

factory assurance that the application has been "approved and recommended" by either:

- (1) The single State agency designated by the State as being the agency primarily responsible for care and treatment of alcoholics in the State or
- (2) The agency designated pursuant to section 204(a)(1) (of Public Law 88-164, which is the Community Mental Health Centers Construction Act of 1964).

It is the concern of the directors of mental health programs in the States that some confusion in the administration of the proposed alcoholism treatment program might result from the language on page 6 of the bill unless it is either modified or clarified.

The directors of State mental health programs have sole responsibility for administration of the alcoholism treatment programs in only 27 States. In four other States they have partial responsibility. And in an additional four States mental health is in an agency where another branch of the agency has responsibility for the treatment of alcoholics.

In 16 States the mental health agency of the State has no administrative connection at all with the State alcoholism program.

I might add that despite all the foregoing about "administrative responsibility," alcoholics are treated in virtually every State mental hospital in this country and in some cases represent as much as 40 percent of the admissions to these State hospitals.

If the language of the bill starting at line 6 is interpreted by a State as requiring it to designate the agency presently "responsible for care and treatment of alcoholics," then it is possible that in 16 States the State mental health agency will not be involved in approving and recommending the proposed facilities.

If the language starting on line 10 ("in case this agency is different * * *") is applied, then the agency designated under 204(a)(1) of Public Law 88-164 must approve or recommend the facility.

The 204(a)(1) agency is the "community mental health center construction authority."

In 20 States the 204(a)(1) designated agency is not the State agency that is responsible for the mental health program. I have a list of these States here, which I will not read at this point.

However, in 11 (out of the above 20) States the "alcoholism treatment program" is in the mental health agency. And out of the remaining nine States only four of the 204(a)(1) designees have any responsibility for an alcoholism program.

The defect in the substance of the "designated agency" paragraph on page 6 could be partially corrected by adding language to the effect that the "mental health authority" of the State will be consulted for construction and staffing of alcoholism facilities.

It is a matter of grave concern to me that there be a significant role provided the State mental health director. This is a matter of concern to the other State mental program directors, too. I hope it will be possible that the language of the bill can be modified to include this concept and that the legislative history of this proceeding call attention to my concern and the concern of other State program directors for preservation of their roles in developing effective, broadly based programs for alcoholics and drug addicts.