

18 January 1974

Daniel X. Freedman, M.D., Chairman
APA Commission on Drug Abuse
The University of Chicago
Department of Psychiatry
950 East 59th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60637

Dear Dan:

I have read the report of the Ad Hoc Coordinating Committee on Drugs, as written by Roger.

It is quite clear that there are a limited number of nationally-known consultants who are called upon to respond to national issues in the form of drug abuse. Because their numbers are few, they also are also called upon by various national organizations. It was my understanding that the AMA Committee on Drugs had for many years assumed the leadership in the field but because their membership reflected nominations primarily from the AMA, that committee did not reflect the opinion of the younger, progressive members of the other societies who have developed an expertise in this area.

The proposal by Roger suggests the establishment of an APA Council on Controlled Substances and Alcohol, with a budget including a consultant. I concur with this recommendation but would suggest one additional step. Perhaps the APA would consider the development of a National Council on Controlled Substances and Alcohol to represent the point of view of the APA, ACNP, Society of Biological Psychiatry, NRC-NAS Committee, American Psychopathological Association, and such other similar agencies of which you are a leading member. Should many of these organizations be brought together and should their treasuries be tapped (expecially the ACNP and APA), then one can envisage support of an active office in Washington to represent the various views of these organizations on drug problems.

At the least, I am writing to concur with the recommendation of a council and a consultant for the APA.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry

MF/cis
cc: Roger E. Meyer, M.D.