Series E: General Alphabetical Files. 1960-1992
Box 83, Folder 13, Horvath, Francis [medical ethics], 1985-1986.
February 27, 1986

Rabbi Marc Tannenbaum
American Jewish Committee
165 East 56th St.
New York, N.Y. 10022

Holocaust Memorial Center
6602 W. Maple Rd.
W. Bloomfield, Michigan 48033

Gentlemen:

Please change the letter addressed to Rabbi Tannenbaum, dated Feb. 12, 1986 to this revised one.

When this letter was already completed, new essential material arrived, so page 2a was inserted into that letter. This addition rendered the letter somewhat confusing.

Since then the heroic role of Sakharov and Shcharansky came into the national attention. In the upcoming publicity I intend to use the related published material. I also believe they will benefit from the publicity derived from our project. A skillful writer, public relationship expert, could put these together properly and effectively.

Please see letter from Reverend Bernthal. He was a previous bishop, active on national and international level. He was part of those officials, who commissioned the work of Dr. Kildahl and Dr. Qualben, what we quote extensively in our manuscript. This work ties the Lutherans to our project. I am hopeful, that we will have meaningful support from that church.

Months ago I made an extensive presentation to the Attorney General of Michigan on these issues. They showed great interest and willingness to be helpful. I advised to them inactivity at that time, awaiting the outcome of the efforts by the medical profession. I will reactivate soon this line of activities.

I may not be an expert of anything, neither I am a writer, but I am convinced, with proper preparatory work, proper alliances, all of us together, we can make the difference, we can create an effective impact!

Cordially!

Francis Horvath, M.D.
Re: The common concern, the emergence of religious totalitarianism through "infractions of human rights by fraudulent health practitioners". (*) The medical profession offers an effective challenge to these practices.

(For my personal background please read pp.17-18 of the Overview section of the manuscript.)

Dear Rabbi Tannenbaum:

This project was presented to Rabbi Morton Hoffman of East Lansing, Michigan, and to Rabbi Philip Frankel (retired) of East Lansing. Their reaction was almost identical with that of the Executive Committee of the Ingham County Medical Society (6): "the concerns are valid, but they are complex and overwhelming to the qualifications of the (local) Society." The American Jewish Committee and the Holocaust Memorial Center, Detroit were mentioned as organizations most likely having interest in these issues.

This Resolution concerning the "infractions of human rights by fraudulent health practitioners" (*), was based on four years of research, work, was presented to, and accepted by the Michigan State Medical Society to be submitted to the House of Delegates Annual Meeting of the American Medical Association in June 1986. The Michigan Society of Internal Medicine Board of Trustees unanimously adopted this Resolution of support. The American Society of Internal Medicine also gave their strong endorsement.

The main issue is the practice of mind manipulation (hypnosis) without adhering to the rules of ethics (informed consent, preliminary psychological evaluation) to avoid harm to the subjects. (See manuscript.) These practices result in a total and uncritical submission to an unquestionable leader. The fate of these groups depends entirely on the ambitions, mental health of the leader. Our own experience, and the extensive published works of the same topic, all indicate there is significant impact of these practices on the individual, and society. (Issues of medical ethics. (11)

The common concern:

"Christian America is on the march" (1). (Previously we heard: "Iran on the march". "There is a belief" that God blessed America uniquely. That moves us from a religious movement to a nationalistic one." "...increasingly sophisticated political movement that is maturing into a kind of Christian political machine." "They believe that either you are with God or against God". "There is a danger in the public arena with identifying
one’s view with God’s and your opponent’s with Satan. Raising the stakes to such cosmic dimensions makes compromise impossible."

Morris R. Cohen (1880-1947) American professor of philosophy: "Cruel persecutions and intolerance are not accidents, but grow out of the very essence of religion, namely, its absolute claims."

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Time: cults are miniature copies of great political tyrannies, complete with enemies. (h)

Friedrich Hayek: The Road to Serfdom. A classic study of power, totalitarian systems. ("The most important book of our generation. The New York Times.) Characteristic features of all totalitarian systems: systems of lies, perversion of words, anti-intellectualism, rules of ethics ignored, the aim justifies the means, all have enemies. Followers of any totalitarian system shift over to another form of totalitarian system with ease. (At the end of WWII. in Hungary it was noticeable, that the Nazis turned to communists without any difficulty. Religious totalitarian can turn into political one.)

