

October 20, 1969

Honorable Lester Wolff
House of Representatives
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Wolff:

I am indeed grateful for your kind response to my comments regarding our role in the Viet Nam War. I wish to commend your statements as published during the last few days.

I am writing to bring to your attention one of the consequences of the present administration. Enclosed are xerox copies of letters which I have received in my role as a research scientist. These letters have been received from the National Institute of Mental Health, both from the Director, Dr. Yolles, and one of his assistants.

Our budgets for the coming year have been cut and we will be able to adjust. To do so it will be necessary to curtail the hiring of new personnel and as usual, the impact will most be felt by the trainees in our program.

Perhaps the most significant problems that we face is that some of the new ideas that we have developed no longer meet a receptive ear in Washington. I should like to bring to your attention that on Wednesday - Viet Nam Moratorium Day - I visited with officers of the National Institute of Mental Health to discuss with them some significant advances in the treatment of opiate addiction and to request their consideration of a contract in a sum under \$100,000 - to provide a means of extending the efficacy of a most useful treatment of opiate dependence. I was told that no contract funds were available and that we should utilize the conventional grant mechanism - although the likelihood was just as bleak.

Our programs are reasonably well funded and we will survive the present restrictions. The impact on new programs, on new trainees will not be felt for many years. If this is one of the consequences of the Viet Nam War, any help that you can give to returning an emphasis on the part of this country to support of life rather than the support of death will be deeply appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry

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