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June 23, 1972

Mrs. Roberta London
Contemporary Drug Problems
515 Oxford Street
Westbury, New York 11590

Dear Mrs. London,

I read the first issue of *Contemporary Drug Problems* with much interest, and found much that was new to me. I hope you will be successful.

I have read the articles by Samuels and by Hochstetter. They are disappointing. Both are vague polemics, hoping that drug delivery will, in some undefined way, solve the opiate dependence problem. Neither provides answers to the technical issues with which we have grappled-- how to select patients; how to deliver drug safely; what about spillage; what is the duration of the treatment; etc. More important, neither gives a clue as to their view of the etiology of dependence and how heroin delivery will serve the patient, or even society. Perhaps the third paper is better-- I should like to read it if I am to provide a commentary, which I will do gladly. Can you send me the San Francisco report ?

Yes, I should be pleased to participate in a panel discussion on heroin maintenance. I will try to bring to it the technical issues which seem so complex, the problem, of 'after heroin, what then?', and, so as not to be wholly negative, some alternate solutions based on a different view of the etiology of drug dependence. I do not know whom else you are considering for the panel other than the well known advocates (Vera representatives, Samuels). Have you thought of some official points of view, as that of BNDD (Haislip), SAOBAP (Jaffe or Kramer), NIMH (Bunney or Petersen), and the Marijuana Commission (Brill) ?

Good luck in your new venture. It serves a need, and I know it will succeed.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry