HOBSON

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COPY

INTERNATIONAL
NARCOTIC EDUCATION ASSOCIATION.

Fifth Floor Chamber of Commerce Building
Los Angeles, California.

December 31, 1924.

Hon. C. Bascom Slemp,
Secretary to the President,
White House,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Slemp:

Your letter of December 23rd is received. Your wishes with regard to the use of the President's name in our printing, will be scrupulously observed. The pamphlet you refer to has been out of print for a long time.

I was sorry to miss seeing you and the President, but am not surprised that you have been approached thru the Narcotic's Division of the Treasury Department, and the Advisors of the Narcotic's Control Board. I am enclosing a copy of a letter I wrote to the officials of the American Medical Association, which I hope you will take time to read. It will reveal to you the methods that have been employed to discredit the International Narcotic Education Association, and drug the public mind into indifference and a sense of false security.

Think of the enormity of the statement of the spokesman of that group, Dr. Kolb of the Public Health Service "That there is more potentiality for crime in one gallon of Alcohol than in a ton of Narcotic drugs." Think of his reporting officially that there are only about 110,000, addicts altogether in this country when the Police Department of New York City has finger prints of more than 100,000 convicted addicts, estimating the number from the quantity of Narcotic drugs consumed, he used the quantity legally entered, and omitted the quantity smuggled, which latter is estimated by the Treasury Department as 95% of the total.

Think of his quoting the Treasury Department survey of 1918-19 as estimating the number of addicts in this country at 237,655, when the survey actually reported "That the total number of addicts in this country probably exceeds one million at the present time."

Under separate cover I am sending you a copy of our education pamphlet, The Peril of Narcotic Drugs, a pamphlet for Teachers and Parents, which we are asking Congress to print as a Public Document, and distribute to Teachers and Parents thruout the country for use in instructing the youth.

Dr. Howard A. Kelly of Johns Hopkins approved the pamphlet proper in toto, as did Luther Burbank and Dr. Harvey W. Wiley. Constructive suggestions were made by Dr. Carleton Simon of the Police Commission of New York, and Dr. Haven Emerson, late Health Officer of New York. In most cases these suggestions were incorporated in the pamphlet except where they differ from each other. Major Haynes of the Narcotic Division ~~where they differ from each other. Major Haynes of the Narcotic Division~~ has made constructive suggestions, which we have incorporated except on the point of the trend addiction. They think that addiction is decreasing, but from the criminal records, the smuggling activities, and the very nature of the disease we are sure it is increasing, especially heroin addiction among the youth. This point of difference is in conference, and we expect final statement to be satisfactory to the Narcotic Division. The document has also been submitted to the Surgeon General of the Public Health Service, and we expect it in its final form to be satisfactory to that bureau. I know the document may seem long, but in reality, with the lessons included it only contains about 6,000 words. From a reading you can readily understand the effect of the intelligent use of the document by Teachers and Parents to inoculate intelligently our youth against this peril that has arisen in their path.

The International Narcotic Education Association is now working out a tentative system of Narcotic pedagogy adapted to American institutions to be submitted to Educators, and when perfected it is designed to be incorporated permanently in our education system.

You may have noticed that the Delegates to the Geneva Conference on Narcotics unanimously adopted a resolution for Narcotic education. My association is taking up the study of the pedagogy of Narcotics for other civilizations in order to be helpful and make suggestions to the Educators and Governments of other lands.

This is the line for Americas' most effective leadership in this life and death struggle of humanity, and the most timely opportunity will soon be at hand, following on the heels of the Geneva Conference.

The early publicity activities of the International Narcotic Education Association designed to arrest the attention of the public, and to reach the motive of self preservation in society naturally touched controversial matters, but our education work proper upon which we have now entered is above just criticism. In this work we are entitled to receive, and we expect to receive the cooperation, not only of the moral forces that champion reforms, but all of the constructive forces of organized society, official and un-official. Among the foremost of these is the Executive Branch of the government of America, and we shall count upon the sympathetic interest and good offices of the President.

I shall hope to see you and the President upon my next trip East, in the meantime I hope you may be able to bring this matter to the attention of the President. There is no question more fraught with vital interest to our country, and to humanity.

With good wishes, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Richmond P. Hobson.

RPH BES
1 Encl.
copied mc. 1/12/25. compared lr.