The Brookings Institute (2): "...the stability and future strength of American democracy depends on the underpinnings of religion." "...religious fanaticism may easily lead to social tragedy. "Northern Ireland, Iran, Lebanon and India." "Democracy, while largely based on values that come from religion, must be ever on guard against abuses that some tendencies within religion foster."

Religion without the proper checks and balances, internal control, is open for irrational excesses, fanaticism, sectarianism. (Church of England article. (7)

In the sense of the "underpinning of religion" the Catholic Church has role of major proportion in the society with political and religious nature. It has effect on other members of the Judeo-Christian Philosophical System. It is used as point of reference. (D.Hill: Study of Mind Development Groups, Sects and Cults in Ontario. A study commissioned by the Ontario Government. 1980: the cults claim they do not do anything different than what the major churches are doing.) The Pope is for personal freedom, dignity, equality, and against all forms of mind-manipulations, tyrannies. (See manuscript.) The Catholic doctrines (Vatican II.) are most modern, democratic documents with their principles of freedom of mind and of expression, the right and obligation to speak up, the freedom of the press, etc. (Guarantees against tyranny.)

During the work on this project it became surprisingly clear how identical the Catholic and Jewish basic philosophy are! This is well expressed in the speech of Cardinal O’Connor and in the other article. (10,11)

Please read these articles:


"In 1980, he said, "I do not believe that God Answers the prayer of any unredeemed Gentile or Jew." His "contempt for Communism" was also noted.

Jerry Falwell was also member of the welcoming group of churchmen for Rev. Moon on his release from jail. (Jews were not part of that group.)

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The above articles substantiate abundantly all the concerns previously mentioned in the manuscript and in this presentation. On the horizon there are the religious-political leaders, who speak with the voice of God, and the opponents turned into "enemies", "demons", "Satan", who appear in different forms, including "barking women", and "men growing fangs". (U.S. Ajatollahs and mullahs.)

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Abba Eban's TV series abundantly proves: history repeats itself.

Will the Constitution offer adequate protection? It will defend us from an open ("honest") dictatorship, but when it changes terminology, and will assume religious context, under the freedom of religion principle the Constitution can be rendered ineffective through the "perversion of the words" (Friedrich Hayek). The laws are just as good as the men interpreting them are.

It is a fact, in the modern world who demand and accept total submission is the least qualified for such a totalitarian, unquestionable leadership.

To understand why men act they way they act, at times we may find clues in studies of animal behavior:
Japanese scientists studied a group of beached dolphins. The autopsy showed all normal findings, except one of them had parasitic infestation in the ear. They assumed, the dolphins live in a total leadership-submission society, when the leader got disoriented by the infestation in the ear, beaches himself, the herd will follow. (National Cable TV news. Jan. 7, 1982.)

If Jerry Falwell's Jewish remark represents a lapse of the tongue, or if it is characteristic of the fundamentalist (charismatic) philosophy, is well reflected in the "Christian identity" theology described in the Ntl. Cath. Register article of February 16.1986. "The theology holds that Jews are children of the devil, that blacks are sub-human and that white northern Europeans, or "Aryans", constitute the 10 lost tribes of Israel." (Ntl. Cath. Register, Febr. 16.1986.)
(See also manuscript, Open letter to the Pope. p.5.)
The solution:

is possible only through proper alliances, through synchronized cooperation between responsible community leaders, and possible only through slow process by reversing the trend. The tactic is not the confrontation, but the support of forces of democracy, of the true Judeo-Christian philosophy.

Solution through the laws? - there are adequate laws in most legislations. They are not enforced. (See the laws of Michigan and of Ontario. Manuscript.)

Defense through the doctrines? - the Vatican II. doctrines are modern, democratic. They do not defend the American Catholic Church from the influx of the practices of concern, neither they defend the public from the same.

The African bishops call these practices as witchcraft, the Yugoslavian bishops recognize in them forces of division threatening religious war, the Polish bishops keep the church away from these practices (5), the Pope expressed displeasure over the same. The "Polish physicians are concerned", so are all physicians, and the vast majority of the American Catholic bishops.

