

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

Public Health Service

National Institutes of Health

Refer: PPB-54  
March 1973

STATEMENT BY DIRECTOR, FLUORIDE PROJECT  
CENTER FOR SCIENCE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST

The Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI), as reported in the July 9, 1971 issue of Science, was set up in January 1971 "by four alumni of Ralph Nader's Center for the Study of Responsive Law." Listed among its primary areas of activity was "conducting studies to supply consumers with information on matters about which data are either unavailable or obscured by conflicting sets of 'facts'." The CSPI, with the assistance of a grant from the National Health Federation, which has long opposed fluoridation, has recently completed a study of fluorides.

At Ralph Nader's request, CSPI responded to an inquiry for a public statement on Mr. Nader's position on fluoridation.

Excerpts from the response by the Director, Fluoride Project, CSPI, dated November 10, 1972 follow:

"Ralph Nader has asked us to reply to your letter on the issue of fluoridation."

"The Center for Science in the Public Interest has been studying the issue of fluorides in the environment for the past year. We, like Mr. Nader, have been quite critical of the tactics which many of the promoters of fluoridation have used."

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"While remaining critical of the manner in which fluoridation has been promoted, our intensive investigation of this subject leads us to conclude that the known benefits to dental health which fluoridation brings far outweigh any risks which may be involved."

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"There are firmly established dangers in the increasing pollution of our drinking water. We do not believe that fluoridation is one of these dangers."

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