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Description Notes Alvin L. Young filed this item under "Vietnam Veterans Twin Study." Item includes cover note from Seth Eisen to Dr. Alvin Young and a Report of Contact describing Jack Goldberg's call to Seth Eisen regarding Greene's activities and the possible ramifications of those activities for the VETS Protocol. A handwritten note to Alvin Young is included on the second page of the report.



REFERENCE SLIP

TO (Name or title—Mail routing symbol)	INITIALS—DATE
1. DR Alvin Young	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

REASON FOR REFERENCE

 AS REQUESTED FOR YOUR FILES NOTE AND RETURN COMMENTS INFORMATION PER CONVERSATION CONCURRENCE NECESSARY ACTION SIGNATURE

REMARKS

— Keepin you posted about
your old friends.

FROM

Seth

DATE

6/3/

TEL/EXT.

REPORT OF CONTACT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONTACTED BY: Jack Goldberg, Hines VAMC, CSPCC
DATE OF CONTACT: May 31, 1984

Jack contacted me to relay the following information.

The previously approved travel authority to attend a June 6 meeting at Brooks Air Force Base with Lathrop and Erickson (principal investigator of the CDC Epidemiology study) has been recinded.

The June 21 meeting of the VA's COG II (Consultant Oversight Group) to review and provide final approval to VETS Protocol II has been "postponed".

There is no information as to whether the letter from the VA to Simpson of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, requesting that OTA review Protocol II, has been dispatched.

Greene has suspended all activity on Protocol II. Therefore, Greene felt that the meeting with Lathrop and Erickson is inappropriate. Since OTA has been (?will be) given responsibility for reviewing and approving Protocol II, a meeting of COG II is superfluous at this time.

My Assessment - In the past, I had naively thought that although Greene was opposed to our study on scientific grounds, he was intellectually honest and would therefore move rapidly to obtain outside independent review. I now feel that Greene is unalterably opposed to the VETS and will utilize every method possible to prevent any review. He has decided to suffocate the VETS. He has stopped COG II review (after all, it might be approved and then he really would be in a pickle), has refused to permit review of the protocol by the AOWG, and will delay OTA review as long as possible.

The major purpose of our planned meeting with Lathrop and Erickson was to develop the foundation for cooperation among the three projects. The recision of our travel authority may cause significant damage to the VETS.

I can only assume that Greene is completely aware of the damaging effects further delays will have on the VETS. If the process of involving OTA has not yet even begun, it seems unlikely that OTA's review can be completed before the early fall. The clinical phase of the project then could probably not begin until spring, 1985. Longer delays can only work to Greene's advantage.

While I was in Washington, Hobson mentioned to me that Shepard should never have agreed to give Medical Research complete administrative responsibility for our project, since Hobson felt

that Greene might procrastinate in accomplishing important objectives. I agreed. However, I didn't appreciate that Greene would be so sudden, overt, and aggressive in his obstructionist activities.

Alvin

I wrote the above the day I received the phone call from Goldberg. Today, Sunday, I'm feeling a bit more charitable. Perhaps I'm too harsh on Greene. All my information is at best third hand. It's so hard to know in St Louis what's really happening in Washington — & certainly difficult to decipher Greene's motivations.

Seth