Alone what could the Jewish community, the concerned religious or society leaders, medical and legal profession, do? Not much!

All major studies dealing with these practices unanimously recommend the public information as the most effective tool. The Vatican II.'s doctrine of the "freedom of the press" (3) indicating the same.

The medical profession will continue it's efforts irregardless of any other support. What can we expect from this undertaking? The House of Delegates of the AMA most likely will refer the Resolution to the Board of Trustees. They will come back with some recommendation for opposition to these practices. Some publicity will follow, which may be of interest for a few days, than everything will go on as before. The result will be the same as of the two Ontario government commissioned studies. (D.Hill, and Prof. Lee: Sectarian Healers and Hypnotherapy. Extensive efforts, expense involved, some publicity followed, but not much visible impact. The physicians had no active role in either of these projects.)

If others will recognize the full potentials of this project, with concerted efforts a significant impact can be made towards a better world.

As a Catholic physician I am hoping to influence the process of modernization in the Church. The Vatican II. doctrines are modern, but they are inapplicable to their fullest extent under the present totalitarian ("monarchic") style of church government. In the present confusion tendency can be recognized towards changing to the "aristocratic" type of government (the Church of England, see article (7). Both forms of governments are for the past. Recent study of the British bishops found, that what the Church is needed are: "representation, dialogue, accountability" - i.e. "representative church government". At the end of the recent synod the Pope also stressed the need for revision of distribution of power

Cardinal Ratzinger, the head of the Vatican's Congregation of Faith, the most authentic person to make such a statement, concluded: "the Church is on the decadent, self-destructive course". The cause: it slipped out of the central control of the Vatican. New methods of control, the checks and balances are
In addition, the Vatican’s financial losses last year were around $300 million. Where else the major contribution could be expected from, than the U.S. A historical fact: the dollar effects the doctrine (9)

The “confused” American Church represents certain dangers: 1/ by self-destruction, through loss of credibility by healings of substandard nature, where “enemies”

“demons” are recognized as “barking women”, and “men growing fangs”, and published in major papers, etc. Create a vacuum, what rapidly will be filled with forces of “subculture”, “contraculture” (see manuscript), which are totalitarian in nature without exception. 2/ this confused American Church could attain far greater influence on the entire Catholic Church, through the power of dollar, than it would deserve.

Are the issues of the “church in crisis” strictly internal matter, or are they public issues? If the “marching” Christianity will get an upper hand in the Catholic Church, there is some chance for that, we all can agree, the “underpinning” which would come from this totalitarian church towards the entire Judeo-Christian Philosophical system, and towards democracy would be instantly everybody issue. The creation of the vacuum would bring the same result. No totalitarian system ever remained an internal issue, many of them became issues of the entire world.

The support by the medical community: Catholic physicians signed petition to the Pope concerning these practices. Dr. Howard S. Goldberg, president of the Michigan Society of Internal medicine, was most helpful in the adoption of the Resolution of support, Dr. Stanley H. Levy, M.D. of Detroit, expressed his special appreciation for the bringing of this agenda to the attention of the medical profession. The Jewish interest was instantly obvious during my past work on this project. They do not need to be convinced what means to be the “demon”, the “enemy” of any tyrannical system.

Please review this presentation, if you can share our concern, we are open for expert opinion, advise, and for all possible cooperation.

Note of interest: I just had the opportunity to talk Joel L. Hertz, LL.B. Jewish attorney, Toronto; he has excellent understanding of issues involved, was familiar with major works done in this field, and shared my concerns.

Awaiting your kind reply!

Francis Horvath, M.D.

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(These names are given as possible personal references, or source of additional information.)

Joel L. Hertz, LL.B. attorney
P.O. Box 2272
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February 11, 1986

Dr. Francis Horvath
1874 Ridgewood Drive
East Lansing, Michigan 48823

Dear Dr. Horvath:

I certainly appreciate the time that you took in compiling and sending to me the file of materials concerning the matter of common interest. I would certainly encourage you to pursue what you are doing and to join the voices that are speaking out on issues that are so befuddled, both in the ecclesiastical and secular world. I minister frequently to people who have gone through the trauma of "healing revivals" who continue to bear sickness of one kind or another and who have been lead to believe that their condition is due to their lack of faith. Consequently, a guilty conscience makes their life even more miserable—and all in the name of religion.

