

We look to the member churches of the National Council to encourage the establishment and maintenance of clinics and other appropriate therapeutic facilities when competently conducted, for the victims of alcoholism. We urge the churches to give any help possible especially to those organizations which seek to include the resources of the Christian faith in working toward the cure and rehabilitation of alcoholics.

Alcoholism and narcotic addiction does not exhaust the concern of the churches for alcohol and drug problems in our society. The churches are also aware of problems such as driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs, youthful drinking and drug taking, effective legal controls of the manufacture, sale and distribution of alcohol and drugs, and the abuse of alcohol and drugs such as stimulants, sedatives, and hallucinogens in every level of our society. The report of the Cooperative Commission on the study of Alcoholism has demonstrated how alcoholism is interlocked with these other alcohol problems, and I am sure the same thing is true of narcotic addiction and drug abuse problems. Therefore, the churches are beginning to develop a comprehensive program to deal with all alcohol and drug problems. The provisions of H.R. 15758 are vital ingredients in this comprehensive program.

The primary role of the church is in prevention, but the remedial task before us of providing comprehensive care services for the great number of alcoholics and narcotic addicts already afflicted is so urgent that passage of H.R. 15758 is an imperative priority.

RECOMMENDATIONS

We feel that H.R. 15758 could be strengthened by two additions:

1. "Part C—Alcoholism" would be strengthened by adding a section providing for the training of personnel to work with alcoholics and their families just as Section 252, "Part D—Narcotic Addict Rehabilitation" provides for training of workers with narcotic addicts. Training programs for alcoholism workers are needed simply because they are in such short supply and the need for professional and sub-professional workers so great. H.R. 15758 is an excellent vehicle for providing them and I urge the addition of such a section.

2. A preamble to "Part C—Alcoholism," such as the one suggested by Mr. Dimas who testified on behalf of the North American Association of Alcoholism Programs, would strengthen H.R. 15758 by explicitly relating alcoholism to existing health and welfare legislation. Alcoholism is already generally covered in these other programs such as the Office of Economic Opportunity, the Veterans Administration, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Justice Department, and the operating agencies or the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, but presently alcoholism seems to be a low priority item. Because of the complex nature of alcoholism and the implications of it for the work of these other programs, the addition of such a preamble would express strong congressional intent that they be involved in the treatment and prevention of alcoholism.

CONCLUSION

The Methodist Church is not prepared to surrender its conviction that abstinence is a desirable practice in view of the confusion and ambivalence surrounding alcohol use and the many problems associated with it, not the least of which is alcoholism, in this country; but it is prepared to enter the public realm to encourage, support, and cooperate with community wide efforts at the national, state and local levels to treat and to prevent drinking problems through the most effective means available. H.R. 15758 is considered an effective means because its provisions will facilitate state and community development of model programs such as the one incorporated in H.R. 14300 for the District of Columbia which the House of Representatives has already passed without objection.

Mr. ROGERS. Thank you very much, Dr. Price. I am sure the committee is interested in the participation of the churches in the Nation in helping to meet these health problems. It would be an important part of trying to bring about some cure to have the interest of the churches in the Nation join with the medical people to help do some-