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May 22, 1970

Authorities On Alcoholism Urge New National Program

WASHINGTON (BP)--Five authorities on alcoholism urged the federal government to step up the national effort for treatment of alcoholics and for prevention of the disease.

Alcoholism ranks with cancer and heart disease as one of the nation's three leading killers, according to Marian J. Wettrick, a member of the board of directors of the North American Association of Alcoholism Programs.

Morris E. Chafetz of the American Psychiatric Association claimed that the nation's alcoholics number 9 million rather than the 4½ to 5 million as commonly stated.

Marvin A. Block, representing the American Medical Association, based his views on the proposition that alcoholism is an illness which can and should be treated.

Selden D. Bacon, director of the Center of Alcohol Studies of Rutgers University, appealed for an enlarged concept of the over-all problems involved in alcoholism. He called for a more comprehensive program in the nation for control of alcohol problems.

Luther Cloud, president of the National Council on Alcoholism, asked Congress to up-grade the nation's approaches to the problems of alcoholism. He said, "we continue to operate a nickel and dime training program in this area."

These men testified during the first day of a two-day hearing held by Sen. Harold E. Hughes (D., Iowa) who is chairman of a Senate Special Subcommittee on Alcoholism and Narcotics. The hearing was on the proposed Federal Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Act of 1970.

"In the field of alcoholism and alcohol-related problems," Wettrick said, "the perennial 'hang-up' has been the matter of costs." He estimated that the costs of the newly proposed program would be from \$75 to \$100 million annually.

The question, Wettrick continued, is not how much the proposed program will cost the federal government and the taxpayer, but how much it will save them. He said that in comparison to the present costs to the nation caused by alcohol-related problems, the new program "would be the best bargain the federal government has in the field of health care."

Wettrick pointed out that the federal government in 1970 is spending \$152 million in research alone on heart and lung disease, \$173 million in cancer research, \$355 million in the field of mental health, and \$132 million on arthritis research.

At the same time the government is spending only \$10 million on problems in the alcohol area, he said.

Chafetz argued that the alcoholic is neglected and ostracized because people cannot shake their fundamental belief that the action of the alcoholic person is wilful and weak.

He testified that alcoholics are caught up on "the struggle to stifle all kinds of pain." He said that he had never seen a person who took pleasure and delight from being alcoholic.

Block, the representative from the American Medical Association, said that "although alcoholism is a health problem, it is not a matter exclusively for health professionals to contend with." He said that law enforcement officials and the courts as well as others continue to have an important role to play in the solution of the problems.

Block cautioned that as the nation shifts from a "punitive" approach to alcoholics to a "treatment" approach, states and communities should see that "facilities for treatment are available in sufficient numbers and quality to assure that the transition can be made with a minimum of disruption and confusion."

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Bacon deplored the simplistic approach to alcoholism and alcoholics of the past. He said the problem had been variously defined in the past 150 years.

At one time it was a "moral weakness problem" and hence turned over to the churches, he said. Then it was an "economic problem" and turned over to market and price control authorities. Again, it was a "crime problem" and turned over to the law enforcement agencies.

"What has happened," Bacon declared, "is that our nation has adopted several sets of what may be called programs for control of the alcohol problems. None of them are satisfactory."

He recognized that it will not be possible to expect complete agreement on the proposed bill, but that "it represents a real step in a highly desirable direction."

Cloud in his testimony said, "speaking for the officers and directors of the National Council on Alcoholism, I can state categorically that we have felt for a long time that the few federal programs in the field of alcoholism are buried so far down in the governmental structure that they are barely visible to the American people."

Cloud called the new proposed law "truly an emancipation proclamation for the alcoholic in this nation."

"Freed of servitude to alcohol," he continued, "millions of our citizens can return to the mainstream of American life."

In summary the proposed law would:

1. Establish a national institute for the prevention and control of alcohol abuse and alcoholism;
2. Require the establishment of programs of prevention and the recognition and encouragement of treatment and rehabilitation programs for all federal employees and members of the armed forces;
3. Require the recognition of alcohol abuse and alcoholism as a significant health problem in a broad range of programs affecting health matters;
4. Authorize federal grants to and contracts with state and local organizations, agencies, institutions and individuals to carry out a broad range of activities in alcohol abuse, alcoholism prevention, treatment and rehabilitation; and
5. Establish an independent advisory committee to consult with and advise the secretary of the department of health, education, and welfare, whose responsibility it would be to carry out the purposes of the act.

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Heart Attack Fatal
To Baptist Evangelist

5/22/70

DECATUR, Ga. (BP)--Al Walsh, male leader of the well-known husband-and-wife evangelistic singing team of Al and Ivy Walsh, died here of a heart attack.

A former Salvation Army officer, Walsh and his wife have been in the evangelistic singing field, serving mostly Southern Baptist churches, since 1953.

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900 Crosses Dot Wake Forest
Campus As Anti-War Protest

5/22/70

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (BP)--More than 900 small wooden crosses lined the entrances and dotted the campus of Wake Forest University the day after several hundred students marched to the president's home and demanded that classes be dismissed for the rest of the semester in protest against the war in Indo-China.

Each cross bore the name of one of the North Carolina servicemen killed in the Vietnam War. In addition, a large cross, with the bark of a tree still on it, was set up in the school's plaza.

Meanwhile, attendance at classes went on "with no marked decrease," according to a university official, and students were studying for final exams the following week.

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The march to the president's home and demand for cessation of classes came with just three days of regularly-scheduled classes remaining before final exams were to begin.

President James Ralph Scales turned down the students' request for a moratorium of classes, and the University Senate, made up of representatives of all schools in the university, endorsed Scales and his actions.

Concern about the war has been intensifying on the campus since the advance of U.S. troops into Cambodia, and the shooting of four Kent State University students, said a university official.

Russell Brantley, director of public relations for the Baptist school, said that the evening following the Kent State shooting, about 800 Wake Forest students carrying lighted candles held a silent prayer vigil. Following a brief statement and prayer, the students threw their candles at the foot of four crosses bearing the names of the Kent State students.

The following day, there was a suspension of most classes at the school and much discussion of the Kent State shooting, and the political and moral repercussions of the invasion of Cambodia, Brantley said.

About 40 Wake Forest students went the following weekend to Washington, D.C., to lobby with the North Carolina Congressional delegation, and representatives from the students' home states.

Following a "Peace Rally" at the campus on Tuesday evening, May 19, about 200 of the school's 3,000 students approved a list of demands prepared by some of the more militant anti-war advocates, Brantley said. The 18 demands centered on the request that no more classes be held the rest of the year, but also included such things as demands for a day care center at the school.

The students attending the "Peace Rally" went first to dormitories to round up other students, and then marched to the president's home to present their demands. Crowd estimates ranged from 400 to 800, Brantley said.

Scales came to the porch, heard the demands, and turned down the request for an end to classes. There were some obscenities shouted, Brantley said.

The students returned to one of the main buildings on campus and talked to nearly 4:00 a.m., discussing ways to persuade professors not to have examinations. They decided on no general student strike, but asked concerned individual students to request individual professors to let them off from classes and exams "to work for things about which the student feels strong moral convictions and obligations."

The president of the student body, Ed Wooters, said he had given a letter to the university's executive committee asking that students be allowed two weeks away from school next fall to campaign for political candidates.

Brantley said he was not sure that the letter had reached the proper administrative officials for action, but felt the request, known as the "Princeton Plan," would be given serious consideration.

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Board's First Artist
Herman Burns, To Retire

5/22/70

NASHVILLE (BP)--Herman F. Burns, managing art director for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, will retire June 30 after more than 41 years of service.

A native Nashvillian, Burns joined the board as its first staff artist in 1928, having served as staff artist for Nashville's Capitol Engraving Company. He later became the board's art editor, art director and managing art director.

Having served under executive secretaries I. J. Van Ness, T. L. Holcomb and James L. Sullivan, Burns has seen the art department grow from his own one-man operation to a staff of 50. Included on the staff of the department are 39 professionally trained artists and two professional photographers.

During Burns' years of service, the board has accumulated an art treasury valued in excess of \$300,000 of more than 500 child experience and biblical illustrations for use in church curriculum publications. He is a cofounder and has twice served as president of the Art Directors Club of Nashville, member of the Art Directors Club of New York and a director of the National Society of Art Directors.

After 41 3/4 years at the Sunday School Board, Burns said he plans to remain in Nashville because his friends, church and interests are here. Future plans include pursuing his hobbies of working on antique furniture, creative art, church activities, yard and home work, fishing and reading.

Burns is a member of First Baptist Church, Nashville, which he joined shortly after going to work with the board. He has been chairman of the church's deacons, pulpit committee, and a Sunday School and Training Union worker

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*460 James Robertson Parkway
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MAY 25 1970

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