

# EDITORIAL

## A Task Force Taken to Task

In 1970, at a public meeting in Los Angeles, Dr. Morris Lipton and a number of Orthomolecular psychiatrists participated in a conference on Orthomolecular psychiatry. Each participant was given equal time. However, before the meeting Dr. Lipton approached the chairman, Dr. Ross MacLean, and demanded equal time. In other words, he felt that as the sole representative of the anti-orthomolecular camp he was entitled to more time than was allotted to any other contributor. This was the first time at any scientific meeting in 25 years I had heard this principle of equal time invoked by a scientist.

However, apparently it works in one direction only. When the APA. Task Force chaired by Lipton carried on its desultory deliberations, it at no time (1) consulted with any Orthomolecular psychiatrist, (2) invited briefs from any Orthomolecular psychiatrist, (3) conducted any therapeutic research, or (4) allowed any Orthomolecular psychiatrist to see their report before publication. In addition, members of the APA. Task Force Committee addressed a large number of meetings in Canada and the U.S.A. attacking Orthomolecular therapy long before their report was published and at no time provided any opportunity for rebuttal. In contrast, we in the Orthomolecular field on at least two occasions invited members of the A.P.A. Task Force to present their point of view at Orthomolecular meetings (Lipton once, and Ban once). This courtesy has never been afforded any of us.

When John Hoffer's analysis was received, I promptly sent a copy to the president of the A.P.A. requesting that he distribute it to members of the Task Force and requesting their comment. It was with the greatest astonishment that I received a letter from Dr. M. Lipton, dated May 28, 1974, where he states, "If you intend to publish it, perhaps it would be possible to put my comments in writing as an addendum to your paper." This statement was not only surprising but erroneous, since I had not written the paper and John Hoffer is not a pseudonym for A. Hoffer. It appears that the opponents of ortho-molecular therapy, as exemplified by M. Lipton, demand equal space as well as time, but do not feel it is necessary to extend the same rule to anyone else.

I promptly replied June 6, 1974 as follows:

"It is my intention that this article will be published, but I am not certain that you will be given an opportunity for comments since you will recall that your Task Force Report came out with no prior notice to any of our group with respect to what you were saying, and none of us were given any opportunity to comment on the misinformation that was present in the Task Force Report."

The editors of the **Journal** are prepared to give Dr. M. Lipton space in our **Journal** to answer the criticisms of his report, but only on condition that the A.P.A. Journal provide equal space in which we can state our point of view and our objections to the Task Force Report.

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