

July 8, 1969

Dear Dr. Munch,

I very much appreciate the reports which you kindly sent me and which I have read with great interest. The material is of special interest, for if it presents the most salient data upon which criticism of cannabis use is based, then the criticism is indeed poorly founded. The two reports containing the most detailed cases, that of Milman and of Grossman, are the most convincing. Dr. Milman's data is the most damaging, and cannot be easily faulted. Dr. Grossman's is weak for the reason that a special type of American becomes an expatriated 'hippie' and then the use of anything must be assumed and the results can be ascribed to anything.

Before you conclude that our laboratory is a defender of cannabis use, please be assured that we are not. We have reviewed the available literature and concluded that there was insufficient evidence upon which to base *any* conclusion, and have proposed new extensive experimental and sociological studies, including some overseas in areas where potent cannabis is in use.

Our argument with the authors who rail against cannabis use without data is that they play into the hands of the community leaders who wish to use such a movement for political purposes, and serve not to decrease the use of the drugs, but to increase the distance between potential users and the rules of the establishment. We recall with great interest the sharp reduction in LSD use when some of the fearful consequences were advertised. Not the general consequences of psychosis, but the specifics of genetic damage. Until such a connection can be found, if it indeed exists, the present railing against cannabis by articles purporting to demonstrate connections will serve no useful purpose. In this I would include the articles by Glatt, Leonard, Munch and Luby, of those that you sent me.

I, too, will be at the AMA meeting, at the addiction symposium, and would be pleased to meet you after the session.

Again, my thanks for your kindness in sending me the reports.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.