It's been my conviction for a long time that medical doctors who use the tools that God has given them and who have faith as a specific in their handbag are the most powerful instrument for good in the lives of people. I certainly commend you to that ministry and will be interested in the progress of your writing.

Whenever you get down this way please drop by.

Kindest greetings and best wishes for a meaningful Lent,

August Bernthal

gd
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Attachments!

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February 12, 1986

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Gentlemen:

During the discussion with Rabbi Hoffman of East Lansing, Michigan, your organization was mentioned as most likely having interest in this project.

Please review the letter addressed to Rabbi Tannenbaum, and for the understanding of my more than usual interest in issues of tyrannies vs. personal freedom, read the Overview section of the manuscript pp. 17 and 18. Page 18 will be of special interest to you.

To your organization I wish to express this thought: what more proper memorial could be raised to the victims of all tyrannies, than to do whatever we can, and the best we can to prevent the same, or similar tragedies (in different forms and or in different extent) to occur ever again!

Your opinion, advise will be most welcomed.

I would be glad to visit you in Detroit, if you feel it would be beneficial.

Sincerely,

Francis Horvath, M.D.

CC: Rabbi Tannenbaum
New York

Attachments.

For references please feel free to contact any person listed at the end of the letter to Rabbi Tannenbaum.

Note: public information, press release, if it is to be effective, must be directed by person (persons?) with expertise. The goal, the impact, the content, the timing, the possible undesired side-effects must be all considered first, than proceed with skill, tactic, and remain in control in all the time. (This is where we need the most help.)
November 7, 1985

Francis Horvath, MD
2909 E. Grand River
Lansing, Michigan 48912

Dear Doctor Horvath:

The following is a chronology of activities by the Michigan State Medical Society on your proposal for a committee to study infractions of human rights by fraudulent health practitioners.

1. We discussed with Richard McMurray, MD, the advisability of a resolution calling for an AMA committee, with other entities, directly to the floor of the AMA House of Delegates. We felt it a wiser course to go directly to the AMA Judicial Commission.

2. A letter was executed to Nancy Dickey, MD, Chairman of the Judicial Council with your supporting material. We have not had a response as of yet from Doctor Dickey.

3. In a conversation with John Coury, MD, President-elect of the AMA, he expressed support for seeking action through the Judicial Commission.

4. On your own you have made contacts with members of the American Society of Internal Medicine. Be sure to keep them informed that your "resolution" will not be submitted to the House of Delegates, but seeking separate action through the Judicial Commission.

Have a good vacation, Dr. Horvath. I will be back in the office after the Annual Scientific Meeting, late next week.

Sincerely,

Bruce W. Ambrose
Executive Director
WHEREAS The essential leadership role of the medical profession against quackery was asserted at the time of the establishment of the AMA in 1847 and has been reaffirmed repeatedly since; and

WHEREAS In June 1985 the House of Delegates of the AMA in a Resolution expressed its "Continued Support of Human Rights and Freedom." Medical ethics are for the protection of these "Human Rights and Freedom", and these ethics "define the essentials of honorable behavior for the physician." (Medical Ethics. AMA); and

WHEREAS Quackery serves the interests of a certain elite few through exploitation of the susceptibles, vulnerables by ignoring the rules of ethics in healings. The basic Human Rights and Freedom is violated through these so called healings; and

WHEREAS Quackery is rapidly growing in diversity, in sophistication, in financial strength, and in impact on the society. Their business grew from the estimated yearly 2 billion to 10 billion in the past few years. (2); and

WHEREAS The religious healings (sectarian healings, hypnototherapy, faith healings) show specially significant gain recently. They are based on strong suggestions, hypnosis through the confusional induction technique produced by the stimulation overload technique. In these practices besides the misleading health claims, the power (danger) of hypnosis without its rules of ethics, must be considered. These practices demand total and uncritical submission to an unquestionable leader, thus they have the potential to create a totalitarian, intolerant system, a "subculture" (Dr.Pattison), or "contraculture" (Yinger). (3,4), (7-8-9-12); and

WHEREAS When religious healers claim ability to favorably influence, directly or indirectly, the outcome of organic diseases, they engage in the practice of medicine, in which they have no competence, or moral and ethical basis. (11). For the practice of medicine there is license required in all states, from which requirement there is no exemption in general.

