

November 16, 1971

Dr. Robert C. Petersen
Center for Studies of Narcotic &
Drug Abuse
National Institute of Mental Health
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Dear Bob:

In response to your request, we are pleased to send this report and appendices, using as notations the numeric references of your letter, 10/26/71.

With regard to the last question, we have had unusual, and to us, unnecessary delays in obtaining marijuana and THC. Our requests require 3-4 months of processing, and in the 21 day study, the Committee's suggestions (interdictions?) as reported by Dr. Broude, were not based on experience satisfactory to us. The delays resulted in a loss of half our sample, who were available for study during the summer only. Since research effort, if truly innovative, will be novel to the Committee, it may not be possible to satisfy their anxieties, leading to covert behavior on the part of investigators. Perhaps, investigators who have passed the hurdles of institutional peer review, NIMH peer review, and clinical and research experience, warrant the same deference to their judgment in regard to studies of cannabis as is accorded their studies of other substances in the service of man. The present Committee or its spokesmen seem to assume prerogatives not ordinarily accorded advisory committees. It would be a welcome breathe of moderation and restraint for the Committee and NIMH authorities to exercise less demanding control over the minute details of experiments and experimenters with regard to a drug as extensively studied as cannabis.

Should any additional data be required, we will be glad to make them available.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry

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