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THE NATIONAL INFORMATION BUREAU, INC.

215 Fourth Avenue,
New York.

IMPORTANT

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October 15, 1924.

Col. L. G. Nutt, Secy.,
Federal Narcotics Control Board,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Col. Nutt:

The International Narcotic Education Association, regarding which you inquired, has its headquarters in Los Angeles, Cal., and is an outgrowth of an earlier organization, the International Alcohol Education Association. The President is Capt. Richmond P. Hobson, who you will remember as one of the outstanding figures in our war with Spain. The Treasurer is John H. Fishburn and the Secretary is John G. Mott. There is a Joint Executive Committee of five members, the Chairman of which is given as William G. McAdoo.

Since Capt. Hobson's retirement from the Navy he has been interested in the field of temperance, and in narcotism and kindred subjects. In connection with the International Alcohol Education Association, he claims to have conducted extensive research on the effects of alcohol on the human system. During this period he became convinced that it was impossible to consider the detrimental effects of alcohol without also considering the effects of narcotic drugs, and was impressed with the "growing menace" of the narcotic peril. As a result he persuaded the Committee to change the nature of the organization, and to concentrate on research in the narcotic field.

The present organization claims to be "taking no active part in the making or enforcing of laws, nor in the salvage of those afflicted with the terrible disease of chronic narcotic drug addiction." It purposes, however, to maintain research bureaus in the United States and other countries, and to discover by means of research and experiment the truth about narcotics. In this connection it plans to distribute information through public and private schools, churches, industrial organizations, clubs, etc.

The present activity of the Association is largely concerned with the circulation of a pamphlet on the narcotic peril, written by Capt. Hobson. The cooperation of Congress and the National Education Association is being asked, in order that copies of this document may be placed in the hands of all school children, parents and teachers throughout the United States. The total estimated need is given as fifty million copies. The Association also claims to be working with the Public Health Service, and the Narcotic Squad of the Treasury Department, in order to influence those groups to conduct a survey of the narcotic situation in the United States.

We have at hand a financial statement from the Association, covering the period from March 21st, 1921 to November 21st, 1923, which shows total receipts of $59,206.34, and expenditures of $73,434.68, an excess of expenditures over income of $14,228.34. The organization is paying $350 monthly to the International Bureau Against Alcoholism, which has offices at Lousanne, Switzerland. Dr. Robert Hercod is Director General of that Bureau.

In order to carry out its program, the Association submits a six months budget, totaling $64,975.00, which includes a deficit of $12,000, composed of arrears due Capt. Hobson and Mr. Montabille Flowers, the former executive. The principal items are -

$12,500 for overhead expenses.
14,800 " educational work in the schools,
10,000 " extension and organization
10,000 " raising funds and endowment.

An extra budget item is the printing of fifty million copies of the Hobson document, for which the organization is seeking a Congressional appropriation. It is interesting to compare the six months budget with the above financial statement.

In the course of our investigation we have found that there is a general question among authorities in the field of narcotics, in regard to the value of the material being circulated by the International Narcotic Education Association. Leading experts in this field claim that Capt. Hobson is inaccurate in his statements, and does not use the most authoritative data available. It is admitted that there are no really accurate statistics on the number of drug addicts in the United States, because of the smuggling and the secretive methods of those using the drugs. However, federal, state and municipal authorities have compiled material which is available to interested persons, and quotations from the most recent data indicate that conditions are not as they are claimed to be by Capt. Hobson. In addition, the Association is said to be using a method of education which tends to produce hysteria rather than provide the protection for young people, which is its professed object. We have also been informed that people in Los Angeles are not fully satisfied with the Association's methods of operation, and that some of those whose names are being used have not authorized this use.

Under the circumstances, we have not been convinced that the International Narcotic Education Association, under its present program, is filling a definite need in the national field, nor that its business affairs meet all our technical requirements, and at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Bureau, held October 10th, endorsement was refused.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Winifred C. Putnam

WCP-AG

Assistant Director.

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