

**Arent Fox**  
MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Herbert L. Rosedale, Esq.                      William Rehling, Esq.  
Michael D. Langone, Ph.D.                      Cynthia S. Kisser

**CC:** Livia Bardin, M.S.W.                      Peter N. Georgiades, Esq.  
Bruce D. Perry, M.D., Ph.D.                      Patricia Ryan, M.P.A.  
Margaret Thaler Singer, Ph.D.                      Louis Jolyon West, M.D.

**FROM:** David J. Bardin

**RE:** NIMH - Colloquy between Congressmen Saxton and Porter

**DATE:** August 4, 1995

As noted in the attachment, **CONGRESS ENCOURAGES NIMH CULT-RELATED RESEARCH.** This good news comes thanks to three Members of Congress, Mr. Saxton (R-IL), Mr. Istook (R-OK) and Mr. Porter (R-IL). Each played an indispensable role and should hear from people in his State and District as well as from the AFF and CAN leaderships.

Thanks are due to all three Members at their District and Washington DC offices:

Honorable Jim Saxton  100 High Street Mount Holly, NJ 08060 609-261-5800  + Cherry Hill + Toms River  339 Cannon HOB Washington, DC 20515-3003	Honorable Ernest Istook, Jr.  5400 No. Grand Blvd. Suite 5400 Oklahoma City, OK 73112 405-942-3636  + Ponca City + Bartlesville  119 Cannon HOB Washington, D.C. 20515-3605	Honorable John Porter  102 Wilmot Road Suite 200 Deerfield, IL 60015 708-940-0202  + Waukegan + Arlington Hgts  2373 Rayburn HOB Washington, D.C. 20515-1310
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Write, with a copy to me, and, if possible, also visit the District office and try to see him during the August recess to say, "Thank you," in person.

Senate Appropriations Committee will take up the bill after the August recess. I am in touch with NIMH re implementation in the next fiscal year, which begins October 1, 1995.

Also enclosed are:

- The colloquy which took place on the floor of the House of Representatives on Wednesday evening as reported at 141 Congressional Record, "Daily Edition," August 2, 1995, p. H8248.
- Pages 75-76 regarding the NIMH budget from House Report No. 104-209, Appropriations Committee Report on H.R. 2127, the Labor, HHS, Education Bill.

## CONGRESS ENCOURAGES NIMH CULT-RELATED RESEARCH

by David J. Bardin, Washington Counsel for AFF and CAN [August 4, 1995]

Badly-needed research efforts by NIMH moved significantly closer to reality this week, thanks to the initiative of Congressman Jim Saxton (R-NJ) working with two other Congressmen, Ernest Istook (R-OK) and John Porter (R-IL). Their thoughtful initiative will encourage the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) to look into cult-related behavioral issues concerning terrorism, violence and other criminal behavior. It could lead to important behavioral research.

In a floor colloquy, Mr. Saxton, a senior member of the National Security Committee and Chairman of the Congressional Task Force on Terrorism and Unconventional Warfare, pointed out:

Many Americans are concerned and puzzled by the conduct of individuals involved in events such as the bombing of the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, the Sarin attack in the Tokyo subway and the extreme hold that David Koresh had on his followers. The NIMH is particularly suited to examine such concerns in a scientific manner.

Mr. Saxton referred to a ground-breaking provision contained in the Appropriations Committee Report on the bill that provides funds for the NIMH. At the request of Mr. Istook, the Report states:

*Violence.*---NIMH is encouraged to support research pertaining to behavior modification and attitude change within the general population and their role in increasing criminality and violence. It would also include the research questions involved in psychological profiling of violent, criminal and destructive personalities.

In the floor colloquy, Mr. Porter, floor manager of the appropriations bill, confirmed that the request to the NIMH would address specific concerns raised by Mr. Saxton to the extent that these concerns "can be addressed scientifically, based on present knowledge and additional research."

MR. SAXTON: .... The current state of understanding of such groups is extremely limited. Through efforts by the NIMH, we hope to increase our understanding of characteristics of such groups which are associated with increased potential for terrorism, violence or other criminal behavior; the manner in which such groups recruit individuals and influence their behavior sufficiently to move them toward terrorism, violence, and other criminality; the causes behind members leaving such groups; and mental health effects of membership in such groups.

Mr. Porter chairs the Appropriations Subcommittee with responsibility for the NIMH budget. The floor colloquy amplifies the language in the committee report.