

THE ALMACAN

The most challenging problem we face in the field of occupational alcoholism is to bring about the bankruptcy of the alibi structure in the drinker long before it would occur in the ordinary course of events.

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BILL WOULD MANDATE OA PROGRAMS IN ALL FEDERAL CONTRACT FIRMS

A bill that would require firms doing business with the federal government to establish occupational alcoholism programs was introduced February 7 by Sen. William D. Hathaway (D-Maine), Chairman of the Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Subcommittee.

The bill (S. 2515) would have far-reaching effects on the OA field because it would involve some 250,000 firms that hold contracts or sub-contracts for \$2,500 or more. They receive more than \$60 billion a year from federal contracts.

"I am reasonably certain," said Hathaway, "that mandating these programs for federal contracts will have a significant synergistic effect on their colleagues in business and industry and result in an accelerated development of these programs."

A revised version of a draft that raised some questions (see January ALMACAN), the measure was co-sponsored by Sen. Harrison A. Williams (D-N.J.), Chairman of the Human Resources

Committee. It was referred jointly to that committee and the Government Operations Committee. Hearings were not immediately scheduled.

The legislation would insert a Section 505 in the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to require federal contractors to provide OA programs and services to all employees, or arrange to refer alcoholic workers to existing programs and services.

The bill also calls for an emphasis on OA at NIAAA by amending the Comprehensive Alcoholism Act that established the Institute. That amendment would direct the Institute to develop a variety of cost-effective program models that could be established by firms with varied characteristics. NIAAA would also be required to distribute information about the program to state alcoholism agencies. They would have to agree in their state plans to encourage and assist businesses in developing programs.

Hathaway said the bill would help resolve questions about Section 503 of the rehabilitation Act that requires employers to hire and promote qualified handicapped workers, including alcoholics and drug addicts (See October, 1977, ALMACAN). He said the measure would give employers a "positive tool" in satisfying affirmative action requirements of that Section and, if properly implemented, it would "greatly limit" their fears about its impact.

Hathaway's earlier bill, to provide massive funding for OA programs through a percentage of alcohol taxes, has been put on the back burner. That measure was opposed by HEW and got a mixed reception from the alcoholism field on grounds that the major barrier to programs was not lack of money, but stigma and the reluctance of employers to recognize alcohol problems among workers.

"While I would prefer that all firms voluntarily institute these programs," Hathaway said, "this inertia and its concomitant impact on the economy of our nation and the health of our citizens calls for more direct action. Because these programs are cost-effective, and because they have a positive impact on lessening other government expenditures, it seems appropriate that as a matter of sound business practice the federal government ought to require such programs of those with whom it does business."

"The federal government has a legitimate and direct interest that these firms operate as efficiently as possible in order to ensure that these procurement costs do not include the costs of lost production which are otherwise avoidable."

The final version of the measure includes a provision designed to resolve questions raised by labor about the initial draft. As introduced, the bill requires that in the base of a contractor whose employees are represented by a labor organization, programs shall be established only after agreement by the employer and the union through collective bargaining procedures.

ALMACA HEADQUARTERS MOVES

ALMACA headquarters moved to Arlington (Rosslyn), Virginia, just across the Potomac River from Washington, and was in operation at the new location in March.

The decision to move the office from the far-out Reston suburbs was made by the Board of Directors for one main reason: easier access to government agencies and Washington-based related organizations for both visiting ALMACANS and headquarters staff.

The new address is: Suite 907, 1800 North Kent Street, Arlington, Virginia 22209. The new telephone number is: 703/522-6272.

Special note from Pam Maroe, Administrative Assistant:

"Please bear with us if there is a slight delay in correspondence—despite all of our efforts, the move didn't go as smoothly as planned, so a brief shakedown period was necessary to get settled."

NYC AFFILIATE OF NCA ELECTS NEW PRESIDENT

Dr. William R. Cunnick Jr., vice president and deputy chief medical director of Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, has been elected president of the New York City Affiliate of the National Council on Alcoholism, succeeding Dr. Nicholas A. Pace, of General Motors Corporation, who has held the office since the Affiliate's founding in 1966. Dr. Pace was officially designed co-founder, with R. Brinkley Smithers, by the NYCA Board of Directors and will remain active in the organization.

