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Washington 15, D. C.

August 29, 1956

Dr. Maurice SeEVERS  
Department of Pharmacology  
University of Michigan Medical School  
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Dear Dr. SeEVERS:

Growing hysteria about drug addiction that has led to monstrous legal and administrative excesses prompted me to write about it for a popular journal. I hoped by presenting simple facts to arouse public reaction that would hold a trend that threatens to carry us back close to the witch hunting area of several centuries ago, when so many mental patients and other helpless people were executed. As an example of the trend, a witness before a committee of Congress said in support of a specially vicious bill "The language of the new Bill will enable us to trap an addict like a wild animal."

I am sending the enclosed reprint to some leading physicians and other professional men throughout the country in the hope that the medically oriented professions may be aroused to some constructive action.

The British method of dealing with drug addiction is well described in a chapter by Jeffrey Bishop, a prominent London physician, in Marie Nyswander's book, "The Drug Addict as a Patient", Grune and Stratton, 1946. It is also described, in at least three other publications available in this country. I have a letter from the Home Office about it and I studied it off and on in England, 1928-31. There is no doubt about the successful, humane and effective British approach. They deal with opiate addiction as a medical problem with only sufficient touch from law enforcement authorities to prevent unnecessary physical addiction.

Sincerely yours,

Lawrence Kolb, M. D.

Enclosure  
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