

STATEMENT OF REV. THOMAS E. PRICE

Dr. PRICE. I am director of the alcohol problems for the Methodist Board of Social Concerns. I am here to register the church's concern for the kind of programs called for in H.R. 15758.

Now I of course have the statements of the Methodist Church on alcoholism and the needs.

I would read the final paragraph, the concluding paragraph of my statement, which is to say that the Methodist Church, which has a long tradition of abstinence, and it is not prepared to surrender its conviction that abstinence is an answer for many problems associated with it, not the least of which is alcoholism, but it is prepared to enter the public realm to encourage, to support, to cooperate with community-wide efforts at the national, State, and local levels to treat and prevent drinking problems through the most effective means available.

We consider H.R. 15758 an effective means, because of its provisions to facilitate State and community developments of model programs. (Dr. Price's prepared statement follows:)

STATEMENT OF REV. THOMAS E. PRICE, DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOL PROBLEMS AND DRUG ABUSE, GENERAL BOARD OF CHRISTIAN SOCIAL CONCERNS, THE METHODIST CHURCH

My name is Thomas E. Price and I am testifying in my capacity as Director of the Department of Alcohol Problems and Drug Abuse, the General Board of Christian Social Concerns of The Methodist Church. I am an ordained Methodist clergyman with a Ph.D. from Boston University. As administrator of the Methodist Church's national program of alcohol education and rehabilitation I am here to register the Church's interest and concern in support of the program called for in H.R. 15758, Title III, "Alcoholic and Narcotic Addict Rehabilitation Amendments of 1968."

POLICY STATEMENTS OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

I call your attention to the position of the Methodist Church on alcoholism and narcotic addiction as stated by the 1964 General Conference, the highest policy making body of the Church:

Methodists are called by love not only to abstain but also to seek healing and justice for the neighbor who is victimized. Concern for the alcoholic and for all those in trouble because of beverage alcohol is the clear mandate of the Christian faith.

Abstinence is not enough. We also urge our people to join with those engaged in positive and constructive programs seeking solutions to alcohol problems. These include education in church and school, rehabilitation for alcoholics, strongest attainable legal controls and the stimulation of sound empirical research. Christians who love God and their fellowmen can do no less. (Paragraph 1822, 1964 Methodist *Discipline*.)

Alcoholics are sick persons. They can be helped. The church has a unique role to play in the healing process which must be physical, mental and spiritual.

Methodists should take the lead in establishing community agencies for alcoholism education and rehabilitation which are inter-faith and inter-professional in nature. (Miscellaneous Resolution 1964 General Conference.)

And on narcotic addiction:

Society must provide through public and private facilities for the treatment, rehabilitation, and after-care of narcotic addicts and other victims of drug abuse.

The church should support carefully designed plans to control the traffic in narcotics and to rehabilitate the addict. We urge the reform of existing legal barriers for successful rehabilitation of the drug offender. Experi-