

STATEMENT OF REVEREND FRANK REYNOLDS, NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF TEEN CHALLENGE YOUTH CENTERS, SPRINGFIELD, MO.

Reverend REYNOLDS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.¹

Teen Challenge is a ministry to street people. It began in 1958 as a ministry to street gangs by David Wilkerson. As the work progressed we began to encounter drug addicts. Many heard the message of hope in Jesus Christ and began to respond in a positive manner.

From this beginning has grown a ministry that now is in 24 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, with ministries in 62 cities. Through coffee houses and street workers, Teen Challenge made contact with over 380,000 people in 1975. In our various residential facilities we have 1,000 people any day. I say this to let you know that we have a broad contact with a lot of young people at the street level where the action is.

Our experience has been primarily at the street level, although the past few years we have received more and more people referred by other agencies, both public and private.

Our primary thrust has been to what we have called "troubled youth." This has resulted in our also working in a preventive-type ministry with drug education programs in schools and community youth groups.

Through these presentations we had many opportunities to deal with young people in a confidential manner about their own drug involvement. We were able to get a good reading of what was happening in the drug scene.

In the early 1960's we primarily reached the inner city heroin addicts. With the "drug explosion" of the mid- and late-sixties we began to reach people with various dependencies on many different drugs: Tranquilizers, barbiturates, amphetamines, hallucinogens, as well as alcohol, and the opiates.

Today, most of the drug dependent persons we work with are so-called polydrug users. By that we mean they use many different types of drugs and mix them with alcohol.

My personal feeling is to include alcohol with drugs, but we will not get into that.

I know this hearing is primarily concerned with the use and abuse of amphetamines. But, I think, we are going to be remiss if we do not realize that this is part of an overall problem and, perhaps, a philosophy of the medical and pharmaceutical business.

That philosophy is; that there is a solution to every problem in a pill and it's wrong to suffer any discomfort, physical, or emotional. Perhaps, it is a problem of our "cradle to the grave security society."

This is promoted in the advertising, on television, and other media. Since I am concerned primarily with our youth 14 to 25, what are we teaching them? "I have an important meeting, I must be up for it, so I eat or drink something to pick me up so I can put my best foot forward." Then we get pushed out of shape when our teenagers do the

¹ Reverend Reynolds subsequently submitted the following: "It might be added that Teen Challenge is a voluntary program. It is also a nonprofit corporation and is privately funded by contributions. We have not received Government grants. One 1-year grant was received from NIDA for a research study."