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April 4, 1969

Dear Fritz,

To confirm the sense of our discussions yesterday, I am taking the liberty of expanding the suggestions made for the 1970 program.

The problem of unilateral and bilateral electrode placement for convulsive therapy may seem to be a trivial change in the treatment procedure, but the data are most interesting. The clinical results for either placement are most similar, but behavioral change is accompanied by defined differences in memory functions and in CNS effects. The observations are useful in understanding the relationships between memory function and outcome; between CNS effects and memory; and in supporting theories of the mode of action of induced convulsions described more than a decade ago.

There are many young contributors to the field, including Small (Indiana), Abrams (NY), Blachly (Oregon), White (Ky), Kaelbling (Ohio), Strain (NY); as well as a fine group in the United Kingdom.

A program dedicated to the contributions of these authors, with an interpretation of the observations for our understanding of the convulsive therapy process and the treatment of affective disorders, may be consistent with the aims of the 1970 meeting. The time necessary for such a review may be at least 4 hours, and perhaps, if some English authors are induced to come, even longer. Such an allocation of time from the regular program may be unjustified, and perhaps a useful solution may be the holding of a concurrent session either on the Thursday before or the Sunday after the APPA.

The financial arrangements for these speakers and the additional expenses of hotel and publication may be defrayed by Federal or private granting authorities, since the subject has not yet been covered in any national meeting. I have an NIMH contract for the

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evaluation of unilateral and multiple monitored ECT, and I believe that the agency directors would be sympathetic with such a suggestion.

With regard to the hotel arrangements, I am proceeding with the New York Hilton and plan to go there this week.

My best regards.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.