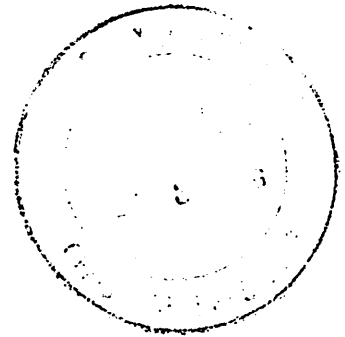


Department of History

November 27, 1966

Dear Sir,



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I'm doing research for my master's thesis, which is a study of the reaction of the cranberry industry in Mass. to the cranberry scandal of 1959. I have been continually surprised by the press coverage of the issue. To say there was some sensationalism would be an understatement. I have the impression that most of the newspapers and magazines feel that your handling of the problem was hasty. In fact on page 69 of the 1962 Report of the Second Citizens Advisory Council on the FDA there is the following statement: Premature publicity, or publicity when none is necessary, may condemn a product without a hearing or a trial. The cranberry case was excessively publicized, whereas some far more serious situations have been handled without fanfare and far more effectively. In 1959, you stated that you could not sit upon the information you had received. With hindsight, do you believe the situation could have been dealt with differently.

I would also appreciate your views on the criticism of some senators that there was no cooperation between FDA and the Department of Agriculture. I realize there was an investigation in 1963 on the question of interagency coordination in environmental hazards. How much affect did the cranberry crisis have upon the large increase in appropriations for FDA in fiscal year 1961.

I realize with your many duties - I wish to offer late congratulations upon your stand in 1962 on the question of communist speakers - that you may not be able to give a great deal of attention to this letter, but any information you can supply will be greatly appreciated.

Gratefully yours,
George H. Kachel