Answered Aug 7/56
ZK

Aug 3, 1956

Dear Lawrence:

I got that copy of Saturday Post within the hour of its arrival on the newsstand at the Baker Hotel and read the article immediately. Die since read it carefully at least twice. Its splendid and written in a nice easy and free style. Die passed the reference on to a number of my non-medical friends and all of them save one think its a very valuable contribution. The dissenter is the local Narcotic Bureau Chief.

He's pretty sharp and I like him. He saw some implications which I can not see but I don't propose to argue with him. He's not convinced that crime is not the immediate and direct result of warped behavior caused by drugs. He adds that he is aware of that situation because of his many years as an enforcement officer. He sees the addict under different circumstances than you and I do. That I grant as a valid point but I also believe his attitude is crystallized through years of Anslingerisms. Has the Commissioner challenged your article? Senator Price Daniel will not, I'm sure. He put on his Television Hippodrome as a political measure so that he could be elected Governor of Texas and on that he has

apparently succeeded. He led on the first go round and is now in the run-off but doesn't have any real opposition. He may make a good Governor but I'm not impressed by him. He's one of these "Holier Than Thou" brethren who unmasked is probably a hypocrite. His local contacts in Dallas wanted me to appear on his T.V. fiasco but I declined firmly. ~~I~~ I offered to meet with him at his hotel room any time to explain how from a medical and factual aspect he was being very poorly informed. My offer was not taken seriously. I watched some parts of his show and they were terrible. I could not help to be reminded of your hero Richard Pearson Hobson.

I saw a reference a few days ago that in 1550 the King of Spain issued decrees against the spread of marihuana addiction in Mexico. That's 408 years ago and 15 years before the founding of St Augustine Florida our oldest city. And of course it was long before the use of tobacco in the U.S. I don't know when those horrible alcoholic beverages(?) were developed in Mexico. After that I suppose there were still many very poor peoples who couldn't afford liquor but could dry and smoke the native weed.

You know I can't accept the idea that using an intoxicant is vicious and psychopathic. I think

The Creation of man and the laws of adjustment through evolution did not take into account the changes in milieu. Im convinced that I get along better with cigarets and a beer now and then and Im quite flexible and adjustable. Ive not had any pleasant memories over any opiates but some people must have — and to a striking degree. Opium, alcohol, coffee, tobacco, and even marihuana have no essential nutritive value but Ive often thought that each may actually promote acceptable behavior in the overall more than the reverse. Over indulgence of course upsets the brain & where it can't do well. I feel sorry for the problem drinker but I often wonder what torment he experiences by staying dry indefinitely.

Had an interesting reaction from one of my friends who operates a very big business. He said an employee who becomes an alcoholic is no longer of use to him - When drunk he does foolish and irresponsible things but that when he takes the veil and becomes an A.A. he's reminded of a "stud horse who has been operated on". Just no good to his company any more. In other words some liquor enhances effectiveness.

Now — and this is news - I was the winner of the 6th flight (there were 9) at the Golf Club President's matches and in so doing got a very nice trophy for my prowess. I one-putted six

greens in a row on the back nine for a snappy 42. I was 2 down through #10. Even Vic was thrilled at the come back. It was the first prolonged event I ever won. Now I think I'll concentrate on putting.

Bill and Shirley are now in the Service and on duty at the Seattle Hospital. He was the last new man to arrive so was assigned to Out Patient Medicine. He'll do well there and may be get a better assignment later on. He a Reserve officer doing his two years required by Doctor Draft. Has not entirely closed the door to a career in the Service. That I shall leave entirely to him.

Hope your inference re the S.G. pans out. Did you see Newsweek July 30, page 84? A bit of very accurate reporting. Do you suppose it came out of the Secretary's office? No finer event could happen to the Service at this time than Cronin's elevation to a spot where his ability could ~~have~~ the ~~load~~ broadest possible effect. He's solid and honest and not afraid. In these three he exceeds even Parran. It shouldn't be long now until we hear one way or another.

Vic still plays a lot of golf and is in right good shape.

Sincerely
Bill