

"As Governor of West Virginia, I personally urge this committee to take favorable action on title III, part A of H.R. 15758, 'The Alcoholic Rehabilitation Act of 1968.'"

Mr. ROGERS. Without objection, the statements of Dr. Mitchell-Bateman and Mr. Dancy, referred to earlier by Mr. Staggers, will be made a part of the record at this point.

(The statements referred to follow:)

STATEMENT OF M. MITCHELL-BATEMAN, M.D., DIRECTOR, WEST VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

During the past four years, the Department of Mental Health has endeavored to establish the base for a comprehensive alcoholism program as part of our state mental health plan. As we have progressed, our Division of Alcoholism has made every attempt possible to provide a complete range of services needed. We have used existing facilities in our state hospitals and local mental health clinics and worked with other agencies, trying to meet the ever increasing demand for alcoholism services requested by our citizenry.

We are proud of what we have accomplished but, in essence, the work we have done is just the beginning of what must be done in the future. The problem of alcoholism and the many related problems of the families of the alcoholic must not only be recognized as a joint responsibility of the federal, state and local governments, but must be cooperatively funded if we ever hope to treat alcoholism as a serious medical and public health problem.

The Alcoholic Rehabilitation Act of 1968, as introduced by Congressman Staggers, can be the breakthrough for developing comprehensive programs and services as an integral part of our Comprehensive Mental Health Centers Act. Favorable action on this alcoholism bill by the Sub-Committee on Public Health and Welfare, can lead to the eventual passage of the bill with adequate federal funding to make the "Great Breakthrough." I urge favorable committee action on this bill.

STATEMENT OF DONALD R. DANCY, M.P.H., SUPERVISOR, DIVISION OF ALCOHOLISM,
WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

The passage of the proposed "Alcoholic Rehabilitation Act of 1968" is essential. Title III, Part A of H.R. 15758 can be the beginning of a real federal, state, and local cooperative effort to meet the ever increasing demand for alcoholism facilities and service in West Virginia and the Nation.

In West Virginia, a small state of 1.8 million people, we have at least 75,000 persons with alcohol problems, plus three more persons per case (family members) indirectly involved. This makes a total of 300,000 persons adversely affected by alcoholism problems.

From sample surveys made in urban and rural areas, we found the following:

1. Between 1962 to 1966, records of one urban police department showed 52 percent of all arrests were for drunkenness; 74.4 percent of the cases appearing before Justices of the Peace were for offenses involving drunkenness, and 66.2 percent of misdemeanors appearing in the county court involved drunkenness.

2. In a current study (not yet complete) the indications are rather conclusive that at least 40 to 50 percent of all arrests in rural areas are for public drunkenness. Drunkenness arrests plus other charges that involved drunkenness show a range of 60 to 70 percent of all arrests involve a drunkenness offense.

West Virginia State Police arrest records for 1966 show 53.7 per cent of all misdemeanor arrests were for drunkenness. Arrests for moving violation showed 4.5 per cent were for drunken driving. Of all arrests made by the West Virginia State Highway Patrol, 12.63 per cent involved either drunkenness or a drinking driver.

A survey of State Mental Hospitals from January 1 through June 30, 1967, showed 35.29 per cent of admissions reported that, "excessive use of alcohol was a major factor contributing to their illness." This 35.29 per cent plus voluntary admissions to our alcoholic intensive treatment units (3.4 per cent) makes a total of 38.69 per cent of all admissions to our State Mental Hospitals who have serious problems with excessive use of alcohol.