



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

18 January, 1982

Dear Tony

Thank you for your letter of 8 December enclosing one from Mr Antony Benskin of Riversham, Saunton, Braunton, North Devon, about the remarkable gifts of healing of Mr Ted Fricker of whom, as it happens, I have also heard from other sources.

Mr Benskin says that Mr Fricker's gifts are already known to a number of doctors. It should therefore be possible for him, with their assistance, to suggest some medical professional body - such as the British Medical Association - that he be permitted to demonstrate them to a selected number of other doctors representative of that organisation. There would certainly be no objection from Health Ministers. If, on the other hand, Mr Fricker wishes to have a clinical trial mounted which would compare his methods of diagnosis and treatment with those of doctors, then I would suggest that he put a research proposal to the Medical Research Council. Such a study would not be possible without the co-operation of members of the medical profession and unless it was methodologically sound and met the criteria of the Medical Research Council and Scientific references. Mr Fricker would therefore be well advised to seek the co-operation of those doctors who are already aware of his skills in drafting the necessary protocol and then seek to submit it jointly with them.

I hope that it may prove possible in one of these ways for Mr Fricker's gifts to be demonstrated or evaluated. Health Ministers are at one with me in recognising that there are many individuals who are not registered medical practitioners but who appear to have

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healing talents which are not easily explained. The satisfaction and relief they give their patients clearly makes their work worth studying.

Personally, I find Mr. Fricker's story truly remarkable and I have read his book with the greatest interest.

Yours sincerely

Raymond Stelter

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Tony Speller, Esq., M.P.