A specialist in internal medicine, the new president is also chairman of the occupational health section of the New York Academy of Medicine, associate clinical professor of Medicine at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, a visiting physician at Harlem Hospital and author of a dozen papers on various medical subjects, including alcoholism.

An Affiliate vice president since 1974, Dr. Cunnick lives in Manhattan. He joined Metropolitan Life in 1957 as a staff physician and has been an officer of the concern since 1959. Born in Youngstown, Ohio, in 1926, Dr. Cunnick earned a B.A. degree with honors from Princeton University in 1947 and was awarded his medical degree by Columbia University four years later. He was with the U.S. Army Medical Corps from 1944 to 1946. An intern and resident physician at Bellevue Hospital in New York City until 1954, he then served a year as resident in the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania before joining Metropolitan Life from two years of private practice in Springfield, Mass.

DRINKING AT HIGH LEVEL: GALLUP

A recent Gallup Audit of nationwide drinking found 71 percent of adults saying they use alcoholic beverages, a 38-year high that compares with 68 percent reporting alcohol consumption in 1974.

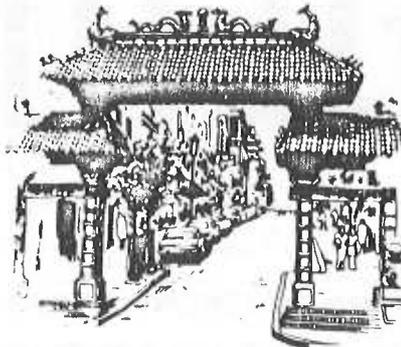
The rise in percentage of drinkers during the three-year period was attributed primarily to women, although men continue to be more likely to drink than women.

In the survey, 18 percent of adults said alcohol has been a cause of trouble in the family, compared with 12 percent in 1974 and 1966.

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PREPARATIONS IN FULL SWING FOR 1978 ANNUAL MEETING



Chinatown

Zeke Zehm, Chairman for the Seventh Annual Meeting of ALMACA to be held October 3-6th at the Sheraton-Palace Hotel in San Francisco, reports that preparations are in full swing for the convention.

The Program Committee, chaired by Tom Evans of Pacific Gas and Electric, has begun the task of reviewing proposals received for presentation. Members of local Chapters all across the country are also participating in this screening process. A special mailing was sent to every ALMACA member the first week of February on submitting a program proposal. Remember to

MAJOR OA PROGRAM IS RUN BY NURSES

International Harvester is using occupational nurses to administer alcoholism services for 60,000 employees in a program that started two years ago.

Called Health Counseling Services, the program is based in the medical departments of 16 company manufacturing plants across the country.

Phillip J. Keller, program coordinator at the Chicago headquarters, said nurses were chosen for the program because the company has medical services in each plant and considers alcohol problems to be of a medical and physical nature.

"Furthermore," he said, "we consider nurses a good resource for this kind of work. People traditionally come to nurses for help for a wide

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get your request in soon if you haven't already done so. The deadline for submitting requests is April 15th, which is approaching very soon.

Registration forms for the meeting and hotel accommodations will be mailed to members and other interested persons the first of June. Be sure to watch for your packet and get your registration in early. We have 400 rooms committed at the Sheraton-Palace, a number of which will be reserved for officers and speakers. Therefore, early registration will better guarantee a room in the Sheraton-Palace than in an additional facility nearby.

In addition to Chinatown, the Golden Gate Bridge, Fisherman's Wharf, the cable cars, Golden Gate Park, Lombard St. (13 hairpin turns in one block—the crookedest street in the world) 2600 restaurants and a multitude of other sights and attractions in San Francisco itself, a number of tours will be available. Tours to Muir Woods and Monterey/Carmel, Bay cruises, trips to Sausalito and possibly Yosemite are being considered. Many members might want to stay for the Blessing of the Fishing Fleet and Columbus Day Pageant on October 9th.

So make your plans now! We are planning a time that should be interesting and controversial, informative and fun.

SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS FOR DISABLED ALCOHOLICS

Disabled alcoholics and treatment personnel should be aware that social security payments are available to pay for the treatment of eligible applicants, according to John A. Noble, deputy director of the NIAAA Division of Special Treatment and Rehabilitation.

Many who might be eligible are not aware that changes in Social Security regulations have improved prospects that alcoholic people can qualify for the disability program.

Noble pointed out that Social Security decided in 1974 that alcohol or drug abuse should be evaluated as a disability based on the symptoms, signs and laboratory findings in each

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case and not on the "diagnostic label" of alcoholism or drug addiction.

Under the regulations, an individual is considered disabled if unable to engage in substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment which can be expected to result in death or which has lasted, or can be expected to last, for a continuous period of at least 12 months.

Under the Supplementary Security Income program, introduced in 1974, alcohol and drug dependent people are treated differently from other disabled people—they must be in treatment for their disorder in order to be eligible for payments and payments are not sent directly to them, but to someone designated as their payee. (There is legislation before Congress to remove the latter provision concerning payee designations.)

Because the new regulations and programs are not widely understood, many eligible alcoholics may be losing out on benefits for which they are eligible. Further information: local Social Security Administration offices listed in telephone books.

OA PROGRAMS FOR PRO BASEBALL?

A positive response to talk of occupational programs, or at least greater concern over alcohol problems, in pro baseball was reported recently by Don Newcombe, former Dodger pitcher and now a field rep for NIAAA.

Newcombe, in a report on a meeting of major league physicians, said Commissioner Bowie Kuhn expressed a need for pro ball to become more aware of alcohol abuse and suggested that club physicians cooperate in an effort to deal with the problem.

Newcombe reported that occupational programs for baseball were discussed by the meeting of ball club doctors and that his offer to visit training camps was "wholeheartedly accepted."

EARLY CASE-FINDING IS THE KEY—NAVY

The Navy, which runs one of the nation's largest occupational alcoholism programs, is convinced that early case-finding through crisis intervention is the key to attacking alcoholism problems.

Cmdr. Gerald A. Bunn, of the Navy's Alcohol Safety Action Program, said it is aimed "not at trying to treat casualties at the bottom of the cliff, but rather, at building fences at the top."

The program, which serves nearly two-thirds of the Force, seeks to identify alcohol problems at the earliest possible stage on the basis of work performance and then, through referral to education and counseling, to "short circuit the historic revolving door" situation, Bunn said.

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variety of problems and our nurses have gained the trust of our employees. This model may be useful to other industries, large or small, especially if nurses are already on board."

One nurse at each plant was selected to receive three weeks of alcoholism training. Nurses in the program are trained to serve as a referral source and their duties consist primarily of screening for alcohol problems, referral for treatment and provision of followup services.

Managers and union officials are informed about the program through workshops and employees are informed through letters and articles in plant newsletters.

Nearly half of those served are self-referrals and others are referred by the medical department, union representative and supervisors for poor or deteriorating job performance.

In a small initial study of 77 program participants one year after they entered the program, medical benefits were found to be reduced by 48 percent and days of hospitalization by 70 percent, compared to the prior year.

About 63 percent had remained abstinent for one year, with an additional nine percent drinking "infrequently — without intoxication."

Among hourly employees, who made up 75 percent of the total, absenteeism was down by 40 percent and disability income by 50 percent.

For information: Phillip J. Keller, Coordinator, Health Counseling Services, Medical Dept., International Harvester, 401 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60611.

AWARD-WINNING SERIES ON ALCOHOLISM IS PUBLISHED BY NEW JERSEY COMPANY

A series of four articles that appeared in consecutive issues of the Public Service Electric & Gas Company, of Newark, N.J., house organ PSE&G NEWS has been reprinted in booklet form.

Recounting the company's successful experience in the handling and rehabilitation of alcoholics, the booklet makes a strong statement for the effectiveness of Personal Guidance (or occupational alcoholism) Programs.

The PSE&G program, in effect since 1974, covers an employee population of 14,000. It is one of several administered by Sandin Murray Sutherland, Inc., of New York, whose president, Donald Sandin, is a member of ALMACA.

