

January 16, 1967

Dr. John Davis
National Institute of Mental Health
Bethesda, Maryland 20014

Dear John,

I thought you would like to know that the Trantino case, to which you drew my attention, was heard in New Jersey last week. The principal question that was raised was whether or not meproboamate could alter the memory of this prisoner so as to interfere with his testimony. It is interesting that the judge kept asking whether his performance could not really be improved by the administration of such drug.

The court did not accept the statement that the drugs interfered, partly because of the court's questions and partly because other psychiatrists were called who stated that the effects of these drugs in no way altered memory or behavior.

I still think the issue is sufficiently important to be brought to the attention of psychiatric authorities and am, therefore, writing a letter to the officers of the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology, stating some of the facts of the case and asking whether any further action might be taken through the offices of the College.

Do you have any thoughts on the subject?

Again, my thanks for your recommendation. My best regards.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry

MF:kp