

# New Awakenings

**The plan I have in mind is Radical and Total:**

**1. STOP EVERYTHING, freeze, halt, park, ect. Commit ALL of the resources of the Area to helping the Groups, AND NOTHING ELSE.**

**2. RETURN TO THE PRINCIPLES, they are what this program is based on, NOTHING MORE, NOTHING LESS. Robert's Rules of Order have NO PLACE in Group Conscience, they don't fit, and they are LESS POWERFUL than our Addiction. And if you don't believe that, look at how they help the powerful personalities.**

**3. TALK TO EACH OTHER, not AT each other. Nurturing the tiny spark of recovery inside each of us is the MOST IMPORTANT thing we do to carry the message, and it is the basis of which GROUP CONSCIENCE is formed.**

**4. EDUCATE EACH OTHER, if you don't know the simple beauty of the Principles HOW CAN YOU BE AN EXAMPLE OF THEM? OR TEACH THEM?**

**5. SEARCH FOR THE TRUTH, find all the ways our current program and service structure is in conflict with or violation of our STEPS and TRADITIONS. It'll be tough (like a fourth Step), but the sickness must be exposed.**

**6. TAKE RESPONSIBILITY, quit running, hiding, blaming, attacking, and ALLOWING addiction to make the decisions. STAND FOR SOMETHING.**

**7. GET A "HOME GROUP", every addict has the responsibility of joining a group, One Group. You can go to as many meetings as you need, but you only BELONG to one group. You only participate in the group conscience of your home group. Do you think YOU deserve more influence than other addicts. Maybe you need to take a look at YOUR control issues, if you do.**

**8. WORK FOR YOUR HOME GROUP, bring the Principles, bring God, bring sanity, bring honesty. Kick addiction OUT!!! Don't tolerate the disease in YOUR Group. Say "NO" to Old Behavior, say "NO" to Outside Issues, say "NO" to speech makers and attention getters. KEEP IT SIMPLE - FOCUS ON RECOVERY!!!**

**9. BUILD STRONG GROUPS, based on Principles. These and only these are the Foundation of Narcotics Anonymous. A small Strong Group is much more attractive than a large Dysfunctional one.**

**10. GROW FROM THE GROUP UP, It is the member of Narcotics Anonymous who decides the direction of NA, not the Area, not the Region, and not the World. The member and group of NA must be healthy in order for NA to be healthy. All the service work in the world, all the money in the world, is useless unless more addicts can recover in our meetings than can get sicker in our Fellowship.**

**ADDICTS ONLY UNDERSTAND CONSEQUENCES!**

**Are the consequences you are seeing and experiencing bad enough yet? If nothing is done they WILL get worse.**

*-from the Policy  
Welcome Home Group*

# VILLAGE

There is an old African saying: "It takes a village to raise a child." Our disease robbed us of our village. As our using progressed to the point where we sought recovery, the very people who tried to curb our using and help us in life seemed like fools and do-gooders. Or worse, they were trying to control us by telling us what to do with our lives. Only after we had lost so much "control" that we had to seek help could we admit that our way didn't work. We found another way in NA and through the Fellowship we regained our "village". This is just another way of saying we have people around us who love us and care about our welfare enough to help us. Our desire for recovery activates the system.

While some of our needs may be simple, it is often a complex matter getting ourselves into a position to change. Change is a very scary proposition to almost all people and addicts may be more frightened than most. Seeing others changing, hearing them share their feelings in meetings, being personally impressed by their sincerity and honesty one on one not only keeps us coming back, it inspires us to get some of these good things for ourselves. This is why someone who goes to ninety meetings in ninety days gets more out of the program than someone who limps by with one or two meetings a week. We may never be able to put a finger on just which one of the many factors relating to recovery that we get when we go to meetings makes the difference, the difference certainly shows up in our lives. It is probably a combination of things that sort of "overwhelms" us and pushes us to take the chances necessary to make the changes we need to make.

