

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 inter-faith 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.

Among other consequences of excessive drinking which call for remedial action are the break-up of family life, the stimulation of crime and juvenile delinquency, the mounting of welfare costs, and the loss to industry through absenteeism and inefficiency.

These problems are not new but they are acute and are made more so by an attitude of complacency and irresponsibility on the part of the general public in whose hands the final determination of social policy lies. It is urgent that churchmen and others concerned with human needs and the moral foundations of our society endeavor to create a more responsible public attitude toward drinking.

We believe that we may all unite on the ground of the virtue of sobriety. This can be practiced in two ways. One is by total abstinence from beverage alcohol for religious motives. The other is by true moderation in the use of alcohol, also for religious motives. On this common ground the virtue of sobriety may be practiced both by abstainers as well as by those who drink moderately.

Although differences of conscientious conviction in relation to certain current drinking customs exist among us, the area of our agreement with regard to drunkenness and alcoholism is sufficiently large and significant as to enable us to unite our best efforts for the alleviation and ultimate solution of these alcohol-related problems.

As Churches move closer to one another and understanding increases, Congress will find more and more support among their constituents for health measures to help communities help the alcoholic and his family; H.R. 15758 is a major step in that direction.

In conclusion, may I strongly urge you to recommend the passage of a comprehensive National Program to deal with the health problems of families and communities dealing with chronic alcoholism.

The Alcoholic Rehabilitation Act of 1968 represents a real step forward in the beginning of such a program. Again I commend the Democratic Administration for proposing this legislation, for Congressman Staggers of West Virginia for sponsoring it, and I hope you, Congressman Jarman, will get your sub-committee to approve this bill so the Congress can pass it shortly so our President can sign it into law.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, for your gracious courtesy in allowing me to testify.

Dr. WORKS. I would like to introduce the Reverend Thomas E. Price, director of the department of alcohol problems and drug abuse, the General Board of Christian Social Concerns of the Methodist Church, who is also a member of the board of directors of the North Conway Institute. I will be glad to answer any questions you have.

Mr. ROGERS. Thank you very much, Reverend Works, and we are pleased to have you, Dr. Price.