A clergyman is exempt from the license requirement only for the practice of psychology until he or she is adhering to the rules of ethics for psychology, and also adheres to the rules of ethics of his or her own faith. (Example: Michigan Public Health Code.) ; and
WHEREAS The medical profession defended the children's basic rights to ethical healings through the action of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Medical Association. "Religious Exemptions in Child Abuse Legislation" - Resolution of the AMA. June 1985; and

WHEREAS The AMA (medical profession) should offer the same protection of the rights of the 20-30% highly suggestible, vulnerable segment of our population, who are at present without meaningful legal protection against exploitation through such practices; and

WHEREAS The FDA, and AMA engage in joint efforts against quackery, as announced in October 1984. (2)

The success of various public health efforts require cooperation between organized medicine and its individual members, and the participation and support of physicians across the country. (1); and

WHEREAS There is no organizational, procedural, or legal guidelines for the local medical societies and individual physicians to participate meaningfully in the protection of the public from such practices; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the American Medical Association establish a committee to investigate the various forms of unauthorized practices of medicine by non-professional psychotherapists, particularly the sectarian healers and hypnotherapists, and be it further

RESOLVED, That upon conclusion of the investigation the results and recommendations be reported to the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association.
REFERENCES:

1/ Editorial. American Medical News. Aug.23.1985: "These efforts thrive through a unique cooperation between organised medicine and its individual members. National, state, county, and specialty societies can serve as leaders, yet the eventual success of various public health efforts requires the participation and support of physicians across the country."

2/ American Medical News. Oct.19.1984: "FDA,AMA to cooperate in anti-quackery effort." "...through education, we can help people protect themselves. "Some "quack" claims can cause serious health effects,...others are indirectly dangerous, because they cause patients to delay or deny appropriate treatment." "Still others are economic frauds..."

3/ Articles from national magazines, press, TV news-transcript. Example: Time. Dec.4.1978 (Jones town tragedy.) "Cults are apt to become miniature of the great totalitarian systems built on Nazi or Hegelian and Marxist foundations. There are eerie similarities of style: intolerance, paranoia, submission."

4/ Faith Healing. Pattison-Lapins-Doerr. The Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease. December 1973. "The primary function of faith healing is not to reduce symptomatology, but to reinforce a magical belief system that is consonant with the subculture of these subjects."

5/ Healing: A Doctor in Search of a Miracle. William A Nolen, M.D. Random House New York. 1974. "The more I learned of the results of Kathryn Kuhlman's miracle service the more doubtful I became that any good she was doing could possibly outweigh the misery she was causing." (The contemporary faith healers' services are copies of methods perfected by Kathryn Kuhlman and Aimee Semple McPherson.)


12/ The power of hypnosis, dangers of hypnosis: see references 6-7-8-9, and

Dr. George Matheson - chief of Psychology, Department of Psychology. The Etobicoke General Hospital, Rexdale (Toronto) Ontario.
"Hypnosis can be used to cause an individual to act in abnormal and antisocial ways... it reduces decision-making and increases compliance to coercive suggestions."

"Mind-manipulation through strong suggestion, hypnosis has the potential to reduce an individual psychologically to a "child-like dependency" (Psych/III.)

The offence of plagio (psychological reduction), a crime in the Italian Penal Code. (D.Hill. 8/)

Dr. Harold B. Crasilneck - clinical prof. of psychiatry and anesthesiology at the University of Texas. Medical World News. Dec. 21, 1981.
"... patients with histories of psychosis, masochism, or extreme depression could blow up under hypnosis."

13/ Minutes of the September 3, 1985 meeting of the Executive Committee of the Ingham County Medical Society: the presented (sectarian healings, hypnotherapy) "concerns were valid, but they are complex and overwhelming to the qualifications of the Society."
The issues were referred to the Medical Director of the Michigan Department of Public Health.

14/ Personal experiences, study from 1981 to 1985. Manuscript.