Our services need to be self correcting to provide an encouraging backdrop for our recovery. Needless conflicts, excessive indulgence in past wrongs and an unwillingness to make amends, allows some problems to live on long after their fair period of consideration is past. We have a growing, and hopefully effective, number of members who know our structure and enough of our history to envision and work towards solutions. Certainly sharing information the way we do in this newsletter is one way to help. I would also hope we are free to share optimism and hope for the future by sharing notions and inspiration about what may be ahead for us as a Fellowship. After all, this is the good stuff that many of us feel cannot happen in a structure that refuses to be open about what it is doing and clear about the commitment to not repeat the errors of the past.

Specifically, we want no more court cases. If World Services faces some problems with some members, they need to be creative and open enough to deal with the matter in some direct, non-public manner. While WSO's lawsuit may not have made headlines in local papers, it was well known that it was happening. The strange thing is that both sides in the lawsuit still act as if they won and no report of the entire proceeding has ever come out! Specifically, the service structure was designed to be a support system for any member seeking to do something good in the name of NA. It was never meant to be a governing body so laden with rules and goobeldygook that nothing worthwhile could hope to get through the system. Specifically, the enervating

*continued* 

## *Publishing Box*

*New Awakenings* is a service at cost for the fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous. It is not affiliated with the known service structure. We are guided in this effort by the principles contained in the 12 Steps & 12 Traditions of NA and by a desire to improve our internal communications. You may freely reproduce this newsletter in whole or in part as long as you don't sell it for a profit or alter the text - we call this the Fellowship Spiritual Trust.

It is the intention that this be the last publishing year. Don't despair; this is no abandonment. Some of us feel a need for a break and a chance to pursue other projects. This sixty-day production schedule can be gruelling and it would seem better to bring *New Awakenings* to a clean end, review and inventory and perhaps start another newsletter than to allow this one to falter and fizzle.

We share our experience and learn from each other. No individual inside or outside the fellowship represents Narcotics Anonymous. Nothing appearing in this newsletter is necessarily more than the feelings of one NA Member, just for today.

## *Financial Statement*

### Received:

Oklahoma	5.00	Nebraska	10.00
Florida	5.00	Ohio	5.00
Kansas	10.00	Missouri	6.00
Oklahoma	1.00	Florida	10.00
Oklahoma	1.00	Illinois	10.00
Texas	2.00	Germany	20.00
Georgia	10.00	New Jersey	25.00
Missouri	5.00	California	5.00

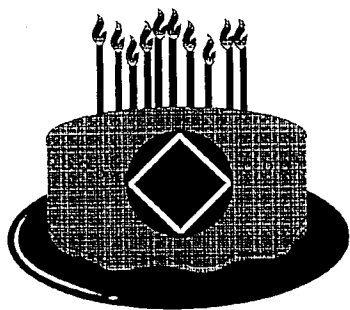
Total 130.00

### Expenses Issue 1:

Printing	95.80
Postage	53.12
Total	148.92

Happy Anniversary  
10

March 1985 - March 1995



COLCHESTER GROUP  
of NA

## VILLAGE from p. 2 ...

inventory that has been going on seems to have cost more than money as more and more members and newcomers get used to a do nothing structure. All this to avoid the simplicity of "Hey, everybody! We have to follow our own rules if we expect to do any good". We have almost completely lost sight of the need to follow the service guides that more often tell us we can't do anything, at least not right now. The "Temporary Working Guide" is in reality our tried and true service structure with it's motions, amendments, and updates. Unless you want to lose this simplicity and openness, the word temporary needs to be removed from the title. Or you can just do nothing and let the "Guide to Service" be superimposed in the carefully arranged and planned vacuum that exists in NA today. I cannot stress enough that this whole thing is deliberate and planned rip off of group conscience. It seems to be based on fear of giving the Fellowship an open voice and freedom of information.

Meanwhile, recovery goes on. The miracles in my life and the good feeling in my heart goes on. At least the important things are happening and I am sure God will get to the details of world service in the course of things. Life in the NA village goes on meeting the needs of recovering addicts including this one. ♦

## Tradition 8

*Narcotics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.*

Some important stuff lies in this tradition. Are 'our service centers' part of N.A. or not? This tradition tells us clearly enough, but we must look at the most unlikely part: the word 'but'.

'And' means that the second half of the sentence does not contradict the first, and is carrying on in much the same direction.

'But' means the second half does not contradict the first half, but goes off on a different tack.

'Except' means the second half *does* contradict the first half of the sentence.

