

ities designed to acquaint the total community with objective facts about the role of alcohol in the life of the community, the several problems that grow out of it, and the responsibility of the community to deal with these problems.

D. SOCIAL AND LEGAL CONTROLS

We urge the people of God to work constructively for the creation of attitudes which will constitute a social control over the drinking customs of the populace by establishing high values on the virtue of sobriety and strong sanctions against the irresponsible use of alcohol including drunkenness.

We urge the appropriate public agencies to enforce the present legal regulations on the distribution and consumption of alcoholic beverages and urge the general public to obey these regulations in the interest of public welfare. At the same time, we urge that new forms of legal control based on scientific understanding be developed.

In particular, we urge the courts to expand practices under which chronic offenders for drunkenness may elect to receive treatment in lieu of jail sentences. We note the special need for constructive controls over the increasing problem of alcohol-related traffic accidents.

The churches then, to sum up, are helping people to prevent alcohol problems through three major avenues of concern:

First, we have a department of research and development headed by David Barton.

Second, we have a department of pastoral services and training which is headed by a native son of Oklahoma, the Reverend William Sprague.

Third, we have a department of communications which is headed by Simons L. Roof, and which is responsible for issuing our various publications.

All of us work at therapy or helping folks and communities who are already afflicted with not only alcoholism but many other types of alcohol problems.

The average Episcopal minister spends 75 percent of his pastoral time with parishioners who have alcohol-related problems.

What we need are facilities such as will eventually grow out of the Alcoholic Rehabilitation Act of 1968.

The responsible churches of America will evidence our long-time continuing interest by giving members of this committee our strong support in your attempts to achieve a new enlightened concept.

The North Conway Institute is a product of the ecumenical movement, which is sweeping the religious community. It is both interfaith and interdisciplinary. The institute has serving on its board of trustees individuals representative of the three major faiths—Protestant, Catholic, Jewish—and the health, education, and welfare professions and volunteer service groups. A wide spectrum of religious opinion from liberal to conservative is represented by the membership of the board of trustees.

One of the notable achievements of the institute was the endorsement of a statement by prominent church leaders of Metropolitan Boston in 1966. The statement was drafted by the Ecumenical Council on Alcohol Programs and was endorsed by leaders from 16 different churches ranging from Roman Catholic to Salvation Army. The key paragraphs read as follows:

We believe that alcoholism and alcohol-related problems are a serious threat to the health, happiness, and welfare of many people and to the stability of families and communities.