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Social Science Research Council
Preventive Medicine
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE
Social Science Program

55 Shattuck Street
Boston 15, Massachusetts

	JMW	SEP 17 '58	JMW	9/17

SEP 22 1958

Dr. John M. Weir
Assoc. Dir. for Medical Education
and Public Health
The Rockefeller Foundation
49 West 49th Street
New York 20, New York

Dear Jack:

I enclose two copies of a news release on the Skytop Conference which Stanley King recently prepared and which I have just recopied. Please let me know if you wish additional copies or if you want me to send copies to persons or organizations other than yourself.

I think Stanley had agreed to prepare this release earlier than he did, but he found himself quite busy in his recent switch from Pittsburgh to Cambridge--house selling, house buying, quick wind up of old affairs, etc.

With best regards,


Benjamin D. Paul

BDP:ds

Committee on Preventive Medicine
and Social Science Research

c/o Social Science Research Council
230 Park Avenue, New York

SEP 22 1958

News Release for Skytop Conference

Why do people accept, or why do they reject public health programs? This question was the focus of a five-day conference at Skytop Lodge in Pennsylvania in June, 1958, bringing together representatives from the field of social science and from the field of preventive medicine and public health. The conference was sponsored by the Committee on Preventive Medicine and Social Science Research of the Social Science Research Council and was made possible through a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation.

Participants at the conference addressed themselves to the problem of how the social sciences and the health professions could work together more effectively in research, especially research that leads to a better understanding of public acceptance or rejection of health programs. The structure for the discussion concerned the kinds of public health programs, whether of a "one shot" variety or of a continuing nature, about which acceptance decisions by individuals or groups must be made. Each day of the conference began with brief research reports by conference participants about specific instances of acceptance or rejection of health programs, then open discussion by all participants dealt with the framework in which further research should fit and the kinds of questions that need to be asked.

The first day of the conference was under the chairmanship of Dr. John Weir of the Rockefeller Foundation, the concern for the day being "one shot" health programs that require acceptance decisions by individuals. Papers were presented by Dr. John Clausen on the acceptance of the polio vaccine, Dr.

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Concluding comments were made by
Dr. Edward Rogers on behalf of the health
field and Dr. Donald Young in behalf of the
social sciences.

SEP 22 1958

Stanley King on participation in a field study of rheumatoid arthritis, and Dr. Andie Knutson on response to a chest x-ray program in tuberculosis control.

Professor Lyle Saunders of the University of Colorado Medical School was chairman for the second day which was devoted to "one shot" programs that require group decisions of acceptance. The research paper for this day dealt with studies of the acceptance or rejection of fluoridation programs by local communities and was presented by Dr. Benjamin^D Paul.

The third day was devoted to continuing health programs that require individual decisions and was under the chairmanship of Professor Leo^D Simmons of Yale. Papers were presented on alcoholism by Dr. Robert Straus, health attitudes and behavior of Mexican-Americans by Dr. George Foster, and participation in an infertility clinic by Dr. Leo^D Simmons.

Continuing health programs that require group decisions provided the focus for the final day, with Dr. Van Zile Hyde of the United States Public Health Service as chairman. The first paper concerned participation in the Health Insurance Plan of Greater New York and was presented by Dr. George Rosen, the second dealt with the utilization of a medical clinic by Navajo Indians and was by Drs. Walsh McDermott and John Adair.

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It was the consensus of the conference that new major steps in public health will depend for much of their success on knowledge of people, of their attitudes toward health, of the values that motivate them to action in any given situation. The newer developments in public health cannot be brought into being by law or public power, as have so many measures in the past, but will depend on the free decision of individuals or communities. There is much to be gained in understanding people and promoting public health programs through a closer collaboration between social scientists and

practitioners of preventive medicine and public health.

The Committee on Preventive Medicine and Social Science Research is under the chairmanship of Dr. Hugh Leavell of Harvard, and includes Dr. Leona Baumgartner, Health Commissioner of New York City, Dr. Harold Dorn of the Public Health Service, Dr. Benjamin D. Paul and Dr. Stanley King of Harvard, Dr. Van Zile Hyde of the Public Health Service, Professor Lyle Saunders of the University of Colorado School of Medicine, Dr. Leo Simmons of Yale, Dr. John Weir of the Rockefeller Foundation, and Dr. Donald Young of the Russell Sage Foundation.

Invited participants included Dr. John Adair of Cornell Medical School, Dr. Odin Anderson of the Health Information Foundation, Dr. Guillermo Arbona, Commissioner of Health in Puerto Rico, Miss Margaret Arnstein of the Public Health Service, Dr. Daniel Bergsma, Health Commissioner for New Jersey, Dr. Lester Breslow of the California Department of Health, Dr. John Cassel of the University of North Carolina, Dr. Antonio Ciocco of the University of Pittsburgh, Dr. John Clausen of the National Institute of Mental Health, Dr. Mayhew Derryberry of the Public Health Service, Dr. John Eberhart of the Commonwealth Fund, Dr. Jack Elinson of Columbia University, Mr. Howard Ennes of the Equitable Life Assurance Company, Dr. Lloyd Florio, Director of Health and Hospitals in Denver, Dr. George Foster of the University of California at Berkeley, Dr. George James of the New York City Health Department, Dr. Andie Knutson of the University of California at Berkeley, Dr. John Knutson of the Public Health Service, Dr. Bernard Mausner of the University of Pittsburgh, Dr. Walsh McDermott of Cornell Medical School, Dr. Robert Merton of Columbia University, Mr. Allen Pond of the Public Health Service, Dr. Edward Rogers of the University of California at Berkeley, Dr. George Rosen of Columbia University, ~~Dr. Richard Shryock of John Hopkins University,~~

of Columbia University, Dr. Ozzie Simmons of Harvard, Dr. Harvey Smith of the University of North Carolina, Dr. Robert Straus of the University of Kentucky, and Dr. Ray Trussell of Columbia University. Dr. Robert Wilson of Harvard was Rapporteur for the conference.