The little word 'but' in this tradition is frequently passed over with a minimum of concern, but it's very important. It tells us that the second half of this tradition does not contradict the first. Our service centres employing special workers is entirely consistent with N.A. remaining forever nonprofessional. So our service centers cannot be N.A. If they were, the two halves of the tradition would contradict each other! This tradition tells us they are 'our service centers', meaning they belong to N.A. They serve N.A. but they are not a part of N.A. Simple.

'N.A. should remain forever nonprofessional' tells us no N.A. member must ever be paid for service to N.A. For a service centre to employ N.A. members is against this tradition. The Basic Text spells it out again: *by not placing professional status on any member, we insure that we remain "forever nonprofessional"*. Paying members to write (or rewrite!) literature for us is plainly against tradition 8. We write for free, we *serve*. ♦

## Attention Readers

From an old *New Awakenings*, someone has recently written to *Healthy Change* without getting any response. It is not clear that anyone writing to *Healthy Change* ever got a response and those notices were discontinued for that very reason. *New Awakenings* now takes a very much dimmer view of any such plugs for any service or project and apologizes to the readers for not having dealt with this kind of shit more clearly, more decisively, and much sooner.

## News Bits

So Much For The Court Agreement #49,637: The Florida Spring Service Break (FSSBNA) Committee faced an impeachment motion in the South Florida RSC because of the annual notice appearing in this newsletter. The FSSBNA notice is customarily sent to about 40 newsletters. Seems the color of the *New Awakenings* was dramatic evidence against all concerned.

It's still a mystery why some non-U.S. RSR's (like New Zealand) are flown to the World Service Conference at Conference (Office) expense while others (Ireland for instance) can't make it for lack of money.

Did you enjoy the Sunday morning international panel at the World Convention in Baltimore? One of your speakers from England almost didn't get to speak after being denounced as a member of an unapproved Group. No such problem with the member who gave the wonderful report from Puerto Rico. This was the assailant from *New Awakenings* Vol 2 No 1 pg 1-2. No, he's not from Puerto Rico. Would you rather not know this kind of stuff?

## Radicals' Lament

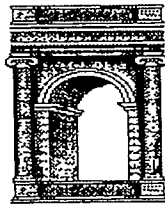
Strict adherence to the Traditions they say,  
Makes me one who would destroy NA.  
"Get under the covering or at least shuddup!"  
Salvation comes from sucking Up?  
I got here you know behind the disease of addiction,  
Stupidity I'm sure is a different affliction.  
Don't ask me to front money sight unseen,  
I wouldn't do it before and now I'm clean.  
Surrender is vital, of that I'm sure,  
One First Step only in an NA that's pure.  
Where selling shit appears in the 7th Tradition,  
I just can't say and it's not my position.  
Are you Getting the Business or a Spiritual Gift?  
Believing in Boards is a false sort of lift.  
As responsibility and freedom go hand in hand,  
That Corporate direction is a dry wasted land.  
I'm waiting for you to eschew that structure,  
Faith proves better than fear of the rupture.  
Though it may appear to some less than sociable,  
We've got it all and it ain't negotiable.  
Willingness remains always the key,  
And with it in time the power to see.  
From seeing to acting is quite a leap,  
But we're never alone so give us a beep!

## SURRENDER TO RECOVERY

Concentration on recovery doesn't always come easy. The message I often hear is a mixed one, full of chemical identities. I'm not far enough away from my own surrender and release from my "substance centered" disease. When I hear all the substance-ism, I fear for my recovery.

My total surrender to the first step of N.A. came after three and a half years of abstinence from all mood changing, mind altering substances. Working with others, sharing as a speaker had reinforced my illusion of being powerless over drugs. I felt there must be more. I could speak of my "thinking problem", but I censored myself for those thoughts and feelings. I had a "problem" with relationships, and compulsions in every area of my life. The message contained in our N.A. approved basic text helped me finally realize what I am powerless over: my disease of addiction.

The censorship of myself eased. I heard the meaning of "Powerless over my Addiction". My addiction became clear. Surrender was no longer an elusive butterfly. It was a reality. My reality. It filled the small empty spot in my heart that I had sought throughout my "sobriety". Recovery is in my life today. It's an endless, uphill journey, rewarding me with each step I take. Each day, more is revealed.



