

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

November 9, 1981

Dr. Everett C. Koop
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Health
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W., Rm. 716-G
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Dr. Koop:

Thank you for responding to my letter of November 2, 1981. After having received your response of November 5, 1981, I obtained the book A Sign of Cain, by Frederic Wertham, as you suggested.

I am unable to find any reference to the fact that "two-hundred and sixty-seven thousand people were destroyed this way in Germany before Hitler came to power", (emphasis added). "This Way", according to you was the gassing and destruction of "the mentally ill, the retarded, criminals, and defective babies".

It is my understanding that Frederic Wertham estimates in his book that 275,000 psychiatric patients were killed between 1939 and 1946. Hitler came to power in 1933.

I am writing again today regarding my original request for documentation of your statement that these people were killed before Hitler came to power. I would most appreciate a prompt response to my inquiry. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Carl Levin

CL/ja