

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE  
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE  
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

Refer to: PS CPB-12  
January 1970

FLUORIDATION SUPPORTED BY DRS. HUGO THEORELL, LINUS PAULING, AND ALBERT SZENT-GYORGYI, NOBEL PRIZE WINNERS IN BIOCHEMISTRY, CHEMISTRY, AND MEDICINE

Opponents of fluoridation frequently refer to alleged opposition to fluoridation by Nobel Prize winners - especially Dr. Hugo Theorell of Sweden, winner of a Nobel Prize for his work in enzyme chemistry.

Dr. Hugo Theorell as an expert in biochemistry originally advised the Royal Medical Board in Sweden in 1958 "to wait and see" until the Norrköping experiment was completed. On August 8, 1967 he wrote to Dr. Linus Pauling stating: "Now, after nine years of local experience it appears to me that the substantial reduction of the caries frequency seems to result from fluoridation whereas ill effects seems (sic) to be small if any in practice." The following is extracted from his statement of January 1968, published in Sosialdepartementet, Oslo, 1968: "The last ten years of research have answered many, perhaps the majority of the questions which in 1958 appeared unsolved. . . ." ". . . I wish to affirm that I share Pauling's view on fluoridation. Although 'the mean of natural water' may be difficult to ascertain, it is perhaps best to recommend, for example 1 + 0.2 ppm of fluoride as the ideal level."

Dr. Linus Pauling, Nobel Prize winner in Chemistry, stated on November 29, 1967: "Over a period of more than a decade I have studied the available information about the fluoridation of drinking water. I have reached the conclusion that

the presence of fluoride ion in drinking water in concentrations about equal to the average for natural water is beneficial to the health, especially because of the protection that it provides against dental caries, and that there is no evidence for detrimental effects comparable in significance to the beneficial effects. I support the actions of city, state, and national governments in ordering that public supplies of drinking water be brought to this level by the addition of fluoride, in case that the water is deficient in fluoride, and by removal of some of the fluoride if there is an excess of fluoride in the water supply."

Dr. Albert Szent-Gyorgyi, Nobel Prize winner in Medicine, in 1967, expressed his awareness of the great value of fluoridation and requested the removal of his name from the list of honorary members of an organization because of their opposition to fluoridation.

Division of Dental Health  
Community Programs Branch  
8120 Woodmont Avenue  
Bethesda, Maryland 20014