

in the State of Illinois, passage of title III, part A, of H.R. 15758 will be of significant help to us in Chicago.

"Enactment of legislation in this area is long overdue. The disease of alcoholism ranks among the foremost health problems of our society. Under present conditions, the primary burden of dealing with the more severe stages of alcoholism on the community level lies with law enforcement, rather than public health authorities.

"This situation is as unrealistic as it is ineffective. Law-enforcement authorities, already burdened with increased responsibility in the area of crime control, are no better equipped to handle incidents of alcoholism than medical doctors to handle crime problems in the community. Several Federal, State, and local courts have already transferred responsibility for handling chronic alcoholic repeaters from law enforcement to public health agencies.

"The President's National and District of Columbia Crime Commission both recommended such a transfer in communities throughout the Nation, not only for sound humanitarian reasons, but to relieve law-enforcement authorities of an onerous, unproductive responsibility—a responsibility, I might add, which drains law-enforcement resources away from the real fight against crime and criminals taking place in the country today.

"The legislation being considered by the committee would therefore be extremely helpful to U.S. communities, especially major urban centers, which need assistance in the development and improvement of alcoholism care and treatment facilities and services.

"This is particularly true in light of the possible court decisions which would prohibit the criminal detention of chronic alcoholics on charges of public drunkenness. Action must be taken, and soon, to prepare communities for the task of effecting an orderly transfer of community responsibility for chronic alcoholism from law enforcement to public health hands.

"The Alcoholic Rehabilitation Act of 1968 is therefore a vitally needed step toward alleviating one of the most serious urban health problems of our time. It will help the communities to help themselves in developing local programs to curb the incidence and prevalence of alcoholism in our society. And let us not forget that in addition to the humanitarian and administrative aspects of this legislation, it will also be a step toward reducing the economic impact of a disease costing American industry an estimated \$2 billion annually in lost man-hours and work efficiency.

"In conclusion, then, our country urgently needs a comprehensive national program to deal with the health problem of chronic alcoholism. The Alcoholic Rehabilitation Act of 1968 represents the beginning of such a program. The administration is to be commended for proposing it, and Chairman Staggers for sponsoring it.

"On behalf of the city of Chicago, I sincerely hope that your committee will approve, the 90th Congress will pass, and the President will sign to law, this bill that will aid our States and communities in providing services for the care and control of a disease afflicting millions of American citizens.

"I thank you."

Mr. ROGERS. Thank you very much, Miss Snyder, for this statement from Mayor Daley. We appreciate his testimony, and I think it might