

The above points, emergency care, existing health, welfare and rehabilitation legislation and training, we respectfully submit, could be in a preamble to title III, part A, of H.R. 15758.

On pages 6 and 7 of my formal testimony a recommended preamble is included. The inclusion of such a preamble would, in our judgment, greatly strengthen the bill without affecting the amount of funds necessary to be appropriated by Congress. We respectfully urge your consideration to include such a preamble.

The last two comments, significant existing Federal efforts: Two significant developments have taken place as a result of the President's Health Message to Congress on March 1, 1966.

One of these was the establishment of the National Advisory Commission on Alcoholism, the purpose of which is to advise the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare on appropriate alcoholism related activity of the Department.

The second was the establishment of the National Center for the Prevention and Control of Alcoholism within the National Institute of Mental Health. Both of these actions were administratively implemented. Our association believes that these important governmental activities should be made statutory by Congress and that the amount of the appropriations and the size of the staff of the National Center should be increased to a level permitting the degree of services and research commensurate with the magnitude of the problem.

Although the court decisions have pointed up the need to handle the large numbers of patients found to be alcoholics, it must be pointed out that the chronic alcoholic coming to the attention of the court makes up a small part of the alcoholic population. Enactment of this legislation will be of great help in the efforts to control the disease. This will stimulate professional people to become involved, and awareness of all sectors of society will insure that progress will be made on this most complex problem.

(Mr. Dimas' prepared statement follows:)

STATEMENT OF GEORGE C. DIMAS, PRESIDENT, NORTH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ALCOHOLISM PROGRAMS

The North American Association of Alcoholism Programs strongly supports the provisions of Title III, Part A of HR-15758 to be known as the "Alcoholic Rehabilitation Act of 1968." We commend Chairman Staggers for introducing this progressive legislation so urgently needed to cope with what is now recognized to be a major medical-social problem by medical authorities, social scientists, members of the Bar and Bench and law enforcement authorities.

We also commend this committee for taking early action on this significant legislation. Alcoholism is a major problem—there being between 5 and 6 million Americans who have the disease. This illness knows no socio-economic or ethnic boundaries. It is a problem recognized by Congress to be in need of early federal action. That this recognition and interest is non-partisan is seen by the fact that of the 95 members of the 90th Congress who have sponsored alcoholism legislation both political parties are heavily represented. In two messages to Congress the President gave substantial attention to the needs in this field of interest. Further, the 1964 Republican Platform contained a significant statement concerning the need for the federal government to become actively engaged in combating alcoholism. This is a problem above partisan consideration and the Administration as well as Congress has clearly demonstrated this fact, which is deeply appreciated by those in the field.

The President's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice and his Commission on Crime in the District of Columbia both found arrests for public drunkenness to be an unnecessary and unwarranted waste of