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Dear Dr. Nylander:

I have read with much interest the articles about you in the New Yorker magazines of June 26 and July 3. I congratulate you for your attitude and approach to a problem that has taken much of my time since 1923 when I was brought to what is now the National Institute of Mental Health specifically to study drug addiction.

I of course have your book - The Drug Addict as a Patient - and for years I have been referring people to it specifically to read Jeffrey Bishop's chapter on the British Approach.

About the British Approach, the reaction of some seemingly competent psychiatrists to it makes one wonder at first about the present breed of psychiatrists. In the face of the 1926 and 1961 Interdepartmental Reports on addiction they will say that the British system is practically the same as ours.

1964 F.B.I. uniform Crime Reports show that in 1964 there were 16 arrests in the U.S. of persons 10 years of age and under for violations of narcotic laws, and only a few days ago a physician in Kentucky was sentenced to 20 years in prison and fined \$2000 for allegedly violating narcotic laws. I don't know anything about the guilt of this physician but I think I know that in England if guilty he would have had his right to prescribe narcotics withdrawn, but nothing else would have been done.

When I opened up the Lexington Hospital in 1935 we immediately started treatment of opiate addicts by a reduction method. It is I know difficult to believe but the narcotic addicts who come to see what we were doing pondered seriously whether I should be arrested for narcotic violations.

You refer to yourself as a coward. I am even more cowardly, I have never prescribed for an addict except in a public hospital and only three or four have been able to break

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through to me and one of these a nurse from Pittsburgh came twice. She might have been saved from suicide by appropriate handling.

If you have a reprint of your article, "Withdrawal Treatment of Drug Addiction" that appeared in the New England Journal of Medicine in January 1950, I would like to have a copy.

I would like to know more about your methadone project. Methadone had not been invented while I was actively treating addicts, but on the basis of Lexington usage I recommended it in my book for withdrawal treatment. I am thinking that ^{even} if addicts can be stabilized and satisfied with small doses of methadone substituted for heroin or morphine, the Narcotic Bureau will still be penitentiary minded.

I occasionally visit my son Lawrence C. Koll who heads the Department of Psychiatry at Columbia University, and knowing of your work with addicts have thought of visiting you; now that you grow so important I am diffident about it. Again congratulating you for your outstanding work.

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Sincerely yours

Lawrence Koll