F. Letters

June 4, 1976

Lauretta Bender, M.D.
423 Ben Oaks Drive West
Severna Park, Maryland 21146

Dear Dr. Bender,

Thank you very much for the opportunity to read your recent report,"Childhood and Adolescent Remissions in Adult Adjustment in Shock Treated Schizophrenic Patients". It is clear from this survey that the administration of either metrazole or electrical seizure therapy did little harm to the subjects, and perhaps assisted the short term adjustment.

Excepting your studies, we have been unable to find many other adequate examples of treatment in children; yet, the practice seems widespread, as was demonstrated in the Massachusetts review of EST in that state in 1973. What is to be done ? Should additional studies, of the effect of EST in childhood schizophrenia, be encouraged ? Should the studies be comparisons with drug therapy alone, or should there be drug and other therapies as comparison groups ?

I fear that the APA Task Force will have a knotty problem in attempting to place EST in childhood schizophrenia in proper perspective. On behalf of the Task Force, I thank you for the chance to read your reports. I trust I may share the draft sent me with the others on the project.

My best regards.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry