

# NATIONAL COMMITTEE *against* MENTAL ILLNESS

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August 31, 1964

The Honorable John E. Fogarty  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear John:

I enclose suggested language on the cancer contract program for inclusion in your conference report to the House on Labor-H.E.W. appropriations for fiscal 1965.

I would like to talk to you about the appropriations for the juvenile delinquency program. As you know, the Senate included \$15 million for the first year of the program under the renewal authorization passed by the Congress in 1964. All of us who are interested in the field of juvenile delinquency hope that you will be able to hold the full \$15 million in conference.

Cordially,

  
Mike Gorman

Enclosure

Cancer Contract Language for Conference Report on  
Labor-H.E.W., fiscal 1965 Appropriations

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In recent years as the National Cancer Institute has concentrated increasingly upon certain broad areas in the causation and treatment of cancer, it has made increasing use of the contract mechanism in order to achieve specifically defined goals. The contract mechanism has been widely applied in the collaborative cancer chemotherapy program and recently it has come increasingly into use in exploring the possible links between various viruses and the development of cancer.

The National Cancer Advisory Council is clearly directed by Public Law 655 to review research applications not only from universities or hospitals, but from industrial or other sources. Before making payment for support of these projects, the Surgeon General of the Public Health Service must receive certification of approval from the National Advisory Council.

On September 26, 1963, in presenting to the House the conference report on Labor-H.E.W. appropriations for fiscal 1964, I noted that these research contracts were not being cleared through the Advisory Council as mandated by law. I informed the House at that time that it was my judgment that research contracts should be cleared through the Council in the same manner as all research grant applications. In reviewing and evaluating the various programs of the National Cancer Institute, the Council is unable to fulfill its task if it is not given basic information on contract programs which involve the expenditure of millions of dollars each year.

The Senate this year added \$10 million to the budget of the National Cancer Institute to carry out a special program exploring in depth the exciting leads relating to the viral causation of cancer. This new program, which I heartily endorse, should also be subjected to careful review and approval by the National Cancer Advisory Council.

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Mr. Speaker, the sense of the conference report therefore directs officials of the National Cancer Institute to submit all contracts for review and approval by the Council. It further directs the Institute to provide the Appropriations Committees in both the House and the Senate with a list of all actions taken by the National Cancer Advisory Council on these contract programs within 30 days after the termination of each Council meeting.