

and your colleagues the services of Mr. Hewlett, who has his offices in Washington, D.C.

Mr. ROGERS. Yes; we know Mr. Hewlett, and the good work he does, and we appreciate that offer.

Mr. DIMAS. I have Mr. Bernard Larsen from North Dakota, a former State legislator from that State, and a former member of our board of directors, and a person well informed on the legislative effort.

Mr. ROGERS. It is a pleasure to see you today.

Mr. DIMAS. Our association is comprised of 42 or 43 governmental programs. The governmental programs are parts of other governmental health bodies such as mental health division, such as health departments, such as public welfare departments. I emphasize this point to you, because the alcoholism programs do have a wealth of strength to gather from, rather than working autonomously, as some people might imply at times.

We have an additional 72 agencies which are governmental programs involved in treatment and rehabilitation programs related to alcohol problems.

The association also is considered the professional organization in the field. By this I mean professional people do belong to this association.

The North American Association of Alcoholism Programs strongly supports the provisions of title III, part A of H.R. 15758. We commend Chairman Staggers for introducing this progressive legislation. We also commend this committee for taking early action on this significant legislation.

In prior testimony reference has been made to the President's Crime Commission reports. Many recommendations in these reports are embodied in the provisions of title III, part A of the bill.

I would like to make reference to a February 29 report of a special committee of leading traffic safety experts to the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare who recommended a massive Federal program to eradicate the disease of alcoholism.

Reference has also been made in prior testimony to the two district court decisions that held that a chronic offender could not be convicted for the offense of public intoxication. Reference has been made to the pending Supreme Court decision in the *Powell v. Texas* case.

You gentlemen are aware of the amicus briefs that have been prepared. There was a broad spectrum of interested groups supporting this brief, which included the American Medical Association, the North American Judges Association, and other similar organization. These court decisions certainly represent a humane, logical advance from the outmoded custom of punishing sick people.

We applaud these decisions, but we recognize they present major problems to localities. I believe communities are ready to accept the decisions, but they are not ready to develop health services rather than criminal services for these clientele.

We feel strongly that the Federal Government can not and must not assume the total responsibility for providing the necessary facilities and other resources to meet this pressing need. We believe that the