

June 28, 1983

Carolyn B. Robinowitz, M.D.
Director, Office of Education
American Psychiatric Association
1400 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Dr. Robinowitz,

Enclosed is a draft copy of my remarks at the recent meeting of the A.P.A. I have urged, for some time, the A.P.A. leadership to accept responsibility for encouraging teaching and the optimal use of convulsive therapy. The events in California, leading to an interdiction of its use in one community, reflects the persistent poor press that psychiatry enjoys.

But part of the responsibility for this press is our own -- and one aspect was discussed by the 1978 Task Force on Electroconvulsive Therapy in their report. The committee, under Fred Frankel, did recommend a continuing committee of the A.P.A. with a mission to serve the Association's members, to improve teaching and education, and to answer queries by the public. Unfortunately, none of the recommendations of the TAsk Force have been implemented.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry