

Selected Letters and a Memo from the Files of President John F. Kennedy's Personal Physician aka Miracle Max aka Dr. Feelgood aka Dr. Max Jacobson

Mrs. Harold Segal
Albany, New York

December 7, 1972

Mr. John B. Oakes
Editorial Editor
New York Times

Dear Mr. Oakes:

I am the wife of a multiple sclerosis patient of Dr. Max Jacobson. On December 4, 1972, you published a lengthy article in The New York Times concerning the medical practice of Dr. Max Jacobson and referred to his unauthorized use of amphetamines in the treatment of his "wealthy patients."

My husband has suffered with M.S. since 1946, and, was getting progressively worse. He was under the care of the Out Patient Department of the V.A. Hospital for many years, as well as under his own personal physician's care. My husband has been a very active man, a successful practicing attorney-at-law, and a Judge of the City Court of Albany for over ten years.

I was advised by physicians who were personal friends, not to torment him by seeking other doctors to treat him, since there was no known cause and no treatment that could help him.

I went along with this advice until one day I received a call from a relative in New York who had just been in contact with a patient of Dr. Jacobson's. She had been treated so successfully for M.S. that she could now pursue her usual activities.

I immediately contacted this woman, and was given the address of Dr. Max Jacobson. When I called for an appointment, I was told that the doctor did not take a new patient until all medical records pertaining to the patient's condition were forwarded and reviewed by Dr. Jacobson. No inquiry was ever made of our financial ability to pay for any treatment that might be necessary.

We were fortunate. Within two months, we received a call giving us our first appointment. At the time of the first appointment, my husband was wearing a metal foot brace attached to his shoe on his right leg to aid in his walking by reason of a foot drop. The muscles in the calf of his right leg were very loose and flabby. His right leg was

colorless and considerably thinner than his left leg. His right ankle was stiff. His posture was poor and he was slightly stooped. His general physical condition was poor.

On our first visit, after examination, Dr. Jacobson advised my husband that there was no cure for his condition but that he practiced regenerative medicine and that he could definitely help him.

Within two months after treatment by Dr. Jacobson, including massage after application of his special ointment, vitamins, and injections of enzymes and vitamins, my husband was able to discard the brace. The muscles in his leg had become revitalized and strengthened. His leg gradually increased to normal size and he no longer had a frozen ankle.

In the early stages we visited his office for treatment weekly. After several months we went every other week, and this past year we visit him every third week for treatment and injections.

On the occasions of our many visits, I have sat with my husband in the crowded waiting room with people from all walks of life. We have waited, with the others, for many hours to be treated by the doctor, who seems to have no conception of time but only consideration for his patients. Sometimes we waited until the wee hours of the morning. We have found Dr. Jacobson to be the most concerned, dedicated, brilliant, and capable physician we have ever come in contact with.

Your article has implied, and the impression created therefrom, that he has among his patients only the very wealthy, affluent and theatrical people of renown. It is true that Dr. Jacobson has many patients of means and affluence, but he also has many middle class and poor patients, many of whom do not pay any fee for medical services rendered.

I do not understand why you are attempting to destroy this great man. Why have you not questioned or reported the tremendous GOOD he has done?

He has written over 20 articles which have been published in medical journals and other medical publications of great value to the profession.

Why have you not checked upon his current successful experimentation and development of a treatment for Retinitis Pigmentosa which prevents blindness and aids in preservation of vision, and which has been submitted to approval by the Federal Public Health Department?

Why have you not checked upon his experimentation with photography and his development of a new process, which has been offered to and accepted by NASA?

Why have you not checked upon his treatment for infectious hepatitis which, although published in the Medical Journal, has never been used or accepted by the medical profession?

My husband is one of the many patients who have received the 30 cc vial of injectables described in your articles, which I have administered to him for the past year, and have witnessed the therapeutic effect it has upon him.

All of the above statements, if required will be submitted to you by a sworn statement by my husband and myself.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Harold Segal

Sidney Weniger
New York

December 15, 1972

Dr. Lawrence Essenson
Chairman of the Board of Censors

Dear Dr. Essenson:

Let me preface this letter by stating that I have received no communication from Dr. Jacobson but have undertaken to write this on my own initiative, and obtained your name from his office.

I will also be pleased to be interviewed personally by you or anyone interested in clarifying or elaborating upon the many distortions in the New York Times stories and articles.

My brother became a patient of Dr. Jacobson over 20 years ago after he contracted Parkinson's disease and his wife was told at Columbia-Presbyterian Hospital that "nothing further can be done. Make the best of it" or words to that effect. To describe the continuing results over those years which I have personally observed would take much more saying than can be accomplished in a brief letter.

Shortly after my brother became a patient, my mother and father both became patients of Dr. Jacobson and space cannot permit the description of the enormous scope of gratitude my father had for Dr. Jacobson, not only for the benefits received by my brother before himself and my mother as well.

In fact, my father, who is certainly not a celebrity but rather an unsophisticated carpenter and builder, felt so enormously benefited by Dr. Jacobson, that he built a laboratory-office for him at his summer home as a gift.

I recall one instance when Dr. Jacobson made a house call from Manhattan to Merrick Long Island, to treat my brother, which undoubtedly does make him rather unique, but in a different way from the New York Times article.

Some 16 or 17 years ago I also became a patient of Dr. Jacobson and have had nothing but high praise for him ever since. Earlier this year I was quite ill with the flu and was able to maintain communication with Dr. Jacobson through the midnight hours, which also makes him rather unique unto himself.

Although the result of the Times article seems to imply that almost all of Dr. Jacobson's patients were celebrities from President Kennedy down, from my own observations of the hundreds and hundreds of patients I've seen in his waiting room over the years, this is grossly distorted and exaggerated.

Most of the people were, in fact, ordinary middle class and blue-collar people, and many were not charged any fee to boot.

Only a couple months ago by virtue of his seeing me one evening without an appointment, he impressed upon me the duty of driving home a multiple sclerosis patient who lived in a most humble dwelling in Long Island City. I do not think he even paid the doctor a fee. It is after all the patients en masse who are the best judges of a physician and if the Times had interviewed a small percentage of the many patients of Max Jacobson over the years, I think the results of honest reporting would have been vastly different.

I have seen people crippled from arthritis and other handicaps leave his office enormously improved. I might add that we have utilized Dr. Jacobson in conjunction with or as an adjunct to our family doctor.

Over the years I have recommended him to many people (until he stopped taking new patients), some of whom still see him after 10 or 15 years. It is people such as these and others who perhaps should be the subject of interviews rather than those interviewed by the television cameras at a Roman Spectacle because of the New York Times incomplete story.

Nowhere was there any real research done with the hundreds of patients who have benefited and would relate such benefits to a reporter.

In all the years that I have seen him and been there and talked with the many, many patients in the waiting room and elsewhere, the only complaints I ever heard was that it took so long in the waiting room. I never heard one direct or indirect criticism of his skill, benefits or results in almost 20 years.

In fact, of all of the patients that I know who have discontinued with Dr. Jacobson, The sole reason ever given was that they were business men and busy people who could not spend hours in his waiting room.

There are many more things I could write but this letter would become repetitious. I think you have the drift of what I am saying and will add only that I will be glad to offer my time to meet with any representative of the medical present or newspapers to perhaps reiterate in person and more detail such personal observations which I think I can make, which will establish an overall perspective of Dr. Jacobson rather than the narrow distorted version given by the Times.

You will also be able to observe and decide whether Dr. Jacobson has helped thousands of normal, stable persons rather than the "wild blue yonder" type of clientele indicated in the articles.

It is a sad travesty of justice that a man who has devoted so many years to really helping people with an attitude that we too often lack in modern medicine, should be portrayed by such incomplete and slanted destruction of character.

If my own son who is planning to study medicine were successful in becoming a physician of the approach and attitude to people of Dr. Jacobson's, I would feel extraordinarily gratified.

Very truly yours,

Sidney N. Weniger, P.E.

cc: State Education Department
Division of Professional Licensing Service

John B. Oakes
Editorial Director
The New York Times

Dr. Max Jacobson

Eugene Lyons
Reader's Digest
New York, NY

December 25, 1972

Dear Max:

I want to wish you a happy and fruitful new year. And I want to use the occasion to assure you that no one truly familiar with your life-work has been affected by the recent rash of press stories. The Times article, on which it is all based, seemed to me unfair and unbalanced, more an attack than a serious report.

Those who, like myself, have experienced and watched it for many years will continue to admire you for your accomplishments and dedication. Personally I can never forget how you helped Billie, my wife, at times when conventional doctors were helpless.

I am grateful for your readiness to come over, early this November, when she suffered a sudden setback, the first in more than ten years. Luckily she began to recover almost at once and I decided not to impose on you.

Her recovery is not yet complete – her speech especially has been seriously affected. If there is no further improvement, I will again take the liberty of turning to you. Knowing how much your every hour counts, I simply haven't the nerve to bother you except in time of real crisis and alarm.

In friendship and gratitude, as ever,

Gene

PS – Billie, to whom I've just read this letter, managed to say: "Tell him I still love him."

Edward C. Cronin

January 16, 1973

Dear Dr. Jacobson:

I read with avid interest the New York Times commentary of December 4, 1972, on your technique for heightening the performance capabilities of your many gifted patients. The manifest bias demonstrated by the authors of this article is unfair to both you and the other practitioners who have discerned possible benefits in the judicious administration of barbiturates and amphetamines in carefully selected cases.

My purpose in writing, is to offer supportive and confirmatory evidence that these drugs when used with discretion can exert a salutary influence over an extended period of time without occasioning clinical side effects. My experience with amphetamines and barbiturates over twenty years evidences, at least to my mind the utter unwisdom of that body of opinion medical or otherwise, who condemn the use of psychoactive drugs for other than the treatment of narcolepsy or hyperkinesis. In 1953 when it was discovered I was hosting metastatic melanoma, I became understandably depressed and insomniac. My father Eugene J. Cronin a surgeon and medical practitioner prescribed nembutal. Concurrently, my case was referred to Dr. Cushman D Haagensen for surgical remedy. My chances for quinquennial survival were set at thirty to one. Today, as a consequence of Dr. Haagensen's legendary surgical technique, palpable antibody resistance and, in my obviously arguable opinion, nembutal adjunctive therapy I have enjoyed the gift of good health for the past two decades.

The other interesting aspect in this case concerns my occasional use of desbutal. At the age of twenty seven, I began to compete in AAU and YMCA sanctioned swimming events. In a three year span in addition to winning a metropolitan Junior AAU title and setting a record for the distance, I earned placement medals in the National Junior, National YMCA, New York State AAU and Senior Metropolitan Championship Events.

When in 1953, with cancer and its aftermath curtailing my athletic activities I commenced to accumulate the inevitable suet, I asked my father to prescribe desbutal to counteract this unwelcome tendency. In 1955 I resumed competitive athletics on a recreational level.

In 1967, upon discovering that with the aid of the pendulum technique (nembutal to promote deep level sleep and desbutal the following day to intensify the rebound tendency) my physical ability and stamina was substantially enhanced, I returned to active competition. Since that time until the present I have participated in league and tournament volleyball competition. I also renewed and expanded my interest in swimming. What is most remarkable and certainly of relevance to your thinking in this matter is the fact that by employing this ancillary technique, I have been enabled the

distinction of being one of the few men in the world (certainly less than ten in number) presently participating in open volleyball tourneys over the age of fifty. Further, my time of thirty five minutes for swimming a distance of one mile butterfly, has never to my knowledge been equaled in national or world competition by anyone in my age division.

If the above exposition does not attest to the salutary effect of psychoactive drugs prudently administered to dependable subjects, then all chemotherapy is a disgusting fraud and should be labeled as such.

Very truly yours,

Edward C. Cronin

Dr. Max Jacobson

January 19, 1973

Dear Mr. Cronin,

Thank you for your interesting and informative letter of January 16. That someone should take the trouble to extract, from the mass of speculation and innuendo printed by the New York Times, the article's small factual content, and then take the further trouble to write to me about it, is something I appreciate very much.

Your description of what psychochemicals have accomplished in your very unusual case is most interesting. I would like the opportunity to discuss it with you further. In my own therapy (as the Times did not choose to mention), I use psychostimulants such as amphetamines, only in conjunction with vitamins and in many cases, amino-acids. I have found that this approach typically achieves better and more durable results from smaller doses than those used in general medical practice.

I note that you are a long-distance swimmer. Myself I swim almost every day (except Mondays) at an Olympic-sized pool a few blocks from my office: I try to do at least 20 lengths a day, and 50 or more if time allows. If you would like to join me one evening, I would suggest a Saturday (usually around 6 or 7pm) or a Sunday an hour or so earlier. If you would be kind enough to call my office at the above number and tell the receptionist what day you will suit you I will call you back with instructions on a definite time and place.

With renewed thanks and best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Max Jacobson, M.D.

Edward C. Cronin

February 20, 1973

Dear Mrs. Jacobson:

I am deeply beholden to you and your extraordinary husband for the great kindness extended while visiting your home recently. You are both extremely rare human beings and when you touch the lives of lesser mortals it is understandable why they should feel measurably enriched.

Charisma is a term that sometimes can be too loosely applied. The scope of Dr. Jacobson's personal magnetism is of such magnitude that none can deny its authentic character. I thank you profoundly for all the warmth and effort my visit evoked. The remembrance will remain forefront with the pleasure of recall unlikely ever to wane.

Sincerely,

Edward C. Cronin

Milton Winitz, Ph.D.
San Jose, CA

January 26, 1973

LETTERS,
Newsweek, Inc.

Dear Sir:

Your well-presented article on Dr. Max Jacobson (The Story of a 'Dr. Feelgood,' Dec. 18) brings forth several issues — the usual misconceptions concerning the very real need for large vitamin supplements, general lack of knowledge and comprehension by the medical profession for the wisdom in supplying and fulfilling the human body deficiencies concerning vitamins. Too little knowledge and understanding exists concerning the basics required for efficient utilization of vitamins and drug preparations administered with proper guidance. The success of Dr. Jacobson boils down to an innate knowledge of physical deficiencies braced with the understanding that depression accompanies the malnourished state, the fact the diseased state occurs when basic requirements are not met, and his true love and concern for his fellow beings irrespective of his personal regard for them as individuals.

Many medications on the market are not understood, are under or overrated, and surely misused. A fine practitioner of Dr. Jacobson's caliber should not be ostracized due to general ignorance of the medical profession and general public.

Milton Winitz, Ph.D.
Metabolic Nutrition
PHASE THREE GROUP

Gilda Edwards

March 1, 1973

To the Editor of the New York Times

Dear Sir:

I wrote the Times on Dec. 8, 1972, to strongly protest an extremely unfair article about Dr. Max Jacobson, of Dec. 3. The continued appearance of such articles makes it clear that someone, somewhere, is out to "get" Dr. Jacobson.

Concerning the story on Milton Blackstone: much was said about his present bad condition, but no one bothered to make the rather obvious point that his condition might be far worse had he never been treated by Dr. Jacobson.

Sunday's article (Feb. 25) was almost laughable. In an accusatory manner, it stated that four of Dr. Jacobson's patients had died. In a practice stretching over 48 years, this is an admirable record!

Yours truly,

Gilda M. Edwards
(Mrs. Bruce Edwards)

Gilda Edwards

May 8, 1973

To Whom It May Concern:

I have already written a letter to the State Dept. of Education and Dr. Lawrence Essenson, detailing all that Dr. Jacobson has done for me, but I feel constrained to answer, as far as I can, having been one of the doctors M.S. patients for eleven years, the indictment against him.

The indictment reads that the M.S. medicines are, "not tested for strength, safety, sterility, quality or purity." The sound of the sterilizer is heard in the office, and the 30 cc bottles of injectable medication given to patients are often wrapped in paper towels because they have just come from the sterilizer, and are too hot to handle.

I have known Dr. Jacobson to test the medicine on himself. And, several years ago, when I asked Dr. Jacobson about L Dopa, then being touted as of possible help in M.S., he told me there were "too many bad side effects."

Finally, it all comes down to one point: the prognosis for an M.S. patient is not a pleasant one, and Dr. Jacobson gives us hope for the future, as well as help in the present. I beg you, on behalf of all the M.S. patients, do not deprive us of this hope and this help.

Yours truly,

Gilda M. Edwards
(Mrs. Bruce Edwards)

Florence George Crosby Ortiz
Salisbury, Connecticut

March 23, 1973

My dear Dr. Max,

I have been so concerned for you over the stories I've been reading in the papers. It is inconceivable to me that a doctor as dedicated to humanity as you have been should be the target of such a vicious campaign.

You have been my doctor for over twenty years, and I feel I am a living proof of your genius.

The first time I came to you I was brought by my late husband – Everett Crosby. I found your waiting room full of patients and had to wait several hours to see you. I remember being quite annoyed.

But you cured me of hay fever in about two visits. And this had bothered me since my early teens.

Everett was coming to you for multiple problems – poor circulation, diabetes, overweight and a general debility – aggravated by excessive smoking and alcohol.

I well remember you warning Everett, and even getting angry at him for his lack of care of himself. At one time, you even asked him not to consider himself your patient, inasmuch as he refused to follow your advice.

In the meantime, I was told by two gynecologists that I had two tumors the size of a grapefruit and that I must have a complete hysterectomy. I remember coming to you crying. My mother had had a tumor removed and died of cancer – and I was sure I had it. You scolded me for my hysteria and told me, "When you've finished that crying, I'll talk to you," and left the treatment room.

Upon your return, you suggested I see Dr. Harbrick Halsted, gynecologist, on Park Ave. I was to have him examine me and then he was to call you in my presence.

Dr. Halsted also told me I must have a hysterectomy, and that my uterus was bad – "I would never be a well woman" without such an operation.

I went back to my apartment terribly depressed, feeling my condition was hopeless. I phoned you and came to see you. I realized at that time how truly dedicated you were. You treated me and within a few hours the painful swelling in my abdomen began to decrease. I had looked like I was seven or eight months pregnant. Within several days and several treatments I felt much better and functions were normal.

You then said "Go back to Dr. H and ask him where the tumors are."

I went back to Dr. Halsted – he examined me and said, "If I hadn't seen and examined you myself, I would never believe it – the tumors are gone." He then went on, "If Dr. Max Jacobson had my bedside manner, he'd have people around the block on their knees – he is a real genius."

I know Dr. Halsted held you in high regard, and I also saw him as a patient in your office.

Dr. Max, you saved me from having a hysterectomy. I have enjoyed excellent health for about ten years. I can never thank you enough for your genuine solicitude and your uncommon knowledge.

When Everett refused all medical advice from you – you sent him to a diabetic specialist, whose name I cannot recall at the moment. But he is a highly recognized specialist on the staff of Mount Sinai. He too was unable to keep Everett on a regime. Everett's condition worsened and his leg was removed.

In this instance an operation was performed on Everett which was sheer butchery. A well-known surgeon left the shin bone exposed without a flap of skin to cover it. It never healed. The four years following were a nightmare – one surgical job after another. I called you to help allay his suffering – and you came at all hours. When Everett's remaining leg was removed you went to the operating room with him and called me to tell me he had survived the surgery.

It was now that Everett finally admitted "If only I would have listened to Max – this might have been avoided."

You have always shown the greatest reverence for life and I am a living witness to your valiant effort to help so many. I have seen you work with MS patients – I have watched you with the elderly. And I have seen you give my father a great deal of comfort in his last years, and my Dad adored you. I know because of you Nina walked again when other doctors said she never would after her horse accident.

I've spoken with countless patients in your waiting room – and heard the true accounts of your help to so many.

You have given your life to mankind. And I know God will protect you from the cruel jealousies and vicious lies against you.

All these years I have been a patient of yours. But I am not now, nor have I ever been addicted to drugs.

The fact that some neurotic people may have abused your treatments, and combined them with other doctors' medication, and more than likely an abundance of alcohol, should not be a detriment to your name and reputation.

I have a tendency to put on weight. You have never promised me any quick reducing treatment. On the contrary, you have told me self-discipline was the key to weight loss.

When I think of all the surgeons who cut up women every year – removing their female organs without a qualm of conscience – with no regard for the woman's psyche and her system – I wonder about the justice – about the sincerity of the Medical Association. The countless surgical jobs are not under scrutiny. They are accepted, blindly.

I feel the campaign to ruin you is unjust and another disgrace. And I feel it's an attempt to keep progress from the medical profession.

All great scientists and geniuses have been persecuted, ridiculed and subject to punishment, because of ignorance of their accusers.

I pray God will vindicate you dear Dr. Max. If I can help, please call on me. I'm forever indebted to you, and I know countless others are too.

Yours devotedly,

Florence George Crosby Ortiz
(Mrs. Andelmo Ortiz)

Leonard Sillman
New York, NY

April 2, 1973

Dear Max,

I can not express in words how shocked I have been over the articles in the Times and the accusations made against you. If ever there was a witch-hunt, this is it! But the thing that can be of some consolation to you, is that so many great people in history and also of our present day who were truly pioneers, met with the same fate. In the end, they were all exonerated.

You have been my doctor for over twenty years and on three separate occasions have saved my life. I shall never forget how, when suffering from acute food poisoning, you and a nurse were at my bed side within ten minutes of my call to you, and how you stayed with me throughout that long night. Nor shall I forget the two serious falls I took down the stairs. Both times I called you in the privacy of your home, and both times you came. Tell me what doctor today would do the same.

I recall now years ago you expressing to me your interest in keeping the very young and the very old alive. Over the years I have seen the love and care and devotion you have given them. I have watched you with your MS patients and have seen the miraculous things you have done for them. How tragic that two of your greatest qualities, compassion and humanitarianism, are the subject of this witch-hunt.

If all the things they say about you were true Max, you'd be a very rich man living on Park Avenue. But you are not a rich man for you have treated hundreds and hundreds of patients over the years without charge. Need I say more.

If there is anything I can do for you Max, please let me know. I will always be your friend and great admirer.

With deep gratitude and love,

Leonard

Charlotte Ellis
New York

April 4, 1973

Chief, Department of Licensing
State Department of Education

Dear Sir:

I am a patient of Dr. Jacobson and have been so immeasurably helped by him that I feel it my duty to write you in his behalf.

I was suffering from rheumatoid arthritis, my hands and wrists so swollen I was unable to continue to work, open the door of my apartment, hold a cup of liquid, etc. Since I lived alone, getting dressed in the morning was an agonizing experience. After a number of treatments by D. Jacobson, I noticed a definite improvement. After many treatments, all swelling has disappeared and I have regained the muscular use of my hands. I only feel a twinge of pain 24 hours or more before a change in the weather.

And for all these treatments, due to my circumstances, I was never charged.

Is this the type of professional who should be censured in any way? — A doctor of great medical perception and diagnostic qualities, a doctor who has treated so many to good health and, in addition, a humanitarian — in this day and age, a great rarity.

Dr. Jacobson also taught me the importance and value of preventive medicine, to recognize the first symptoms and to have immediate care. This has been a boon and a blessing since I live alone.

In closing, I wish to call your attention to an article in the Sunday "Times" of March 25, which you have no doubt read. This article stated that amphetamine addicted persons went to Dr. Jacobson for a breakfast shot; to another doctor therein named, for a luncheon shot and still another, for an evening shot. This should substantiate Dr. Jacobson's claim that he gave small doses to these persons who, not satisfied with so small a dosage, went to two other doctors in one day to boost their shots. They were undoubtedly addicted before they became patients of Dr. Jacobson.

Please give this letter your earnest and very careful consideration.

I would deeply appreciate your acknowledging receipt of this letter. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Charlotte Ellis

Marvin Goodson
Ball, Hunt, Hart, Brown and Baerwitz
Beverly Hills, CA

April 4, 1973

Dear Dr. Jacobson:

I have heard with great distress of the attacks on you in the New York Times newspaper and by state authorities that have been stirred up by such attacks.

I am writing this letter to go on record with my personal case history and to offer to come in to New York to give testimony on your behalf to any board of inquiry where your lawyers believe such to be proper and relevant.

I first visited with you in September, 1969. I came from California to New York specifically to meet with you. You took time out on a Sunday to come to your office to meet with me and you spent two to three hours with me in examination and treatment.

For several years prior to my visiting with you for my first treatment I had been in very severe pain and was almost a cripple. I had intense lower back pains with constant severe pains down both legs, on the front of the sciatic areas. I was on pain-killing drugs five to seven days a week and sixteen to twenty-four hours a day. It had become very difficult for me to work. Sitting up was often so painful that I conducted conferences lying flat on my back on the floor in a conference room.

Prior to seeing you, I had gone to many outstanding doctors in the Southern California area who had given me no hope for any relief of my pain. They had not even been able to come up with any consistent, meaningful analysis of the cause of my problems. I had even made a special trip to the Mayo Clinic for the sole purpose of having them do a complete, thorough examination to see if they could determine the cause and a treatment. Their only conclusion was that I "had a very bad back" and that it was so badly distorted that they felt surgery was too dangerous to attempt.

As a matter of time reference, my back problems commenced in 1959 and became progressively worse until I visited your office in September, 1969.

You first treated me by massaging my lower back muscle areas with an ointment and magnetic vibrators. I felt immediate improvement. You then injected my lower back muscle structure with various solutions containing primarily vitamins and minerals. To say that I received immediate dramatic improvement would be the understatement of the medical century.

I literally crawled into your office. I not only walked out of your office — I walked all the way home to my hotel at 56th and Park Avenue.

Since that time I have seen you both in Los Angeles and in New York City on many occasions. I have spoken with you on the telephone asking your medical advice on many matters. Your suggestions have been like a miracle in my life.

I have continued my back treatment by a combination of three treatments that you recommend that are as follows:

1. Massaging an ointment that I receive from you into my lower back with a vibrating, electric magnet.
2. Taking vitamins orally which I sometimes get from you and which I more often purchase from a regular health food store.
3. One cc intramuscular injections two to three times weekly of a solution I receive from your office containing primarily vitamins and some hormones.

I do not get a “high” feeling from the injections nor do I feel let-down if I skip the injections for two or three weeks as sometimes has happened when I have run out of material.

However, your help to me has not been limited to those areas which other very eminent doctors found without solution.

One of the other difficult muscular problem areas I had was nocturnal spasms in the calves of my legs and in my feet. I would sometimes awaken at night in screeching pain from the muscle cramps in one or both legs. I had brought this problem up to all doctors at Mayo Clinic. I was told that sometimes quinine worked; sometimes calcium worked; sometimes hot water worked; sometimes ice packs worked — but that they had no treatment that worked on any consistent or regular basis.

However, upon telling you of the problem, you gave me a simple prescription. You told me to drink a can of V-8 juice whenever I had a spasm. You told me to drink V-8 juice every day. I immediately started with the V-8 juice and my leg spasms immediately stopped. I now carry V-8 juice with me wherever I travel in the world — which, as you know, is quite a bit and quite often. I have had the leg spasms commence again when I have stopped taking V-8 juice for any period of time. However, as soon as I take the V-8 juice the spasms stop.

For those people who say that you have the same treatment for everyone— I will say that they are as ignorant as the witch burners who apparently still inhabit our country.

I now play golf twice each week and sometimes play tennis. I walk and I dance. At Mayo Clinic I was told “Mr. Goodson, forget golfing and dancing — just take it easy for the rest

of your life.” They were relegating me to a living death — you gave me physical comfort in living.

You have my utmost devotion. I am ready, willing and able to testify to all of these matters under oath and will waive the doctor-patient privilege.

My kindest regards,

Cordially,

Marvin Goodson

Frank Broida
Thousand Oaks, CA

May 6, 1973

Dear Max and Ruth,

I heard about the Board of Regents, and I'm writing to offer my moral support. I know what a blow this must be, but I know you will withstand it and be vindicated. Knowing the kind of compassionate human beings you are, I'll bet your greatest concern is for the poor devils, MS patients, who now will have no place to go for treatment, rather than to yourself. Please let me know if I can help. I will testify to anything.

The pious views of Drs. Todd and Essenson are particularly out of place, since they regulate a profession which under their guidance permits a man to face bankruptcy under the onslaught of a major illness unless he be either very rich or so poor only a clinic can treat him — and which permits the wealthiest nation in the world to be nowhere near the top in longevity or in the caliber of its national standards and health insurance benefits. God bless you and carry you through.

As ever,

Frank Broida

Ruth Owens, RN
Brooklyn, NY

June 7, 1973

To Whom It May Concern:

It seems miraculous, almost unbelievable, that after 17 years of agonizing migraine headaches, I am no free of that agony.

The past years would find me in bed daily with compresses on my head and eyes — getting no relief — the pain more intense and for longer periods of time. Many times I contemplated ending my tortured existence.

During this period I was in and out of many hospitals, including Johns Hopkins, was treated by several neurologists and ophthalmologists, all to no avail and no promise of relief. Finally in 1965 I lost my sight.

The migraines continued more intensive and for longer periods of time — one persisted for 23 days.

A year ago, through a friend, I started therapy with Dr. Max Jacobson — the immediate effects were miraculous — the migraines eased, then finally ceased. Occasionally, I may get a headache — for perhaps an hour, and a mild one at that.

During Dr. Jacobson's treatment, I gradually regain slight vision, but the vision does not last, though the periods of sight are slowly increasing.

Today, I am a renewed person; I have taken a part-time position and truly, have rejoined the "living."

It all seems like a miracle of rebirth — thanks to Dr. Jacobson.

Respectfully,,

Ruth Owens, RN

Otis Cavrell

TO THE EDITOR:

On December 4, 1972 one of the noblest institutions in the United States, the New York Times, let two of its pages turn yellow.

On that day acting in the interest of public information in a field that deserves examination, a doctor and his life work was in one day tried and sentenced without defense.

I am a lay person unable to evaluate Dr. Jacobson's medical accomplishments in the treatment of Infectious Hepatitis, Retina Diabeticus, Retinitis Pigmentosa and muscular degenerative diseases (MS).

The fact is that John Kennedy, the President of the United States, and many other accomplished and famous people trusted the judgment of Dr. Jacobson. There is also the testimony of hundreds, if not thousands, of former patients who regard Dr. Jacobson with gratitude. More important there are many patients Dr. Jacobson now treats who have been given up by the rest of the medical profession and who insist they are being kept alive and made healthier by his treatments.

I think this puts to the New York Times the same obligation it bore so well in the Pentagon Papers that Dr. Jacobson be given a fair hearing in the press... that Dr. Jacobson can state his defense but more important make his medical claims.

Dreyfus had his Paris — Freud had his Vienna. Is it possible that Jacobson has his New York Times? I do not know for sure. Do you?

Otis Cavrell

Brad Culverhouse
Miami, FL

Sept. 14, 1973

Dr. Lawrence Essenson, Chairman
Board of Censors

Dear Dr. Essenson:

Recently, I learned that the professional fitness and skill of Dr. Max Jacobson, as an MD, was being questioned, and is now the subject of an official inquiry.

I have been a patient of Dr. Jacobson's since January of 1968. I am 27 years of age and am a white caucasian male.

Since 1968, I have been treated by Dr. Jacobson for various physical ailments and, in my opinion, have never suffered any ill effects, physically or mentally, from this treatment. In fact, I have always believed that my health has improved greatly as a result of Dr. Jacobson's treatments.

During my lifetime, I have consulted numerous medical doctors for various physical ailments, and I have never found any doctor who I trust more than Dr. Jacobson. I have complete confidence in Dr. Jacobson and in his medical skill, abilities, and judgment.

Presently, I am a senior at the University of Miami Law School. I enrolled in this law school in September of 1971, and was at that time and am currently following a prescribed course of treatment by Dr. Jacobson. I do not believe that I have suffered any physical or mental ill effects from this treatment since I have been ranked academically as first in my class during this entire time. I am also a member of the Law School's Law Review.

Again, I wish to state my complete confidence in Dr. Jacobson, as my doctor, and the complete trust I have for his professional judgment.

I would be very glad to appear at my own expense as a witness in Dr. Jacobson's behalf anytime anywhere.

Sincerely,

Brad Culverhouse

F. Eve
Brooklyn, NY

June 24, 1976

Dear Dr. Jacobson:

I want to thank you Dr. Jacobson, as well as your beloved wife Ruth and your staff for all the many kindnesses and courtesies given to me. The nonsense in the paper made me sad — you are the only 'great' man I know. I have always had deep respect for you. To me, your only sin was to DARE, striving for better ways to help anyone who came to you with any problem. A simple thank you just doesn't seem enough.

If you ever lied it was about your age I thought you were 62 to 65. O.K. sweetheart, you should now retire in peace. As one of your patients I am sorry I made you work this long and this hard. I want to wish you a restful and enjoyable retirement.

I wish you had had a younger colleague working with you or I would not have gone to anyone else. I've heard Dr. Shapiro and Dr. Davison are a wife/husband team of Internists. I hope you approve.

My thanks, my love,

Eve

Letters from Other Doctors

Dr. Jacobson's Constructive Research Foundation provided material to doctors for testing and treatment. "Doctors Who Have Used Dr. Max Jacobson's Material" from January 1960 — June 1962 listed 61 names and addresses.

Frederic M. Marek, M.D.
New York, NY

June 16, 1961

Medical Director
Geigy Pharmaceuticals
Ardsley, NY

Dear Doctor:

Dr. Max Jacobson has asked me to write to you about my experience with his Butazolidin derivative (Busa).

I have used this preparation intramuscularly for the past four years in a very active general orthopedic practice. I should estimate that some 1500 patients received one or more injections for a total of something no less than 5000 injections. I have not encountered any untoward reaction of any allergic nature nor, to the best of my knowledge, and this has been checked repeatedly, was there any depression of the bone marrow or any interference with liver function. Very occasionally, there would be a slow absorption of the material but I have never had a single case of infection.

I regard this material as the most powerful anti-inflammatory agent and it has been most useful in my practice for any inflammatory connective tissue reaction (traumatic conditions, bursitis, rheumatoid and osteo arthritis, phlebitis, etc.). I should certainly wholeheartedly, without any reservations whatsoever, endorse Dr. Jacobson's injectable Butazolidin derivative.

Very truly yours,

Frederick M Marek, M.D.

T.C. Rethers
Parramatta N.S.W., Australia

16th May, 1962

Dear Doctor:

Your first batch of serum arrived here early in April, and Mrs. Rethers received thrice weekly injections for 5/6 weeks. As you have been advised by Dr. Ross, the serum has been completely used.

We are all highly pleased with the results so far. Mrs. Rethers has regained the use of her voice, not completely, but her enunciation is clear, and her voice volume is back again to the state where she was a year or two ago. She is able to turn her head and eyes to either side, which she has not been able to do for a year or more.

What is also important, she is taking an interest in directing household affairs again, and seems more mentally alert. Obviously, we are all anxious to continue the treatments, if such results are obtainable in such a short time. We realize, however, that we cannot expect complete recovery, if partial destruction of the myelin sheath of the spinal column has occurred.

I understand Dr. Ross has asked that you send serum to us in such frequency that uninterrupted injections can be given. I hope you will be able to do this for us.

Please accept the enclosed check as a donation to the good work your Foundation is doing.

Yours sincerely,

T.C. Rethers

Harry Sackren, M.D.
Great Neck, NY

August 24, 1962

Dear Dr. Jacobson:

You may be interested to learn that I have successfully used your medication together with mine on a Carcinoma of the Ovaries with metastases.

Her name is Mrs. Nachman of 3** ***** Ave., Bklyn.

She is now walking in the street and appears much more alert and stronger. It appears to me that we may get a remission.

If you care to obtain further information, you may phone me at HY-3 **** on Mondays and Fridays between 1-3 and 6-9 pm.

Sincerely,

H. Sackren, M.D.

Dr. Frank E. Adair
New York 21, N.Y.

December 13, 1962

Dear Dr. Jacobson:

I have today seen our old friend, Miss Florence Dicker, whose disposition is just as bad as ever!

I am tremendously pleased to note what you have been able to accomplish, and I do not have any idea how you are able to do it. The lower rim has come in and healed completely for a distance varying from three-quarters to an inch and a quarter in length. The upper portion has come in for an area of two inches; the pigmented area at least one inch, and the clear skin area another inch.

This is one of the most satisfactory miracles I have ever seen. My congratulations for your hard work and great imagination.

Most cordially yours,

Frank E. Adair

Transcript of interview with Miss Dicker, December 14, 1962

“In 1933 I was operated on by Dr. Frank Adair as a private patient for a radical mastectomy for cancer in my right breast. A couple of months after the surgery, sometime in 1934 I was ordered to have radium treatments in old Memorial Hospital. I had five treatments, and the last time they went to lunch and left me under the machine. I got a very bad X-ray burn, the flesh came right off on the dressing exposing the rib bones. I had a little hole right in my chest. The condition was so bad that I got the worst case of herpes the Memorial Hospital ever had in addition. They said that right to my face. Dr. Adair came to my house to treat me. This condition never healed and in 1943 I had 5 hemorrhages and was sent to Memorial Hospital. Dr. Adair then decided to perform 3 skin grafts. They were not entirely successful though I remained in Memorial Hospital for 3 months I came out with the area not quite healed and intermittent inflammation continued, and breaking down of the skin. In 1952 I had a coronary thrombosis. Memorial Hospital electrocardiogram confirmed it and I was sent to Roosevelt Hospital under the care of Dr. Valentine Hoffman who, when he examined me, was so amazed at the condition of my breast that he said Memorial Hospital ought to be ashamed to have released me. Dr. Valentine said that a Dr. Stevenson under whom he had trained as (sic) in charge at Memorial Hospital, but I had never seen him before, and he sent me back to him. Dr. Stevenson consulted with the doctors who had treated me for my history and he then said that in order to repair the damage I would need 10 to 14 skin grafts over a couple of years, that the first two would not be so bad but that the others would be such that I would curse him in the last analysis and that still there would be no guarantee that I may not be forced to resign myself to a hole in my chest as big as my fist with my lung and other organs exposed right through it.

I told Mr. Harold J. Blackstone, a lawyer for Gear and Gear for the first time then, and he said that negligence had been the cause. Dr. Frackia replied that my cancer had been such that I was lucky to be living at all and that I shouldn't take the case to the Supreme Court because instead of being a victim of negligence I was a prize case of cured cancer to have survived at all.

For 29 years I ran a rooming house, 10 rooms and 2 furnaces, scrubbed all the floors and windows, and if I survived it was because I had a good constitution to begin with. I am now 82 years old and I have been forced to give up my lease on the house and have no income anymore except for old age Social Security at \$40 a month. My rent is \$80 a month on an apartment in which I never see a ray of sunshine. Without any exercise I put on a lot of weight but I still don't have anything to do with myself and I have plenty of strength and energy since I started coming to Dr. Jacobson.

I first was referred to Dr. Jacobson by Dr. Adair on the 14th of May, 1962. After my first treatment I told Dr. Adair that I would never come back. I felt I was being used by him as a guinea pig and I hated the needle. But Dr. Adair told me I was lucky he would take me and after all what did I have to lose, nobody else had helped me in almost thirty years. I tell you I would have taken my life. I had saved 56 1.5 grain nembutals and even arranged my own funeral. I was going to do it too — after I got through spending my life

savings of \$5,000 because I wasn't going to leave that to anyone, now I would leave it to Dr. Jacobson. It was Dr. Adair's secretary who suspected what I was going to do and got the appointment with Dr. Jacobson.

Now I feel like a new woman. I am still a little sore from time to time, but the X-rays have shown my condition is benign and I am all healing up inside. Dr. Jacobson's creams have worked like a miracle, a genuine miracle and the shots have made me feel like I was a different person.

I went back to Dr. Adair for an examination and he called everyone in the office in and put his arms around me and told them all that Dr. Jacobson had performed a medical miracle. He called in his secretary and dictated a letter to Dr. Jacobson telling him just that and I asked him if I could please deliver it to Dr. Jacobson myself. I was so happy for him, I was almost even happier for him than for myself, because he had worked so hard and given me such time and treatment that it was the least I could do to repay him for giving me back my life. I mean it, my life, because I was really at the end of my rope before I came to him. God bless Dr. Jacobson, that's all I've got to say. God Bless him."

transcribed by
Arthur Steuer

Robert Wallis, MD

January 29, 1963

Dear Dr. Jacobson:

After using for more than two years, on hundreds of patients, your wonderful solutions of combined natural vitamins and enzymes, together with homeopathic doses of estrogens and androgens, I am glad to be able to congratulate you and to thank you very much.

As an overall picture, these solutions, either injected intramuscularly or intravenously when quicker action is required, seem to help nature on its own path, and vicariously help any patient who, living under stress and strain, or with error in his diet, either doesn't get the proper vitamins and enzymes or doesn't absorb them.

It is a very stimulating treatment, stabilizing without being exciting. Whether the depression is purely physical or moral, it definitely gives a lift to the patient and increases his amount of energy and well-being.

Many a patient of mine, especially in the geriatric group, has described the benefit of it by saying that the "nervous batteries were refilled," and that therefore his "body engine was working better." In all cases of fatigue, depression, asthenia, hypotension, and hypoglycemia, the results have been consistent and remarkable in counteracting the effects of these conditions.

Whenever a quicker result has had to be obtained, I have had great benefit from injecting 1 1/2 cc of your I.V.I.M solution together with 5 cc of sodium ascorbate (corresponding to 500 milligrams of ascorbic acid), together with a small amount of Heparin, which I found indispensable in preventing any secondary venous reaction. But with this precaution I have never had an incident, the tolerance has been perfect, and I no longer have had any of the eventual allergic reactions that I sometimes encountered three years ago when your solutions were less perfected, less homogenous, and less stable than they are now.

Since I told you the above, I don't have to repeat the immense gratitude that both my patients and myself have towards you.

As you see, I am,

Yours very sincerely, always,

Robert Wallis, M.D.

Robert S. Ecke, MD
Katonah, NY

12 April 1973

Dear Max:

This harassment of you by the Times and our self-righteous colleagues is as infuriating as it is stupid.

I would be happy to do anything that might in any way be helpful. I would be a privilege to testify to your great skill as an inspired conscientious and beloved physician.

Sincerely,

Robert Ecke

Robert Wallis, MD

January 4, 1964

Dear Dr. Jacobson:

I can only confirm by this letter my letter of January 29th, 1963, No. 41,321. It has now been three years since I have been using your solutions of combined natural vitamins and enzymes, together with homeopathic doses of estrogens and androgens. Over one thousand patients have been treated with them, with excellent results. I have used this solution mostly in geriatrics and preventive geriatrics, increasing the well-being of the patient to such an extent that they themselves ask for periodic cures.

I must especially congratulate you and thank you both for the increase in the efficiency and in the homogeneity of your solution, which enables me to use it either intramuscularly or intravenously. In the latter case I dilute one cc of your solution in either five cc of Sodium Ascorbate (500 milligrams), or five cc of Calcium Gluconate, 10%, or both. Whenever used in that intravenous fashion, the result is quite striking and almost instantaneous, and an increase in strength and well-being is acknowledged by the patient in the hour following the injection, but with less lasting results than with the intramuscular injection that I use as a routine twice per week for maintenance.

Practically I have had perfect tolerance; only in one percent of the cases have I acknowledged a certain intolerance, characterized by itching of the skin and slight swelling of the face, both phenomena disappearing easily with any anti-histaminic drug.

With renewed thanks, and best wishes for the New Year, believe me,

Yours always sincerely,

Robert Wallis, M.D.

December 5, 1972

Dr. Max Jacobson
56 East 87th Street
New York City, New York 10028

Dear Max:

I was incensed to read about the desecration of your good name by the New York Times today. I took it upon myself to phone the key writer of this article, a Miss Brody, and told her that she was a simple liar who had absolutely no knowledge of the material you gave President Kennedy, or your other patients and her stating that it was only, or primarily, or predominantly amphetamine was an unmitigated lie. I also said that I assisted you, and under your direction prepared the medication which I know you gave President Kennedy, and also many other patients, and that the primary action of this material was the result of tissue derivatives i.e., prepared from animal organ tissues by a process which you had developed. Because I personally prepared this material (under your direction and observation), I ought to know what I am talking about and I also said, there was not a drop of amphetamine in it. If it happened that in some cases you ever used amphetamine in smaller doses, this was not the essential ingredient or actor in your material. It was the tissue materials themselves aided by the associated vitamins. I also happened to have observed in many of your patients and in myself that the effects of your intravenous injection lasts about a week and I have never known small amounts of amphetamine to last this long in anyone.

I am absolutely certain Max, that amphetamine had no effective therapeutic role in your tissue derivative injections, nor am I at all sure that you used amphetamine except perhaps where necessity dictated its use for other medical reasons on occasional patients. But, please don't fail to emphasize that amphetamine was not the focus of your therapy if it were used to any significant extent and that the primary action of your material was due to an instantaneous release of many tissue enzymes, many of which were lacking in those who were ill whom you treated. Other beneficial effects such as increased vitality, pep and endurance were due to the tissue factors and not the amphetamine as presupposed in this Times article. I believe this is the basis of this error in this imbecilic science writer. I consider this yellow journalism at its worst and please be advised that to the extent that you would want any testimony or other help, I am prepared to help you to the fullest. I do not think you should let this matter die away. Frankly, I would sue the Times for \$25,000,000.00 and believe me, I will help you collect every penny of it. As an additional point, I'm sure you understand how indecent this

article was to paint the President of the United States as a drug addict. I think it an outrage.

I am staying now at the Pickwick Arms, 230 East 51st Street, and the phone here is EL-5-0300, Ext. 918.

With very best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Benjamin S. Frank, M.D.
253 East 77th Street
New York, New York, 10021

December 19, 1972

Editor
The New York Times
229 West 43rd Street
New York City, New York 10036

Dear Sir:

As a physician who has assisted Dr. Max Jacobson and who also had been assisting him during the period when President Kennedy was in office and being treated by Dr. Jacobson, I believe I should be able to shed some light and objective truth on the grave judgments or innuendos you have been leveling against Dr. Jacobson and many of his patients. About two weeks ago and subsequently, and also editorially this Sunday, your writers, under the apparent guidance of your science writer Miss Brody, have been writing that Dr. Jacobson has been administering to many of his patients repetitive doses of amphetamines along with vitamins and hormones. There have also been occasional vague references to enzymes as well. You have also strongly implied or stated that the main thrust of Dr. Jacobson's therapy was a result of the amphetamines and that more than a few of his patients had often become addicted to these amphetamines. You have also very strongly implied by the character and nature of your writing that President Kennedy could have also been addicted to these amphetamines.

May I state categorically here that it was I who prepared Dr. Jacobson's injections for very many of his patients and that it was I most of the time who prepared President Kennedy's injections the night before they were to be administered to the President by Dr. Jacobson. Dr. Jacobson further supervised and observed my preparation of his medications and formulae. I do know what was in Dr. Jacobson's medications which he often gave his patients and that in President Kennedy's special case, I also closely helped Dr. Jacobson pack his bag with whatever other medications he thought might be needed for President Kennedy, and I do also know what was in his medical bag. I also should mention that President Kennedy's main medications were tested on me and Dr. Jacobson the night before they were given to President Kennedy and packed in his bag.