"The usual problems of living have been replaced by a nearly childish existence in which the cult and its leaders supply all rules and all answers. Erich Fromm, in his classic treatise on the rise of Nazism, called this process the "escape from freedom." (Time. December 4, 1978.)

16/ Morris R. Cohen (1880-1947) American professor of philosophy: "Cruel persecutions and intolerance are not accidents, but grow out of the very essence of religion, namely, its absolute claims."
RECOMMENDED FOR INVITATION TO BE MEMBERS OF THE AMA COMMITTEE ON QUACKERY WITH SPECIAL ATTENTION TO SECTARIAN HEALINGS AND HYPNOTHERAPY: (others are also to be considered)

1/ Louis J.West,M.D. and Margaret Thaler Singer,Ph.D - co-authors of the Cults,Quacks, and Nonprofessional Psychotherapies - chapter in the Kaplan-Freedman-Sadock: Comprehensive Textbook of Psychiatry/III.1980.

2/ Dr.Stanley Catt, Boston psychiatrist quoted as expert by Time magazine in Dec.1.1975 issue on cultism (Jones town).

3/ Dr.John P.Kildahl, New York psychologist, and Paul A. Qualben M.D. co-authors, researchers of The Psychology of Speaking in Tongues, by the grant from the National Institute of Mental Health.

4/ Dr.Joseph Heyner, East Lansing, Michigan, professor, psychologist, author of articles, and previous government witness on hypnosis.

5/ Dr.Harold B.Crasilneck, University of Texas, clinical prof. of psychiatry, author.

6/ Prof. John A.Lee, Univ.of Toronto, author of Sectarian Healers and Hypnotherapy, a study for the Committee on Healing Arts of the Province of Ontario.1970.


8/ Richard Delgado, J.D. author of Religious Totalism: Gentle and Ungentle Persuasion under the First Amendment.

9/ E.Mansell Pattison M.D. co-author of the article: Faith Healing.


11/ Dr.George Matheson, Toronto psychologist, author of articles, special interest in religion and hypnosis.

12/ Francis Breen,M.D. Lansing,Michigan, oncologist, expert on hypnosis, previous expert witness for the Vatican in a case of unusual healing.

13/ Frank F.Ochsberg, M.D. Lansing,Michigan, psychiatrist, expert on mind-manipulation, hostage taking.

14/ Francis Horvath,M.D. Lansing,Michigan. author of a study on quackery, sectarian healings, hypnotherapy, report available in manuscript at this time.

15/ Representatives of major religious bodies.
9. RESOLUTION 133 — MANDATORY SEAT BELT UTILIZATION LAWS

Resolution 133 asked the AMA to support mandatory seat belt utilization laws which would not relieve auto manufacturers of their responsibility to install passive restraints, and to oppose the Department of Transportation's administrative regulation which would release auto manufacturers from these laws.

The House of Delegates considered the following Substitute Resolution 133:

Resolved, That the American Medical Association support mandatory seat belt utilization laws which do not simultaneously relieve automobile manufacturers of their responsibility to install passive restraints; and be it further

Resolved, That the AMA inform state societies about the status of mandatory seat belt utilization laws which simultaneously relieve automobile manufacturers of their responsibility to install passive restraints; and be it further

Resolved, That the AMA encourage the U. S. Department of Transportation to reconsider its administrative regulation that would release automobile manufacturers from the responsibility of providing passive restraints when mandatory seat belt utilization for two-thirds of the United States population is attained.

SUBSTITUTE RESOLUTION 133 ADOPTED

10. RESOLUTION 107 — OPPOSITION TO APARTHEID, COMMUNISTIC TOTALITARIANISM, ANTI-SEMITISM AND OTHER SUCH REPREHENSIBLE POLICIES OF GOVERNMENTS

Resolution 107 called upon the AMA to express to the World Medical Association its opposition to apartheid, communistic totalitarianism, anti-semitism and other such governmental policies.

The House of Delegates considered the following Substitute Resolution 107, including a change in the title:
Continued Support of Human Rights and Freedom

Resolved, That the American Medical Association express to the World Medical Association, in a manner it deems most appropriate, its continued support of the dignity of the individual, the importance of human rights and the sanctity of human life, and its opposition to any discrimination based on an individual's color, religious or political beliefs and any other such reprehensible policies.