Author of the series, Eugene Murphy, received an Award of Excellence for the series in the 1977 Gold Quill Awards Program sponsored by the International Association of Business Communicators.

Further information: Sandin Murray Sutherland, 919 Third Avenue, New York City, N.Y. 10022.

FACTS ON WOMEN AND ALCOHOL

Concern over the lack of extensive information about women and alcohol problems has prompted the NIAAA to request proposals for a contract to conduct a research program on women in connection with already existing occupational alcoholism programs.

Mike Bond, Program Advisor in NIAAA's Occupational Programs Branch, said the project could be conducted as part of a program that already enrolls women or as an "add-on" for women.

This will be a demonstration project, Bond said, and currently the plan is for one award. In the longer range, a total of three contracts is hoped for.

Generally, the Request for Proposal, calls for cooperation with a State Alcoholism Authority, but there could be an exception for a multi-state program, such as one for airline stewardesses, for example.

"We want to gather a great deal of information" about women and alcohol abuse, Bond said at a meeting of the Ad Hoc Forum.

CareManor RECEIVES JCAH ACCREDITATION

Robert C. Caldwell, administrator of CareManor Hospital, 401 South Tustin Avenue in Orange, announced that the hospital has been awarded a two-year Certificate of Accreditation by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals (JCAH).

According to Caldwell, "This signifies that our hospital is responding to its obligation to the community for providing the best possible care."

Accreditation by the JCAH means that a hospital has voluntarily chosen to strive for high standards of rendering care and delivering services. It means that the hospital has been surveyed by the Joint Commission and has satisfactorily met the standards set by them, offering each patient an environment conducive to care, services of high quality, and staff and personnel well qualified to provide such care.

"Receiving this award of accreditation assists us in raising the level of professional performance and encourages continuing professional education," said Caldwell. "It provides incentive for upgrading the quality of care rendered by our hospital, and is evidence that our hospital observes the rights and dignity of every person it serves," he added.

A hospital that seeks accreditation applies to the Joint Commission for an on-site survey, and it answers a detailed questionnaire based on the JCAH standards for hospitals. Then the hospital opens its doors to the field representatives of the Joint Commission—physicians, nurses, staff and hospital administrator—who compare the hospital activities with the set standards. These

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standards apply to the physical plant, the basic principles of organization and administration, the conduct of the medical staff, the patients' viewpoints and the services and programs for meeting patients' needs.

Nearly every health and health-related professional is in some way responsible for the kind of care a person will receive in a hospital. That goes for the nurses, medical record personnel, therapists, dietitians, technicians, and countless others, commented CareManor's administrator. "We are proud of CareManor's competent and dedicated medical staff and employees who have made this award possible," Caldwell said.

Four major medical and hospital organizations comprise the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals which grants a certificate. These are the American College of Physicians, American College of Surgeons, American Hospital Association and American Medical Association.

CareManor Hospital is the largest free-standing facility in the Western United States for the treatment of alcoholism and other drug problems.

"ALCOHOLISM AND INDUSTRY: "HEALTH CARE RESPONDS" A DAY AND A HALF INSTITUTE

The Institute is to be held in Merrillville, Indiana on Thursday and Friday April 13 and 14, 1978 and will have the theme "Alcoholism in Industry/Health Care Responds". A main feature of the one and one half day Institute will be the banquet speaker, The Honorable Wilbur Mills. Special workshops will feature nationally

MORTGAGE INSURANCE SOUGHT FOR TREATMENT FACILITIES

Special treatment facilities, such as psychiatric hospitals could receive federal mortgage insurance under a bill introduced by Rep. James J. Florio (D-NJ).

Under present law, such loan insurance is denied to facilities that devote half of their total patient days to "drug and alcoholic" or "nervous and mental" treatment. As a result, mortgages for free-standing specialty treatment facilities are more difficult and expensive to secure and these units are usually part of a general hospital.

Florio said free-standing centers can be built at lower cost per bed than general hospitals and are less expensive to operate because they don't need surgical suites and costly diagnostic equipment.

