he will establish or push for. His stand on the use of tetracycline drugs now in use in the livestock and poultry industry is one that is not consistent with the facts at hand.

These drugs have been used to improve efficiency of production and reduce the cost to the consuming public for 30 years without a single case of resistant bacteria endangering human health. His statements in a recent article in Feedstuffs, April 18, 1977, page 2, concerning the dangers to human health are merely conjectures on his part without any scientific facts to back them up.

This is as ridiculous as Senator Kennedy's attempt to outlaw diethylstilbestrol (DES) for use in beef production based on the fact that some Medical Doctors had misused it several years ago.

I think that both Commissioner Kennedy and Senator Kennedy are letting emotionalism override their better judgement.

I would like to know where you stand on this issue.

My best regards to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "A. T. Ralston".

A. T. Ralston, Ph.D.
Professor of Animal Nutrition

ATR:akj

Department of
Animal Science



Corvallis, Oregon 97331

MAL 6 '77
(503) 754-3431

May 3, 1977

The Honorable Robert Packwood
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator:

I wish to register a protest to the intentions of FDA Commissioner Kennedy to restrict the use of tetracycline drugs (antibiotics) for routine use in animal feeds.

As a professional animal nutritionist I have been involved in one manner or other with antibiotics since they were first used about 1950 at low levels in animal feeds. Antibiotics of this type have been extremely useful in controlling some diseases and improving animal production, resulting in more meat on the table for the general public and lower costs of production for livestock producers.

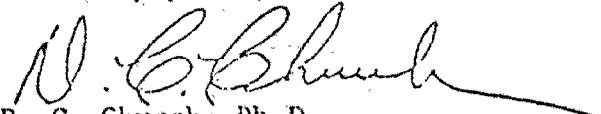
One of the principal objections to routine use of antibiotics is that resistant strains of bacteria may build up which may become a health hazard to humans. While it is quite true that bacteria become resistant to drugs of this type, there is absolutely no evidence that there is any problem in human medicine as a result of feeding antibiotics to animals, and there are a goodly number of negative experiments on this subject.

A quote from Commissioner Kennedy: "Although we can point to no specific diseases in people that cannot be treated because of resistance due to use of drugs in animals, we are very concerned about the threat this may pose in the future. It is even possible that such problems could now exist, but have gone unnoticed."

This statement indicates the desire of Mr. Kennedy to react to theoretical problems which, in fact, have not surfaced during a use period of about 27 years.

Senator, I hope you will be realistic and work to stop this type of bureaucratic interference with proven animal production practices.

Sincerely yours,


D. C. Church, Ph.D.
Professor of Ruminant Nutrition

DCC:akj

DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
CROSS-REFERENCE SHEET

File No. 77N-0231/C0184

See File: 77N-0317/C0184
77N-0318/C0184

From

To

Date

Summary: