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The Study Group - N.A.
720 Chena Ridge Road,
Fairbanks, AK 99709
January 6, 1988

Bob Rehmar - Chairman, Board of Trustees
c/o World Service Office, Inc.
P.O.Box 9999,
Van Nuys, CA 91409

Dear Bob,

Our group received a compilation of changes made to the 3rd Edition, Revised, of the basic text of Narcotics Anonymous that are printed in the 4th Edition. We heartily approve of the type and print of the 4th Edition and hope that these will be kept; we also approve of the index and want it kept.

The fellowship gave approval to W.S.O. to correct only grammatical, spelling and punctuation errors in the 3rd Edition, Revised. Our group has verified that there are at least 298 changes in the 4th Edition, of which, in our opinion, 112 substantially change the wording and therefore the message of Narcotics Anonymous. Although we concede that some of the wording changes made were an improvement, ie. use of the word "recovery" instead of the word "clean", none of these changes were approved by the fellowship and therefore break the traditions.

We protest, more in sorrow than in anger, W.S.O.'s misuse of our approval for corrections. We feel that the basic message of Narcotics Anonymous has been changed sufficiently to warrant total recall of all 4th Edition basic texts. We were particularly horrified by the change in the 3rd Edition, Revised, page 32, paragraph 1, sentence 1, from "Having decided we want God, as we understood Him,..." to "Having decided that we want God to...", was by itself a large enough change to recall the 4th Edition. There are other changes of an equally distressing magnitude but we feel that this particular example will help you, as a fellow addict, to understand our revulsion at these changes.

We are afraid that the frequent changes of our approved basic text may be driving away addicts from the recovery offered by our program. If we, as recovering addicts, cannot agree on our basic message of recovery, then perhaps we do not have enough to offer.

With love in recovery,
The Study Group of
Narcotics Anonymous
Fairbanks, Alaska

ao:TSG
cc:World Literature Committee
World Service Office