Very soon after The Times' first article appeared, I telephoned and spoke with Miss Brody and asked Miss Brody what she and her assistants had found in their thorough research on Dr. Jacobson, that Dr. Jacobson had given his patients by and large, and had also given President Kennedy. She repeated the same as described in her articles, namely that amphetamines were the primary medication, according to her findings. I asked her if there was anything else that she knew about and she said no. She also did not know about the biological tissue derivatives given by Dr. Jacobson. The gist of her response was again that amphetamines were the main thrust of Dr. Jacobson's medications. I informed Miss Brody that it was not amphetamines that Dr. Jacobson gave to the large majority of his patients and to President Kennedy, but that the primary medications involved were biological tissue derivatives and that the primary thrust of Dr. Jacobson's medication was from these biological derivatives which I prepared according

to his process and supervision. The same applied to President Kennedy. Dr. Jacobson's medication for his large majority of patients contained biological tissue derivatives and certain vitamins and only occasionally hormones for certain specific patients. It also happened that the biological tissue derivatives varied from patient to patient and visit to visit according to Dr. Jacobson's clinical judgement. Under no circumstances did I prepare or see Dr. Jacobson give amphetamines with his usual medication for the large majority of patients, nor were they added to Dr. Jacobson's preparations. I added occasionally various things for specific patients. I also make the same statement regarding President Kennedy's medications. Dr. Jacobson further did not carry amphetamines in his medical bag when he left to see President Kennedy because I helped pack his bag and saw everything that the bag contained. To reiterate, there were never any amphetamines in or among these medications.

It may interest the reader here that the conscious effects of Dr. Jacobson's medication given intravenously lasted about one week. Among these effects were an increased energy and pep and a feeling of vitality and well being. From this array, it can be easily seen that these effects can be confused with amphetamines. In intravenous doses of amphetamines 25 mg and under, I do not know of any one wherein these described effects would last a week and at the same time be noticeable and strong for much of this time. It is the writer's own belief that these described actions are the basis for the great confusion regarding Dr. Jacobson and amphetamines. Dr. Jacobson attributes these strong energizing effects to the presence of fresh and immediately injected tissue enzymes, and in the writer's opinion as a physician, this is entirely reasonable. Of course, there are other therapeutic actions resulting from these tissue derivatives and it is these that have also been helpful in the treatment of many pathologic conditions involving Dr. Jacobson's patients. Of very great interest here is also a preparation Dr. Jacobson had made from the tibia epiphysis bone which was found to exert a very marked wakening effect on I. V. injection, probably much superior to that gotten with amphetamines and of a far longer duration. It also did not have noticeable side effects. To those not expert in the field, this effect could clearly be confused with amphetamines.

If Dr. Jacobson has in a small percentage of patients used amphetamines, they were used, I am sure, very sparingly and judiciously and where there was a specific medical indication. One such case I knew about personally was a patient with narcolepsy who received higher doses of amphetamines and who was also a very good acquaintance of mine. I knew several patients with depression or related symptoms and I believe they may have been treated also with amphetamines. Clearly however, this small group or similar ones were not representative of Dr. Jacobson's therapy or very large number of patients. I also know that with any very large number of patients, that any doctor may have, there are often enough a small number of patients who become addicted to any of a number of drugs a doctor may prescribe and that such patients may take such drugs on their own, and any mishap that arises from such actions can often be wrongly imputed to the doctor. I know Dr. Jacobson and his therapy very well and know that he is expert in his treatment and that amphetamines are not an essential or common factor in his basic treatment for many illnesses and that the primary action of his medication is a result of tissue derivatives.

In view of all the insulting and degrading accusations leveled against Dr. Max Jacobson, an expert and humane practitioner, it should also be mentioned that he had saved a large number of people. His treatment of congestive heart failure in my father was indeed very helpful and so was his therapy of many other patients, including some with severe hepatitis and polio that he saved over the years, when all medications given by other physicians had failed, and these patients were doomed to death or infirmity. Instead of attacking Dr. Jacobson so falsely and cruelly, medicine and journalism would do better to note the frequent effectiveness of his therapy, and to use it where appropriate for the treatment of the increasing numbers of ill people for whom medicine has few remedies.

In closing, I do not think it at all fair or decent of a respected publication like the New York Times to speak in a degrading and accusatory manner of anyone, and a fortiori of a noble physician who has done so much for so many of his patients everywhere, when the basis for such statements, accusations and innuendos follows an investigation which was conducted by a group of technically incompetent laymen in an obviously improper manner. Surely in this instance, it is this writer who knows the truth more than anyone, save Dr. Jacobson himself. Surely, in view of the ma/or discrepancies above described in the "researched and investigated" stories of the Times' writers, it is not such writers or their sycophantic followers on television and other publications who wrote or spoke the truth. This writer believes that it is they and their publications who should be investigated.

To have calumniated and defamed one of our good country's most beloved presidents is a blasphemy in these soul-less times.

I trust that the New York Times will understand this grave matter.

Sincerely yours,

Benjamin S. Frank, M.D. New York City

All above is for publication.

A copy of the above letter to the Times has been sent to Senator Edward Kennedy in Washington as a matter of courtesy and respect for our President Kennedy, his brother.

Sincerely,

Benjamin S. Frank, M.D.
253 East 77th Street
New York City, New York 10021

Lastly, a memo by Broadway star Pat Suzuki, ex-wife of photographer Mark Shaw. Shaw frequently flew Dr. Jacobson in his Cessna to his appointments with President Kennedy. Shaw was treated by Dr. Jacobson for mild depression and by a cardiologist for a bundle branch heart condition.

Memorandum to: Max Jacobson, M.D.
from: Pat Suzuki
date: Dec. 21, 1972

Revised Death Certificate on Mark Shaw

You probably remember as clearly as I do the events which occurred after Mark's death on January 26, 1969, but I'm putting them down here to explain the request I'm going to make of you.

Mark died in the afternoon of January 26, Anne Dowling had been with him from about 10:30 that morning until his death; it was she who notified the police and provided the only eyewitness account of what happened.

That evening Mark's body was removed to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner for New York City, There it was examined by (I believe) Dr. Henry Siegel, Executive Deputy Chief Medical Examiner, who also spoke with you by long distance telephone and presumably also interrogated the police officer, Mr. LaCaille, who was the first official to see the body. Mr. LaCaille's "Report of Death" forms incorporating his own observations and Anne Dowling's narratives was annotated "Signed out no autopsy C.D. chronic rheumatic heart disease H.S."

Nevertheless an autopsy was performed the following day, January 27, by Dr. Michael Baden, Associate Medical Examiner, in the presence of Drs. Siegel and Helpern (Chief Medical Examiner.) The anatomical findings were inconclusive, and Dr. Baden requested chemical tests from his laboratory. A provisional certificate of death was issued showing cause of death as "visceral congestion pending chemical examination."

A revised certificate was issued June 12, 1969, showing the cause of death as "acute and chronic intravenous amphetamine poisoning."

Shortly afterwards I was simultaneously made aware of the revised certificate, and of an article being prepared by Susan Wood for publication in New York Magazine, in which she proposed to quote the certificate as an illustration of the alleged abuse of amphetamines by certain New York physicians.

Mark's only child, David, was at the time nine, intelligent for his age and very impressionable. I was of course very worried about how my son might react when he

learned of this official verdict on his father's death which, knowing Mark, and you, as well as I did, I firmly believed to be mistaken.

Accordingly, I talked on two or three occasions with Dr. Baden; pointed out to him that his findings were about to figure as the climax of a sensational magazine article; and quoted to him one or two of the things you had said to me, about inconsistencies between his findings, on the one hand, and published accounts of the effects of amphetamine poisoning on the other. While he was courteous and patient with me, I was unable to persuade him to reconsider his verdict.

Accordingly, with your approval, I asked our friend Maxwell Vos to discuss the matter with you, and to undertake research into the matter. After careful study of the autopsy report and chemical findings, he did wide reading, under your guidance, into the medical, pharmacological and pathological literature on amphetamines. He also interviewed Anne Dowling, who gave him an expanded account of the four or five hours preceding Mark's death and he obtained from you a description of the medication you had given Mark.

Maxwell produced a detailed report, which I understand you read and endorsed, its conclusions were

- (1) that there were only a handful of recorded deaths anywhere in the world, which could be definitely attributed to excessive ingestion of amphetamines; and that in none of these did the symptoms bear any resemblance to Mark's behavior immediately before his death, as reported by Anne Dowling;
- (2) that literature on postmortem findings in death from amphetamine poisoning was equally scanty, but that none of the indications described in it had shown up in the autopsy on Mark;
- (3) that descriptions of the symptoms of amphetamine intoxication (less than fatal in nature) were common, and pretty much in agreement among themselves, and that (according to Anne Dowling) Mark had exhibited none of these symptoms.
- (4) that while there is extreme difference of opinion on the amount of amphetamine which must be ingested to produce toxic effects, there are many reported cases of people taking many times more than Mark, over long periods, without any visible harm, but almost none of bad effects resulting from the kind of small quantity that Mark sometimes took;

that some exceptional cases in the medical literature describing marked bad reactions to single doses of as little as 10 or 15 mg. appeared in every case to imply some idiosyncrasy in the patients, since they all dealt with first time doses; there was no reported case of a patient who had tolerated amphetamines well for a time, and then suddenly began to react badly to normal medical doses.