SUBSTITUTE RESOLUTION 107 ADOPTED INCLUDING A CHANGE IN THE TITLE

11. RESOLUTION 58 — HOUSE RULE TO PREVENT VOTING IMMEDIATELY ON ALL PENDING MATTERS

Resolution 58 asked that the AMA Procedures of the House of Delegates be revised so that a motion to vote immediately applies only to the motion under consideration at the time.

RESOLUTION 58 NOT ADOPTED

12. REPORT D OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES
INSANITY AS A DEFENSE

Report D of the Board of Trustees informed the House of Delegates of AMA liaison activities with the American Psychiatric Association to explore the possibility of developing a mutually agreeable position on the insanity defense.

REPORT D OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES FILED

13. REPORT L OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES
HEALTH POLICY AGENDA FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE — STATUS REPORT

Report L of the Board of Trustees discussed Phase II, the policy development phase, of the Health Policy Agenda of the American People, informing the House that a new brochure is available which provides a summary of the HPA project and includes testimonials on the HPA from legislators, health care professionals, business leaders and consumer representatives.

REPORT L OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES FILED
June 1985.

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 107 (A-85)

Introduced by: Herbert A. Holden, M. D.
Delegate, California

Subject: Opposition to Apartheid, Communist Totalitarianism, Anti-Semitism and Other Such Reprehensible Policies of Government

Referred to: Reference Committee H
(Richard J. McMurray, M. D., Chairman)

Whereas, The AMA plans to send its representatives to Brussels, Belgium, on October 21-25, 1985, for the World Medical Assembly of the World Medical Association (WMA); and

Whereas, The AMA is a national medical association to the WMA and financially supports the WMA; and

Whereas, The Medical Association of South Africa and medical associations from other countries whose governments support reprehensible policies against people in their countries, such as apartheid, communist totalitarianism and anti-semitism, are also members of the WMA, which is supported by the AMA; and

Whereas, Members of the AMA do not wish to condone or associate with the South African policy of apartheid and other unjust, morally corrupt and reprehensible policies of other countries of the world; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the American Medical Association express to the World Medical Association, in a manner it deems most appropriate, its opposition to apartheid, communist totalitarianism, anti-semitism and other such policies of governments.

Fiscal Note: Within usual Association programs
Resolution: 100  
(A-85)

Introduced by: American Academy of Pediatrics  
Subject: Religious Exemptions in Child Abuse Legislation  
Referred to: Reference Committee B  
(Malcolm O. Scamahorn, M.D., Chairman)

Whereas, Child abuse or neglect includes failure to provide medical care, regardless of the religious beliefs of the parent(s) or others responsible for the child; and

Whereas, The responsibility to report or prosecute cases of failure to provide medical care to a child should not vary with the religious beliefs of parents; and

Whereas, Some religions and cults rely exclusively on prayer and/or faith healing for treatment of disease; and

Whereas, Many states have passed "religious immunity" laws, which are exempt from the requirement that failure to provide medical care to sick children be reported or prosecuted in those cases where the parents' religious beliefs preclude medical treatment; and

Whereas, A religious exemption provision was nearly included in the recently passed National Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, but was withdrawn after vigorous lobbying in Congress by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Medical Association; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the American Medical Association examine all state statutes pertaining to child abuse and neglect for "religious immunity" clauses and encourage state medical associations to seek to expunge such clauses where present; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the AMA encourage physicians to continue to advocate that no exception be made to child abuse and neglect laws and regulations, at any level of government, which would permit failure to provide medical care to a child not to be reported or prosecuted on the basis that the parents' religious beliefs preclude medical treatment.

Fiscal Note: Within usual Association programs

Refund to Board of Trustees
December 13, 1985

Francis Horvath, M.D.
2909 E. Grand River
Lansing, MI  48912

Dear Doctor Horvath:

The Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs (formerly the Judicial Council) considered the materials you submitted as background for your resolution "that the American Medical Association establish a committee to investigate the various forms of unauthorized practices of medicine by non-professional psychotherapists, particularly the sectarian healers and hypnotherapists" and "That upon conclusion of the investigation the results and recommendations be reported to the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association." After careful consideration, the Council determined that it does not have jurisdiction in this matter. The Council commends to you the method of having your state medical society's delegates introducing a resolution to the AMA House of Delegates.

