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November 28th, 1939

Dr. Roy Simpson  
Hospital for Sick Children  
68 College Street  
Toronto, Ontario

Dear Doctor Simpson:


I received the following wire this morning, which I expected yesterday:-

" Doctor John Lawrence University of California Berkeley treats leukemia by intravenous injection artificially radio activated substances on experimental basis only research supported in part by National Cancer Institute suggest you communicate directly with Lawrence if you desire for possible experimental therapy your patient in Berkeley stating reference by me stop" Signed Thomas Parran.

I immediately telephoned to Mr. Heeney in the Prime Minister's Office, and he requested me to telephone your doctors in the Hospital for Sick Children. I got in touch with Doctor Olford and he wrote down the telegram in full, I think, as quoted above. I tried to persuade him to have you, as a result of my discussion with Mr. Heeney, discuss the matter with the child's father, and if he so desires, that you telephone long distance to Doctor John Lawrence, University of California, Berkeley, and discuss the matter with him. Doctor Harrison, Head of the Hygienic Institute of the United States Public Health Services, led me to believe, over the telephone, that they had not had any encouraging results but I think that I would approach Doctor Lawrence with an open mind and have him tell you directly.

I read the telegram as requiring the child to be removed to Berkeley, California, but this may not be intended.

Very cordially yours,

  
R. E. Woodhouse, M.D.  
Deputy Minister

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King, Rt. Hon. William Lyon Mackenzie (MG  
26 J 7 volume 19) Lay family -  
Correspondence 1934-1942

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