



STATE OF WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OLYMPIA

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GOVERNOR

A STATEMENT BY THE GOVERNOR

In the State of Washington we have about 85,000 alcoholics, according to conservative estimates. These sick people have an impact upon about one third of our population, when one realizes that each alcoholic affects four people directly and seven people indirectly.

The total cost imposed upon society by the alcoholic is seldom recognized until one considers statistics published in the 1967 Annual Report of the National Council on Alcoholism. We are told that...

30-40 percent of all delinquent youths come from homes where parental excess drinking or alcoholism exists.

37 percent of all family court cases involve excessive drinking or alcoholism.

49 percent of all police arrests are for alcohol related offenses; 63 percent of these involve alcoholics.

50 percent of all first admissions to mental hospitals suffer from alcoholism; 28 percent of males in mental hospitals are chronic alcoholics.

A crude estimate of alcoholism's annual cost to social agencies in a city the size of Seattle was placed at about \$4,800,000.

And finally, we are told that alcoholism costs industry about \$4.5 billion annually.

These statistics should impress upon all people the need to understand the problem of alcoholism, to recognize its early symptoms, to apply intelligence and to apply human understanding toward turning the incipient alcoholic from the despair of becoming a chronic alcoholic. I suggest to all citizens that the battle with alcoholism must be joined in the early incipient stage rather than in its later addictive stage, if we are to make inroads on this fourth largest health problem in the country.

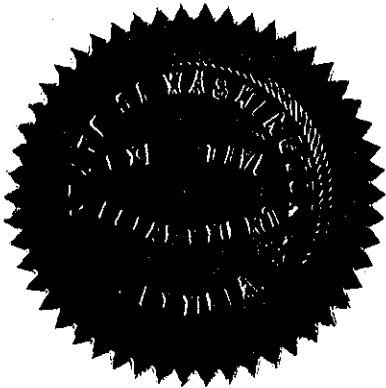
With the prevention of alcoholism in mind, I appeal to my fellow citizens,--particularly to educators in contact with young people--to learn to recognize the early warning signals that appear in a youngster who will certainly become a "chemical dependent person", if he finds imaginary maturity, imaginary love, imaginary happiness, imaginary success in alcohol, in pills, in marijuana, in dope..in chemical substitutes for reality. The earlier an alcoholic receives help to cope with reality, other than the "help" he gets from a bottle--the better his chances of becoming a self-supporting citizen rather than a burden on his neighbor.

I hereby designate January 1969 as

ALCOHOLISM INFORMATION MONTH

and urge all citizens to help reduce the impact of alcoholism on our human and economic resources through preventative measures with our young people.

Contact your local Alcoholism Information and Referral Center or your local citizens council on alcoholism and learn how to help stop alcoholism.



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daniel J. Evans".

Daniel J. Evans
Governor