

The Editor's Page

One can often observe people who are unhappy with a situation, sit back and say, "Why should I do anything about it? They'll do what they want to anyway!" Instead, those individuals ought to be voicing their opinions to the "right" people — the decision makers — making their beliefs and feelings known so that their thinking will be considered and influence the decisions made.

I was heartened recently to be in a group of people and learn that one of the group was contacting our senators and her congressman to express her opinion about policies and regulations of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). She was well read on the issues that concerned her and presented her arguments well. She happened to be a non-American by birth, and the thought occurred to me: Do we natural American citizens use the privilege and our channels of communication effectively to make our democratic system work? Are we taking advantage of our "right to speak"? Unless we do, the "establishment" or people in power will use only their own knowledge as they make decisions.

I'd like to apply this thought, now, to our *Journal*. Since I've become editor, I've had a chance to meet some of you at the various national meetings held last fall. I encouraged you then, as I am now, to write to me and let me know how you believe the *Journal* can be improved and serve you better. Unless you do, I have no way of knowing what you believe should be done.

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