

April 12, 1973

Miss Sylvia Covet
Editorial Director
Modern Medicine Publications
4015 West 65th Street
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55435

Dear Miss Covet:

I regret that your letter of March 26, 1973 provides neither adequate explanation nor justification of your abrupt action in rejecting the manuscript on headache. It was rather evasive and did not truly respond to the facts I had pointed out in my previous letter which I still feel represent the essential truth of the matter.

It has become apparent now that even a journal, such as Modern Medicine, as well as drug manufacturers themselves, can have a biasing influence upon readers in connection with sound scientific appraisal of treatments & medications because of ulterior motivation. In view of this, I believe the FDA should bring a journal such as yours under its scrutiny as well as drug manufacturers and it is my intention to bring this matter to the notice of the FDA in complete detail. To reject the manuscript because it was too "incendiary" is a ludicrous comment in view of the strong differences of opinion that sometimes exist between critical scientists. It is an especially weak excuse after the wording of the initial solicitation of a paper from me by your Executive Medical Editor, stating specifically that the statement might contain "a scorching condemnation or a paean of praise". This action of yours is really quite a turnabout and could be explained only by the following relevant facts,

Sandoz now has full-page ads for Fiorinal on the back covers of the issues of the Archives of Neurology. The FDA, however, and rightly, has expressed some concern about the claims of the manufacturer for this drug. I have had the same criticism for twenty or more years. Plus, this situation provides one plain reason why you editorially deleted the comment in my manuscript indicating the non-specificity of this shot-gun preparation and raising the question about the validity even of a headache syndrome for which it is allegedly specific.

Your action is further more understandable in view of the decision by Sandoz, following the FDA's scrutiny, to recruit physicians in the headache field around the country to carry out therapeutic trials of the drug (paying the physician \$200 for each patient included in this study) after the drug has been on the market for twenty years. This also tends to explain why Modern Medicine has decided to publish a Forum on the medical treatment of migraine. It would seem that it may have been suggested by Sandoz, probably