

November 21st, 1972

W. Russell Taylor, M.D.
Director, Clinical Pharmacology -
Toxicology Center,
Philadelphia General Hospital,
34th St. and Civic Center Blvd.,
Philadelphia, Pa. 19104.

Dear Russ,

I read, and reread your reprint "Addiction and the Community (Narcotic Substitution Therapy)" with much interest, and a sense of agreement. While we have not carried out as systematic studies of the impact of methadone on our service as you have, we are aware of the same effects - increased methadone abuse, illicit sale, persistent morphine use, and persistent alcohol use.

But what should be done, to bring these data and the risks which society is willingly taking, to the attention of the opinion makers? For many months we have expressed our objections to heroin delivery, and for the time being this experiment is delayed. We have also encouraged a more rapid evaluation and use of levomethadyl, seeing this use as a small step in reducing the spread of illicit methadone.

I know more should be done, to bring your data to the attention of the government, and encourage you to do so.

Congratulations on a most valuable report.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry

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