

Statement of Leonidas H. Berry, M. D.

Dec. 1962

ADDENDUM

FIGHT AGAINST NARCOTIC ADDICTION

While President of the Cook County Physicians' Association organized and spearheaded a city-wide movement for narcotic rehabilitation for the City of Chicago. Called conferences of psychiatrists, social workers, law enforcement officers, physicians, lawyers, judges, school board officials, etc. Held several conferences, accomplished the acceptance of "The Berry Plan" of "Medical Counseling Clinics for the Prevention and Follow-up Care of Young Drug Users." Sponsored a symposium on the criminal and medical aspects of narcotic addiction by the Cook County Physicians' Association and the Chicago Crime Prevention Bureau, LaSalle Hotel, May 9, 1951. Presented speakers such as County Sheriff, the State's Attorney, Commissioner of Police, President of the Board of Health and Medical Director of Federal Narcotics Hospital at Lexington, Kentucky. Presented and received approval of "The Berry Plan."

Solicited members of the State Legislature for funds. Went to Springfield with Committee and achieved passage of a bill authorizing the establishment of clinics in accordance with "The Berry Plan" and the appropriation of Ninety Thousand Dollars to implement the same. The program consisted of three clinics which were established at the University of Illinois, Neuropsychiatric Institute, Provident Hospital and Northwestern University, Montgomery Ward Clinics and operated under the direction of the Illinois State Department of Public Health, Roland Cross, Director, Leonidas H. Berry, Coordinator, Narcotics Program.

*During  
8 YRS*

The Chicago Clinics processed several thousand addicts and former drug users. Many of them remained off drugs, continued to live with families, held jobs, and avoided arrests from one to seven years. The Clinics were discontinued about two and one-half years ago because of lack of appropriations. The more recent approaches to rehabilitation in other parts of the country, to a large extent, are based upon the Chicago Clinic Plan.

It is well-known that the highest incidence of drug addiction in our time is among Negroes. It would seem desirable to have well-trained representation of this group at the program designing level in a national approach.