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BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

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Dr. Jackson
Psychiatric Unit
Armed Forces Examining and Entrance Station
570 15th Street
Oakland, California 94612

Dear Dr. Jackson:

Mr. Richard Latvala, whose most recent processing at your induction center would have been today, has explained to me your prior opinion.

While I have a tendency to question the full accounts that patients of mine might have of their interactions with other physicians, still it is felt that you would be best appraised of my clinical interest in his case.

He stated that he had passed the psychiatric qualifications for induction and thus stands draft eligible. It is my professional opinion, based upon my academic degrees and experience which includes a year as a unit psychiatrist in a prison, that it is highly unlikely that this man would be able to carry out the duties inherent in military service. His past history suggests a strong tendency towards rebellion in the face of unacceptable authority; for this patient at this time military service would be unacceptable. As your authority is suasive in this matter, the decision is of course ultimately yours but please be aware that should Richard Latvala for any reason be anything but a credit to the military service, I would consider it my duty as a physician and a citizen to carry this matter further. You are reminded that it is the general function of military service to defend the nation and it is not the function to "discipline" schizoid personality disorders.

I do not wish to make this a cause of celebre nor do I to advertise my feelings regarding military service; however, I shall do so to protect the interests of both my country and my patients. You might also be intersted to learn that while a great many young men have asked that I write a letter for psychiatric deferrment, I have refused to do so unless it was my honest professional opinion that the individual should not be accepted for military service. As the military service has become more demanding in terms of its quota, I have become more demanding in terms of documentation by my patients of their histories.

The initiative is yours.

Very truly yours,

am
cc: Richard Latvala

Robert Kramer, M.D.