F: letters

February 8, 1972

Mr. Paul H. Blachly
Professor of Psychiatry
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Portland, Oregon 97201

Dear Paul:

Your letter regarding Congressman Pepper's bill is interesting. I do not know the bill in question, and can only comment on your questions.

In general, in our study of the narcotic antagonists, I have found the FDA verbally cooperative. Their dependence on rigorous and extensive animal toxicology data has prevented human trials of M5050 for 2 years, since we have been unable to find $30,000 to provide this data. The same attitudes have caused delays in studies of BC-2605, and added immeasurable costs to studies of naloxone.

As to your suggestions, I believe these are useful and may be in the process of adaption by Elmer Gardner - who discussed some proposed changes in his section of the FDA at the recent ACNP meetings.

I would not encourage another committee. The present NIMH-FDA committee reviewing protocols for drugs is sufficiently restrictive and limiting in its views (e.g. of cannabis) to provide a lifetime of delays and excuses to stifle research - another could do little good.

I am not encouraged to attempt redress by the Congressional or committee routes - both are fora for selfish "politica" interests and not effective roads to research. The latter can only come from the scientists assuming the burdens of research and challenging the various agencies' on a case by case basis. Perhaps it is in the education of our colleagues (e.g., the limitation of unsophisticated dependence on animal trials) that our hopes and opportunities lie.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry

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