March 1, 1983

Dear Fellow N.A. Members,

It has come to my attention that:

- 1) The WSO has not changed the by-laws in their in their charter which the WSC mandated them to change.
- 2) That the WSO is resistant to said changes.
- 3) That the WSO has lost not less than 10,000.00 of the money raised by the sale of the special edition of Our Book.
- 4) That Our Book was supposed to be out to the Fellowship by September, which was five months ago
- 5) That Our Book was changed despite motions made at WSC-82 to print verbatim, and despite a poll made by the Chairman of the WSC, by phone, to as many Regions as possible, which resulted in a vote not to change Our Book.

As a result of the items stated above, I took it upon myself as Chairman of the WSC-LC, and holder of the copyrights of Our Book, to send a letter, a copy of which is enclosed, to the WSO, which immediately revoked their rights to print Our Book.

[Original Literature Committee memo includes typos]

## INTERVIEW WITH BOB STONE PART TWO

BOB: SO THE QUESTION HERE, "WERE THE DIFFICULTIES WITH THE FIRST PRINTING SETTLED TO YOUR SATISFACTION?" I WASN'T INVOLVED IN AT THAT TIME, BUT IT WAS DONE EVENTUALLY. "SOON AFTER THIS THE PROBLEM WITH THE 4TH AND 9TH TRADITIONS WERE AN ISSUE. CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THESE TIMES?" WELL, EVENTUALLY PAGE LEARNED OF THE 4TH AND 9TH CHANGE. HE WAS CHAIR OF THE LITERATURE COMMITTEE (LC). AND I CERTAINLY WOULDN'T HAVE TALKED TO HIM AT THAT TIME 'CAUSE IT WAS BETWEEN CONFERENCES. I'M SURE HE WENT BALLISTIC. AND I'M SURE THAT ALL THE PEOPLE WHO WERE CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH THE BOOK AND WITH PAGE WENT BALLISTIC. AND THEY PROCEEDED TO DO THEIR BEST TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT. FIRST OF ALL THEY ATTEMPTED TO TELL THE OFFICE, "EITHER YOU PRINT IT THE WAY IT WAS APPROVED BY THE CONFERENCE, OR DON'T PRINT IT." AND THEY THREATENED LEGAL ACTION AND THERE WERE TELEPHONE CALLS AND LETTER WRITING. AND THE BOD EVENTUALLY DECIDED TO IGNORE THE THREATS AND WENT AHEAD PUBLISHED THE BOOK WITH THE CHANGES THAT HAD BEEN MADE. AT THE CONFERENCE, BECAUSE OF THE CONTROVERSY, THE FELLOWSHIP WAS UP TO THE EYEBALLS WITH ANGER AND THEY VOTED TO INSTRUCT THAT THIS BOOK BE REPRINTED AND THE LANGUAGE PUT BACK IN AND IT WAS. THE SECOND EDITION CAME OUT WITH THE LANGUAGE REINSTATED. NO MENTION WAS EVER MADE OF WHAT TO DO WITH THE OTHER 5,000 BOOKS. THE PRESUMPTION WAS ESSENTIALLY "WE NEEDED BOOKS, SO WE'RE GOING TO USE IT, EVEN IF THOUGH IT'S DIFFERENT THAN WHAT WE APPROVED." THE FOLLOWING YEAR IN 1984 AT THE END OF THE CONFERENCE, CHUCK G. ROSE TO MAKE A MOTION, HE WAS THEN CHAIR OF THE BOD STILL. A VOTING MEMBER OF THE CONFERENCE. HE ROSE AND SAID, "I THINK THAT JIMMY WAS RIGHT, AND I THINK WE OUGHT TO ASK THE FELLOWSHIP IN A GROUP CONSCIENCE MANNER. AND PROPOSE THAT A LETTER BE SENT TO EVERY VOTING REGION AND EVERY VOTING DELEGATE GIVING THEM A CHANCE TO HAVE ALL THE INFORMATION AND HAVE THEM SEND BACK THERE ANSWER WHICH WAY THEY WERE GOING TO VOTE, TO INCLUDE OR NOT INCLUDE." THE CONFERENCE ADOPTED THAT PROPOSAL. BO S. WROTE THE POSITION PAPER THAT SAID IT SHOULD REMAIN AS IT IS IN THE SECOND EDITION AND CHUCK GATES WROTE THE LANGUAGE FOR CHANGING IT BACK TO THE WAY THE FIRST EDITION LANGUAGE READ, WHICH WAS WITHOUT THE LANGUAGE. BO WAS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AT THE TIME. AND HE OF COURSE HAD BEEN SO RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BASIC TEXT ANYWAY THAT PEOPLE WOULD HAVE NATURALLY GONE TO HIM FOR THAT. THE LETTERS WERE SENT OUT. THE LETTERS WERE RECEIVED AND THE VOTE WAS IN FAVOR OF RETURNING IT TO THE WAY JIMMY HAD SUGGESTED IT SHOULD BE.

