

reflected in the case of the city of St. Louis. This is a manageable problem.

I would like to close by indicating that we who have been involved in the alcoholism movement for the last few years are deeply appreciative of the interest of the Congress of the United States in reference to this particular problem which has been ignored for so long.

Thank you.

(Mr. Pittman's prepared statement follows:)

STATEMENT OF DAVID J. PITTMAN, PH. D., EXECUTIVE VICE CHAIRMAN, GOVERNOR HEARNES' ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ALCOHOLISM, STATE OF MISSOURI, PAST PRESIDENT, NORTH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ALCOHOLISM PROGRAMS, DIRECTOR, SOCIAL SCIENCE INSTITUTE, AND PROFESSOR OF SOCIOLOGY, WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

It is indeed a pleasure to testify in support of HR 15758, Title III, Part A, "The Alcoholism Rehabilitation Act of 1968." The introduction of this Bill by the eminent Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Harley O. Staggers of West Virginia, is indeed a forward looking and progressive step in coping with one of America's most neglected health problems. One of the most neglected areas of health care in American society today is the provision of treatment facilities for the alcoholic. The presence of around six million alcoholics in the United States makes this one of the nation's foremost medical and social problems, but an equally salient fact is that the expansion of treatment facilities and resources has lagged far behind the growth of the alcoholism problem. Title III, Part A, of this Bill would be a major step forward in providing increased resources to meeting this complex problem.

As the former president of the North American Association of Alcoholism Programs and as the Executive Vice Chairman of the Governor's Council on Alcoholism in Missouri, I am keenly aware of the desperate need for increased federal involvement in providing resources for coping with alcoholism to supplement the increasing efforts by state and local authorities, both private and public.

The United States remains one of the few countries in the Western world without an enacted legislative program of alcoholism control at the national level. National alcoholism programs now exist in both Western and Eastern European countries and have had a major impact in ameliorating this problem. Therefore, it is a heartening sign to see the Congress of the United States concerned with this major problem.

RECENT COURT DECISIONS

Recent United States Courts of Appeals decisions in Virginia and the District of Columbia have ruled that chronic alcoholism may be used as a positive defense to the charge of public intoxication. This change in legal interpretation must be placed against the backdrop of the fact that in 1966 about one-third of all arrests made by American police was for public intoxication violations.

New Medical and social approaches will have to be mounted in American communities. As the President's Commission of Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice recommended, communities should establish civil detoxification centers to remove the chronic drunkenness offenders from the status degrading process of arrest, jailing, and re-arrest, which in an earlier work I termed the "revolving door process."

It is indeed a source of pride to note that the first Detoxification Center in North America to systematically remove chronic alcoholics (whose only offense is public intoxication) from the jails is in St. Louis, Missouri. The Detoxification Center is an undertaking of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department, under the leadership of a most able past president, Col. Edward L. Dowd, along with the cooperation of the Sisters of St. Mary's and the Social Science Institute of Washington University. This Detoxification Center in St. Louis in the 17 months of its operation has become a model for the whole nation, and the results thus far obtained have far surpassed our expectations—approximately 21 per cent of the chronic inebriates being abstinent when interviewed in the community three months after treatment.

In October, 1967, the St. Louis Board of Aldermen unanimously passed a new statute governing public intoxication in our city without any court pressure