

## President's Message

This is a special issue of the *Bulletin* going to a large audience. It thus marks the fact that this *Bulletin* has become a prime scientific journal for all interested in forensic psychiatry and in matters concerning psychiatry and the law. It speaks for the growth of AAPL and for the growth of scientific and professional interest in psychiatry and medicine, and in its relationship to our fellow discipline, law.

One should again draw attention to the formation of the American Board of Forensic Psychiatry, Inc., which will deal with the certification of those specializing in forensic psychiatry. This development offers much promise to those of our profession who specialize in a specific forensic sense. This board will announce its criteria and standards in an increasingly clear way as it progresses. We wish it well.

We would also like to take this occasion to invite all members and friends of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law to attend the VIth World Congress of Psychiatry in Honolulu, August 28 to September 3, 1977. An active program of great interest, covering the depth and breadth of psychiatry at a world level, is planned, with specific Plenary Sessions, Symposia, and Free Communications devoted to the area of legal and forensic psychiatry. Of particular interest is the Plenary Session on the Ethical Problems in Psychiatry, as well as the Tuesday evening special session on the Ethics of the Psychiatrist, a free discussion of these issues which your President will chair.

The first draft of the proposed guidelines for the Model Commitment Code has been circulated widely for comments and for consensus purposes by the Task Force of the Model Commitment Code of the American Psychiatric Association's Committee on Psychiatry and the Law. By and large this draft has received interesting and pertinent comment, and we look forward to the progress of this work. It is of the greatest importance that law-making which affects psychiatry be guided by psychiatry, and that the Model Commitment Code, if consensus can be achieved, be accepted by the American Psychiatric Association as a guide to all state and federal legislatures.

We look forward to seeing many of the members of the AAPL meeting in Toronto, where a good program is planned, as well as at the World Congress in Honolulu.

G. J. SARWER-FONER, M.D.  
President,  
American Academy of Psychiatry & the Law