

January 31, 1967

Dr. Norman Q. Brill  
Professor and Chairman  
Department of Psychiatry  
School of Medicine  
The Center for the Health Sciences  
Los Angeles, California 90024

Dear Dr. Brill:

I have known Dean Clyde since 1958, when he was on the staff of the National Institute of Mental Health and I was director of research at Hillside Hospital. At that time I was interested in the evaluation of behavioral change with psychoactive compounds and Dean Clyde was an important participant in the planning of our studies. As one of our statistical consultants, he educated us in sophisticated approaches to statistics and in the application of computer methods. With great facility he led us into the realms of multivariate statistics. For a number of our studies he carried out the analyses and was of great help in a number of our reports.

Perhaps the greatest debt I owe him is in the introduction which he gave me to digital computers. Following his demonstration and a proposal which he wrote concerning the use of digital computers in EEG analysis, I was able to develop a center for EEG analysis when I established the Missouri Institute of Psychiatry. Dean Clyde was our consultant there as well.

During the past few years, with statisticians in my own laboratory, my relationship has been with him largely as a co-participant in scientific meetings. I have always looked forward to his presentations and continue to find them cogent and helpful.

Prior to his establishing the computer center in Miami, I had invited him to direct our center in Missouri - an opportunity which he relinquished because of the distance from an ocean.

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Dean Clyde is a meticulous and careful worker. He holds strong opinions based on the available data or on a sound judgment. He has been disinterested in publications and has accepted invitations to present data with some reluctance, usually preferring to support his associates.

I know of no reason why he would want to leave Miami, since my recent discussions with him at the World Congress of Psychiatry led me to believe that he was quite pleased with his work.

With regard to the question of his research capabilities and potential, I would suggest you review his many efforts to establish sound methods for the evaluation of behavioral change, As the original programs were presented at a time when such methods were novel and not utilized. Similarly, his vision of the use of computers in EEG analysis antedated the present enthusiasm, and while he has not carried out this program in his own laboratory, I would give him credit for my programs in Missouri and New York. I do not know what his present focus is, but would not be surprised if he is anticipating some of the programs to come.

With regard to professionals like himself who are interested in psychopharmacology and psychiatry I think that he is unrivaled. The other names that come to mind have achieved at best a similar standing.

With regard to the level of appointment, I would have no hesitation for recommending him for a senior position such as he holds now in Miami, for I made the same recommendation to Washington University in 1963.

My best regards.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.  
Professor of Psychiatry

MF:kp

cc: Dr. Dean Clyde