Federal DNA law needed

(Continued from page 2) a conference on the subject. The Tech: About the Cambridge Laboratory Experimentation Review Board (CLERB), do you feel that they accomplished their task actual-
ly determining the safety of the research or have they just added to a machinery for control of it in their regulations?

Clem: Well, I don't believe that the Laboratory Experimentation Review Board accomplished more than the NIH did in being able to quantify what a health hazard is... I don't believe that they have decided concretely that there is no health hazard exists. What they have done from their perspective as citizens of

C h a r m i n g is to satisfy themselves that a great many scientists and individuals have worked very hard to safeguard against any potential risk, and they have agreed in effect to share in the decision-making. The Cambridge community at large, I believe, is aware of the types of research going on within its environs, and I think they ought to be involved in a decision-making process to determine whether they are willing to accept certain risks. I think the Laboratory Experimentation Review Board by its very intensive effort to go into a tough issue, admitted that it could not define concretely specific health hazards or predict necessarily

what would happen in a P3 laboratory, but they were sufficiently satisfied that safeguards had been promulgated and that protection could be afforded to the Cambridge citizen for the major-ity of all risks with additional guidelines. I think that [their] ad-di tional guidelines actually improve the NIH guidelines subst-

entially.

They also concurred in my earlier belief that regulation had to be apart from the NIH and that it needed to be at the federal level as opposed to the local level. They recognized that they had no power to implement that, and they suggested that the City Council involve themselves in a substan-
tial lobbying effort to rework the federal government live up to their responsibilities, and I think I certainly intend to do that, and others on the Council do as well. (to be continued)

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