

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

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FLUORIDATION IS NOT BANNED IN SWEDEN

In a letter dated January 3, 1968, published in Sosialdepartementet, Oslo, 1968, Dr. Hugo Theorell, Nobel Prize winner and scientific advisor in biochemistry to the Royal Medical Board in Stockholm, stated his support of fluoridation and set forth the status of fluoridation in Sweden as follows:

"In 1962 the Norrkoping experiment had proceeded for 10 years. A permit to continue the experiment was recommended by different experts, including myself, since no adverse reactions were noted. The experiment in Norrkoping, however, had to be discontinued because of local opinion against fluoridation--a vivid example of how difficult and fragile the question was. The head of the department suggested that 'a law be composed for the legal addition of fluoride to drinking water, and that the King, or other authority appointed by the King, decide (after a request for advice from a county) that fluoride must under certain conditions, which are suggested in the agreement, be added for carie-prophylactic purposes to the water which each county makes available through public water systems.' This law was passed in 1962, and many counties in Sweden have applied for permission to fluoridate their drinking water--but no permits have yet been issued since the rules governing the details have not been established."

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