

73SB-611

April 9th, 1973

Henry Brill, M.D.,
P.O. Box 22,
West Brentwood, N.Y. 11717.

Dear Henry,

Thank you for the copy of the second report of the Commission, and the appendices to the first report. I have given one copy to Stan, and he thanks you.

I have read this second report, and once again wish to commend you and the Commission for approaching the issues with a judiciousness and evenhandedness that is so necessary in this time when drug use remains a major political issue. I, too, have been frightened by the rapid development of a "drug abuse - industrial - university complex". Note that I have added "university" to your caution, for no time in the twenty years that I have been in research have I seen so many departmental chairmen jump on the band wagon of drug abuse in order to support empires threatened by a reduction in training grants.

The emphasis on alcohol as a drug of primary concern is well placed. A few years ago when Earl Ubell of CBS TV News called me as he was preparing his series "Drugs, A to Z", he was surprised when I insisted that alcohol was a much greater threat and problem than heroin. Indeed, when he checked, he was able to present a more balanced picture of drug use.

Finally, I paid special attention to the Commission's attitude to the narcotic antagonists. Although the recommendations are not those which I have voiced during the past two years, I concur with the Commission (pp. 323-324) as the best conclusion based on the available evidence.

Henry Brill, M.D.

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Once again, I want to thank you and the Commission for having presented sober and judicious recommendations which I hope the American people will accept.

My best personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry

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