I will return the carton of materials that you sent to us in the near future.

Sincerely,

Mary M. Devlin

MMD/z

bcc:  Bruce Ambrose, Executive Director
     Michigan State Medical Society
December 4, 1985

Nancy Dickey, MD
Chairman, Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs
American Medical Association
535 North Dearborn Street
Chicago, IL 60610

Dear Dr. Dickey:

It has been brought to our attention that the Michigan State Medical Society has requested the Council to review the issues surrounding the fraudulent health practices of occult and sectarian healers. The American Society of Internal Medicine supports this request.

The hazards posed by such practices are of concern to all physicians and the AMA Council on Ethics and Judicial Affairs is an appropriate forum to begin addressing this whole area.

Sincerely,

T. Reginald Harris, MD
President
November 25, 1985

Richard J. McMurray, M.D.
President, Michigan State Medical Society
120 West Saginaw Street
East Lansing, MI 48823

Dear Doctor McMurray;

At the Michigan Society of Internal Medicine Board of Trustees meeting on November 24, 1985, the MSTM adopted a motion to accept Doctor Francis Horvath's Resolution to support the Michigan State Medical Society concerning infractions of human rights by fraudulent health practitioners (see attached).

The Michigan Society of Internal Medicine would appreciate having the Resolution presented to the appropriate committees.

Sincerely,

Caroline Rich
Executive Secretary

Enclosure

cc: Francis Horvath, M.D., MSTM Board of Trustees
Howard S. Goldberg, M.D., President
Juan Carioni, M.D., President-elect
Joseph Weiss, M.D., Secretary/Treasurer
RESOLUTION

Board of Trustees (Board) meeting on November 24, 1985

Introduced by Francis Horvath, M.D., Regional Trustee

Title: Resolution to support the Michigan State Medical Society (MSMS) concerning infractions of human rights by fraudulent health practitioners.

Whereas, the American Society of Internal Medicine (ASIM) concerns itself with medical socio-economic issues, including issues of public health, and of ethics; and

Whereas, the ethics are for the protection of the individual. The ethics in all healings (professional and non-professional) are part of the basic human rights; and

Whereas, the American Medical Association's (AMA) House of Delegates in their resolution in June 1985 expressed their "Continued support of Human Rights and Freedom," and defended the children's right to ethical healings through the resolution of "Religious Exeptions in Child Abuse Legislation"; and

Whereas, the estimated 20-30% highly suggestible, vulnerable segment of our population are without meaningful medical and legal protection against exploitation through mind-manipulations (strong suggestions, hypnosis with or without trance) in their health care by quacks, cults, non-professional psychotherapists, especially by sectarian healers, hypnotherapists; and

Whereas, the study of such practices with their impact on the individual and on the community, prepared by the cooperation of a group of selected physicians and assisted by the local medical community, was found by the Ingham County Medical Society's Executive Committee as expressing "valid concerns," but the issues involved are beyond the scope of any local medical society; and

Whereas, a Resolution concerning such practices was accepted by, and presented by the Michigan State Medical Society (MSMS) to the Judicial Commission.
of the AMA; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Board express its support for all those efforts, which are for the extension of the protection to the vulnerable segment of the society, by the medical profession, against infractions of the basic human rights by fraudulent health practitioners, as it was done for the children; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Board convey its support to the Michigan State Medical Society for their acceptance and presentation of the Resolution concerning above practitioners, to the Judicial Commission of the AMA; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Board request the American Society of Internal Medicine to endorse this "Resolution of support" and forward it to the AMA, and be it further

RESOLVED: That the following be notified of this Resolution of support:

Harrison L. Rogers, Jr., M.D. President of the AMA
John Coury, M.D. President-elect of the AMA
T. Reginald Harris, M.D. President of ASIM
Richard J. McMurray, M.D. President of MSMS
Nancy Dickey, M.D. Chairman of the Michigan Delegation to the AMA
Thomas C. Payne, M.D. Member of the Michigan Delegation to the AMA

President of the Michigan Delegation to the AMA House of Delegates
Chairman of the Judicial Commission of the AMA
Member of the Michigan Delegation to the AMA House of Delegates.