

**WORLD SERVICE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS**



P.O. Box 9999
Van Nuys, CA 91409
(818) 780-3951

DATE: December 12, 1991

TO: World Service Board of Trustees
World Service Office Board of Directors
World Service Conference Administrative Committee
Past Trustees

FROM: Hollie Arnold, WSO Staff

RE: Panel Presentation Topic

During the Steering Committee conference call last week, Kim and Bob McK. both saw a need to include some information on the topic of prejudice in our fellowship. Kim and Bob spoke last week, and Kim has since developed a rough draft of issues she would like to see included in the *January Conference Report* to advise the fellowship that this may be a topic during one of the panel presentations during the conference. She wanted me to advise you that the information is rough but she wanted each of you to see it prior to the conference call next week.

Thanks for your understanding!

FREEDOM FROM PREJUDICE
(Notes for Panel Discussion at WSC '92)

While we may not have adequate time at this year's conference to do more than open discussion on this and other issues, the board of trustees hopes these points will stimulate dialogue and that discussions will continue throughout the year at fellowship forums. We as a board are committed to furthering these discussions.

Following are the proposed discussion points:

- * How can the conference and its participants effectively address the issue of prejudice within our fellowship and set a course towards freedom from prejudice?
- * Discuss the challenges facing a spiritual fellowship that exists within cultures and societies heavily weighted with prejudice.
- * As NA members, as sponsors, as members of home groups, as leaders in the conference, what can each of us do to contribute towards the realization of the words from our preamble--"Anyone may join us, regardless of age, race, sexual identify, creed, religion or lack of religion."
- * Unity, not uniformity is vital to the growth of NA. As we recover, we emerge as distinctly beautiful, unique children of God. As a conference, how can we set the example and encourage unity while merging our vast and magnificent diversity within Narcotics Anonymous worldwide?
- * How do we greet newcomers who may not meet "the image" we have of an addict in our particular NA community?
- * What about PI and H&I efforts? Are our communities working to reach all kinds of addicts from all walks of life? Who isn't here?
- * How do we as a fellowship and we as individuals deal with these inherent prejudices within our fellowship and within our own hearts?

Specifically we need to encourage discussion of prejudice within NA as it has affected and is affecting the following:

- * Gay Lesbian Addicts
- * Hispanic Addicts
- * Asian Addicts
- * Non-English Speaking Addicts
- * "Older" Addicts
- * Women Addicts
- * Handicap Addicts
- * "Anyone-Different-From-Us" Addicts

This is only a beginning, but it all starts with a first step, doesn't it?



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May 15, 1991

(818) 780-3951

Mr. Jack Bernstein
C/O Cri Help Inc.
11027 Burbank Blvd.
N. Hollywood, CA. 91601

Dear Jack:

I write to the B.O.T. through you as Chair of WCC. We have been confronted with an issue that we are not comfortable making a decision on, as the result, may have an impact on the fellowship as a whole. The question has to do with to what extent can we accept things offered as a result of the business we generate. The concern being that by doing so we may compromise either our 7th or 10th traditions.

This question arose as a result of some conversations I have had with representatives of the Canadian regions. The RSR from the Quebec region has expressed an interest his region has in donating to WCNA 22 excess funds generated from their regional convention to be used to offset the expense of translations.

At our November board meeting we had discussed the necessity to offer French at the event and have committed to fulfill that need in some way. The host chair explained to the board that the Canadian government provides funds to conventions and it was also suggested that provincial governments may do the same.

My response to Mario (RSR Ontario) was that I was relatively sure that the WCC would accept their benevolence, if they do in fact believe that is the best use for their funds. I also explained that we are aware of the government substitute and that accepting those funds may not be any different than accepting complimentary rooms at hotels or bonus flight coupons. You probably know that after years of discussion the WCC board finally came to the consensus that having arrangements with airlines to provide discounted fares to our attendees which also provides us with a couple complimentary flights, does not necessarily imply endorsement nor violate the idea of self support.

The perception is that it is a business deal that is offered to all and we are simply taking advantage of something that anybody else could. Thus I suggested that the board would probably have no great philosophical problem with utilizing the federal funds for translating.



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Page 2

Mario explained that if that was the boards position he would like a letter from WCC explaining that position. The region has wrestled with this question and concluded that by taking the government funds, traditions would be ignored. Obviously, if WCC had outside funding for interpreters the region could use their resources in another way. They would like a position statement so that they can take advantage of this service if it is deemed to be acceptable.

After discussing this situation with a few people I have come to believe that this is a question to present to our distinguished pondering body since our forte is more of the show biz nature. Would you kindly pass this query around the table at your next beard combing session.

The host committee in Ontario is looking into the details, but what I know about the government program at this point is that they provide 50% up to \$10,000 to provide translation at large meetings. This is a very big issue in Canada and I believe that this is a political solution to a human problem. The Quebec region is recommending that we use the translators they have employed during their convention. The folks in Ontario seem to agree. It was estimated that 75% of the attendees coming from the mostly French speaking N.E. could benefit from translation services. To provide this for 4 workshops each day and all the mail meetings would cost approximately 2.5 K not including equipment.

This has exhausted my limited knowledge on the subject. Please offer us all some direction on this issue.

Regards,

Bill Winterfeld
WCC Chair

cc: WCC Board Members
B.O.T. Coordinator
RSR Quebec
WCNA 22 Host Committee