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Miss Sylvia Meagher 302 W. 12th St. New York, N.Y. 10014

March 21, 1970

Dear Miss Meagher:

I was very glad to talk to you in New York on Thursday. I hope very much to talk with you some more when next I am in New York, which should be April 2. I plan to get in touch with you beforehand to choose a time.

One of the problems that I am looking into at this time is the problem of "the deaths of the witnesses." In particular, is it possible to show by a correct actuarial calculation that the number of deaths implies correlation? or that the number of deaths is what is to be expected among a population of say 1000 persons over the course of 6 years? As I said, I am a Fellow of the Society of Actuaries, and there are two crucial questions "What is the group of persons which has been exposed? Are the deaths reported a fair sample or a thoroughly biased sample?" It is easy to "prove" almost anything (incorrectly) if one picks out all the cases which confirm one's theory, and omits all the cases which disprove one's theory; but this kind of proof is far from scientific.

Any light that you can shed on this question I shall be glad to have.

Yours sincerely.

Edmund C. Berk

Edmund C. Berkeley Editor

ECB:np