

the American Indian. He served with the Indian Bureau for a number of years. You should meet him while you are here.

Mr. LOOKOUT. I will do this. Thank you.

Mr. ROGERS. Dr. Carter?

Mr. CARTER. I want to compliment the gentleman on his excellent presentation.

Mr. ROGERS. Our next witness is Richard S. Cook, Chief, Division of Alcoholism, Illinois Department of Mental Health, Springfield, Ill.

STATEMENT OF DR. RICHARD S. COOK, CHIEF, DIVISION OF ALCOHOLISM, ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH; ACCOMPANIED BY WILLIAM N. BECKER, JR., ASSISTANT CHIEF, ALCOHOLISM PROGRAMS

Mr. ROGERS. The committee is delighted to have you here with us this morning. We will make your statement a part of the record following your summary. If you will, just sum it up for us.

Dr. Cook. I would like to introduce to you Mr. William N. Becker, Jr., who is assistant chief of the alcoholic programs in our State.

Mr. ROGERS. We are delighted to have you with us, Mr. Becker.

Dr. Cook. Mr. Becker has worked for many years with alcoholics in our State institutions. I have worked an equally long time with emphasis on outpatient care.

I would like to bring to you the wishes of Hon. Gov. Otto Kerner, who yesterday indicated that I should convey his request to you for the passage of this bill.

Also, the director of our department of mental health is in full support of this legislation.

I would like to read part of my statement to you.

The State of Illinois has forged ahead in providing a continuum of services on a statewide basis. We believe that bill, H.R. 15758, is a wise, timely, and urgently needed step in the right direction.

We urge its passage to provide the leverage enabling the delivery of a full range of services to alcoholics at different levels of severity and varying stages of their illness.

In endorsing this bill wholeheartedly we feel it incumbent to remind the committee that at present with the combined facilities available we treat less than 10 percent of the alcoholics in Illinois.

This bill reflects the needs of the Nation and has been hammered out of pooled experience of thousands of people in close cooperation with the legislators here in Washington, D.C. Those of us working in this difficult field believe that this pending legislation shows that you have heard us and have written down pronouncements and rules that go a long way to establish direction with us and to implement our efforts to gain control over this vast public health problem.

I would like to turn to the situation in Illinois to illustrate how well this legislation can fit with the progress in the State with regard to comprehensive community medical centers and comprehensive community mental health centers.

While it is occurring throughout the State, I would like to focus on the metropolitan area of Chicago, where the problem of alcoholism is especially acute.