This material was put before Dr. Baden, and then discussed with him in a meeting with you, Maxwell Vos, Henry Stone and myself. Maxwell afterwards prepared a summary of our questions and Dr. Baden's answers. In summary, he said that he had recorded amphetamine poisoning as the cause of death because his examination had disclosed no other conceivable cause; this he called "diagnosis by exclusion." In the circumstances, the fact that the amount of amphetamines detected in the body was admittedly too small to be considered lethal or even toxic was not relevant. In any case, we knew very little about death from amphetamines. His finding was the only possible one in the circumstances. As to his phraseology, the amphetamine poisoning was "acute" because Mark died of it, and "chronic" because of the evidence, from needle marks, that he had been taking injectable medication for a long time, and your statement that his formula at times contained some amphetamines.

Of course, I was not satisfied with these answers, which I considered evasive. However, since I saw no way of budging Dr. Baden from his position, I began to work instead on New York Magazine, in the hope of persuading them that it would be unfair (and possibly unsafe from a legal standpoint) to proceed with their article in the form proposed. In the upshot, as you remember, it did not appear until the early part of 1970, and then names and circumstances were sufficiently disguised that it would have been hard for anyone who didn't know Mark well to identify him from the article. My main object, the protection of David having been gained, I decided to let the matter drop.

This was a wrong decision, as I now know. The material on you and your practice published by the New York Times, beginning with its issue of December 4, discussed Mark by name and gave a detailed account of the circumstances surrounding his death, quoting the revised certificate in full. David has seen this material, and while he doesn't seem unduly concerned on the surface, I am more than ever determined to have the record put straight if I can. I am, needless to say, still quite certain that Mark did not die of an overdose of amphetamines.

You have suggested to me that the autopsy report might be sent to one or two independent pathologists, who could be asked to read it and to state what their findings would have been in the circumstances. I'd like to take you up on this idea, and I'd be grateful if you could handle the matter. I'm sure your professional connections are a lot better than mine.

I'm sending you two copies of the Report of Death, the Autopsy Report and attached Laboratory Findings. In case you want to include them, you will also find from Maxwell Vos's report his account of conversations with you, with Anne Dowling and with Dr. Baden all, I think potentially useful background information for anyone looking into the case, and all of it available to Dr. Baden when he reached his decision not to reconsider his findings.

It seems to me that some of the specific questions which need to be answered, before Dr. Baden's findings can be finally accepted or rejected are as follows:

(1) In the light of your own evidence about Mark's visit to you early in the morning of the day of his death, and of Anne Dowling's evidence that he certainly took no medication after 10:30 a.m. that day, when did he take the dose of amphetamines that allegedly killed him?

(2) The symptoms of amphetamine poisoning seem to be fairly well established, at least in its earlier stages (e.g. restlessness, sweating, loss of appetite, possibly loss of sexual desire, etc.) According to Anne Dowling, Mark displayed none of these; indeed, he cooked and ate a heavy breakfast, and made love. Immediately before his death he was resting or possibly sleeping. How does Dr. Baden account for this?

(3) Chemical examination turned up, in the liver, traces of amphetamines measured at .275 mg.%. The liver weighed 1810 grams, so that if the concentration of amphetamine was uniform throughout, the total amount would have been a little less than 5 mg. This, I understand, is a lot less than any conceivable lethal dose. Dr. Baden implied that it was some sort of residue left in the body from the ingestion of much larger amounts over a period of time. Does he have any evidence for the residue theory? And if so, what would it indicate about past consumption?

(4) I understand that, if it is desired to establish whether a subject has ingested amphetamines within the past 24 hours or so, the only generally accepted test is a urinalysis. After his autopsy Dr. Baden requested such an analysis, and the autopsy report shows that 40 cc. of urine was available in the bladder for testing, Yet the Laboratory Findings do not include a urinalysis. Dr. Baden, on being asked if one was made, replied that he couldn't remember. He certainly asked for it. If it wasn't made, why not? In its absence, what grounds could he have for speaking of acute poisoning? If it was made, what has happened to it?

Anne Dowling's account speaks of Mark gasping and choking, as though he were having difficulty in breathing. She also says that when she tried to administer oxygen, she found his mouth full of vomit. Dr. Baden refers to "aspirated gastric contents of a liquid nature" which had been drawn deeply into the lungs. It seems to me that there is here a distinct pointer to suffocation as an immediate cause of death (leaving aside the question of what induced the suffocation which perhaps a pathologist could answer). Yet Dr. Baden makes no reference to the possibility, Why not?

If you can persuade one of your professional colleagues to cast any light on these questions, and on Mark's death in general, I shall be grateful. Even if the outcome is to strengthen the case for Dr. Baden's findings (though I don't see how it could be), at least we shall know where we stand, and that too would be a relief, of a kind.

When Dr. Jacobson got home after the meeting with Dr. Baden, he told his wife Ruth that the strangest thing about it was Dr. Baden asked Dr. Jacobson if he would find

some time to advise his wife's organization for drug-addicted teenagers. Max turned him down.

- David Jeand'Heur

Amphetamines Used by a Physician To Lift Moods of Famous Patients

By BOYCE RENSBERGER

New York Times; Dec 4, 1972

Amphetamine and Ethics

The Lack of Complaints About Some Medical Practices Points Up Issues

By LAWRENCE K. ALTMAN

New York Times; Dec 5, 1972

Medical Unit to Weigh Filing of Charges Against Dr. Jacobson

By JANE E. BRODY

New York Times; Dec 6, 1972

Medical Society to Ask Dr. Jacobson to Meeting

By JANE E. BRODY

New York Times; Dec 8, 1972

When the Doctor Dispenses 'Speed'

MICHAEL HALBERSTAM

New York Times; Dec 10, 1972

Medical Peer Review

New York Times; Dec 17, 1972

Patient and His Doctor: Quandary for Medicine

By JANE E. BRODY

New York Times; Jan 16, 1973

Medical Society Faces Discipline Issues

By LAWRENCE K. ALTMAN

New York Times; Feb 25, 1973

Dr. Max Jacobson Faces State Charges on Conduct

By JANE E. BRODY

New York Times; Mar 24, 1973

Two Doctors Here Known to Users as Sources of Amphetamines

By BOYCE RENSBERGER

New York Times; Mar 25, 1973

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Putting the Brakes on 'Speed'

HAROLD M. SCHMECK JR.

New York Times; Apr 8, 1973

State Accuses Dr. Jacobson of Giving Himself Amphetamines for Nonmedical Purposes

By JANE E. BRODY

New York Times; Apr 19, 1973

State Hearing on Dr. Jacobson Delayed Until Next September

By JANE E. BRODY

New York Times; Jun 24, 1973

A.M.A. Urges Discipline Of Incompetent Physicians

By LAWRENCE K. ALTMAN

New York Times; Oct 29, 1973

State Medicine Board Finishes Hearings in Dr. Jacobson Case

By JANE E. BRODY

New York Times; Jun 6, 1974

Panel Urges Cancellation Of Dr. Jacobson's License

By IVER PETERSON Special to The New York Times

New York Times; Apr 25, 1975

Parley To Discuss Doctor Discipline

By LAWRENCE K. ALTMAN

New York Times; Apr 30, 1975

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Regents' Vote Unanimous
By IVER PETERSON Special to The New York Times
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New York Times; Dec 23, 1975

Unfit Doctors Create Worry in Profession
By BOYCE RENSBERGER
New York Times; Jan 26, 1976

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By William Safire
New York Times; Jun 13, 1977

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New York Times; May 30, 1979;

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JAMES GLEICK
New York Times; Sep 30, 1979