

73SB-607

April 9th, 1973

Louis J. West, M.D.
Department of Psychiatry,
School of Medicine,
The Center for the Health Sciences,
Los Angeles, California 90024.

Dear Jolly,

I would be pleased to endorse your candidacy for
President of the American Psychiatric Association.

I believe that the election of Al Freedman marked
a significant change in the course of the history of
the APA. For the past decade I have watched the APA
deteriorate as the programs became too big, with
repetition of papers by the same people; the sections
were disbanded, so that men of common interest did not
have a nidus about which to meet; the dues increased
excessively with a heavy emphasis on building funds,
pension benefits, and other monuments for the central
office. I have also watched the attempt by the district
branches to assume some leadership, only to find that
they are powerless, and that proved a disappointing
endeavor.

I know that Al will make heroic efforts to make the
society more representative and to improve its ability
to respond to the members. Perhaps, in your next letter,
you would indicate such issues that you feel are important
to the APA so that those who are inclined to support your
candidacy will be able to document their support with
statements about the issues for the society.

My best regards.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry

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