The bill (H.R. 9082) was referred to the House Subcommittee on Housing because it would amend the National Housing Act. Florio said he would press for hearings in the second session of the 95th Congress which convened in January.

Seattle University's 29th annual Symposium on Alcoholism will use a new format this Summer, giving options for advanced students while presenting basic information with a stress on youth.

Lorie Dwinell, M.S.W., A.C.S.W. will conduct "Group Dynamics in Alcoholism Treatment" each morning for two weeks, while in the afternoon one may choose between "Alcohol and Youth" and a new course on "Alcohol and The Family" taught by Alma Gentry, M.S.W., A.C.S.W. Ms. Dwinell is widely known throughout the Northwest as an alcoholism teacher, counselor, and group leader. Ms. Gentry was a research associate of Dr. Joan Jackson, the world authority on the spouse and family of the alcoholic. She is the former director of the Central Area Mental Health Center in Seattle and was a long-time social worker with the Seattle Public Schools. She is an experienced instructor and was named a Fellow in Community Health at the University of Washington. She has lectured widely on the children of the alcoholic.

The Youth, Group, and Family courses are 2

recognized speakers including: Ross Von Wiegand, Director of the Labor Management Services of the National Council on Alcoholism in New York; Paul Roman, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Epidemiology at Tulane University; Richard T. Hellan, MSW, Vice President of Personal Performance Consultants in St. Louis; and W. J. Campbell, Corporate Director, Employee Relations, Monsanto Company in St. Louis, Missouri. The keynote address will be given by Mr. John Lavino, Director of Kemper Insurance Companies' Personal Assistance Program.

Further information or registration information can be obtained from Jean Halverson, Director of Education, St. Mary Medical Center, 540 Tyler, Gary, Indiana. Ms. Halverson's phone is 219-882-9411.

PROPOSED OHIO LAW REQUIRES ALCOHOLISM TREATMENT COVERAGE

A law that would require all group health insurance contracts to provide inpatient, outpatient and residential care for alcoholism treatment coverage passed the Ohio Senate unanimously and is awaiting House action.

The bill, opposed by the insurance industry, has provisions for quality assurance, reasonable deductibles, co-insurance costs and a self-destruct clause in four years from implementation should it prove too costly.

Further information: G.Z. Sabataitis, Ph.D., Psychological Development Center, 7057 W. 130th Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44130.

NEW FORMAT FOR SEATTLE UNIVERSITY'S 29TH SYMPOSIUM

quarter credits each and are open to those who have college credit in a survey course on alcoholism. Others will take a basic alcoholism course in the morning combined with the afternoon sessions featuring specialists on youth, education and prevention in a 4-credit package designed for teachers, school counselors, health educators and alcoholism workers. It will count toward the Basic Certificate in Alcohol Studies offered at Seattle University, while the 2-credit courses will count toward the Advanced Certificate for those who are eligible.

All classes run from June 26 to July 7 daily, except July 1, 2, and 4. There are also regular summer session courses in both basic and advanced programs, running from June 19 to August 10. Application deadline is June 1. Forms may be obtained by calling (206) 626-6498 or writing Alcohol Studies program, Seattle University, 12th and E. Columbia Streets, Seattle, WA 98122. There is a \$10 application fee for those who have never attended Seattle University. Former students may simply apply through the Registrar for readmission. Those whose application has been accepted may register and pay at the first class session. Tuition and fees total \$40 per credit, or \$20 per credit if audited. No scholarships available.

Information on room and board may be obtained by calling (206) 626-5920 or writing the Office of Student Residence Services, Seattle University, 12th and E. Columbia Streets, Seattle, WA 98122.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER—CERTIFIED ALCOHOLISM COUNSELOR

Minimum of 3 years experience as Alcoholism Counselor, M.S.W. in social work or related field (undergraduate degree and comparable experience will be considered). Worker must also have experience working with people that have a variety of mental health problems, have excellent diagnostic assessment skills, and a thorough knowledge of community mental health agencies.

Opening is in an industrial employee assistance program in the Detroit area.

Salary range \$16,000-\$18,000 per year commensurate with training and experience—excellent fringe benefits.

Submit resume with detailed experience and training by April 15th to:

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