NA: THE LETTERS WERE TO REGIONS OR GROUPS?

BOB: THEY WERE TO VOTING PARTICIPANTS. SO IT WENT TO ALL THE RSR'S THAT WERE THEN ON RECORD, AND TO THE TRUSTEES, AND THE BOD IN PERSON AND THE CONFERENCE VOTING PARTICIPANTS. AND THAT'S HOW THAT VOTE OCCURRED.

NA: DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT THE VOTE WAS?

BOB: OH, I DON'T REMEMBER PRECISELY. THERE WAS A REPORT LATER WRITTEN ABOUT IT SOME YEARS LATER AFTER I LEFT. I REMEMBER THERE WERE 38 VOTES IN FAVOR OF RETURNING THE LANGUAGE TO THE WAY JIMMY HAD SUGGESTED IT SHOULD BE. AND THERE WAS A LESS NUMBER, IT WAS A 23 VOTE, CLOSE TO 23 IN FAVOR OF THE CHANGES. THE INTERESTING THING WAS THAT THE MATTER NEVER CAME UP AGAIN OF THE FLOOR OF THE CONFERENCE IN SUCCEEDING YEARS. NO ONE EVER PROPOSED THAT THEY SHOULD CHANGE IT BACK. SO THERE'S ALWAYS BEEN THE MYSTIQUE

ABOUT THE FACT THAT SOMEONE CHANGED THE LANGUAGE OF THE BASIC TEXT, BUT MOTIONS NEVER CAME BACK IN '85 AND '86 AND '87 TO REINSTATE THE LANGUAGE AS IT WAS ORIGINALLY APPROVED BY THE FELLOWSHIP.

NA: SO THE MOTION TO FIND OUT WHAT EVERYBODY WANTS TO DO IS ALL THEY ACTUALLY HAD. IT WAS NEVER ACTUALLY A MOTION TO FULFILL WHAT WAS VOTED ON. IS THAT WHAT YOU ARE SAYING?

BOB: NO, I'M SAYING THAT AFTER THIS VOTE BY MAIL HAD BEEN TAKEN, MOTIONS WERE NOT IN SUBSEQUENT CONFERENCES ADVANCED BY REGIONS OR INDIVIDUALS WHO WERE ABLE TO MAKE MOTIONS THAT THEY SHOULD REINSTATE THE LANGUAGE OF THE SECOND PRINTING WHICH WAS THE LANGUAGE THAT WAS APPROVED ORIGINALLY BY THE CONFERENCE.

NA: I SEE, IT WAS LIKE A SURRENDER OF SORTS.

BOB: WELL THAT'S WHAT IT SEEMED TO ME. BUT EVER SINCE THEN THERE'S BEEN THE PEOPLE BEATING THE BUSHES ABOUT THE FACT THEY CHANGED THE LANGUAGE WHEN ALL THIS TIME THERE'S ALWAYS BEEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO CHANGE IT BACK. AND THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE SCREAMED AND MOANED AND CRIED HAVEN'T FOLLOWED THE LEGITIMATE COURSE OF CHANGING IT. IT KIND OF PUTS IT INTO A MATTER OF SUSPECT MOTIVES IN MY OPINION. OKAY, WHERE ARE WE AT IN YOUR QUESTIONS HERE? OKAY. "FUNDING BEGAN TO CHANGE RAPIDLY WITH THE PRODUCTION OF THE TEXT. HOW DID THAT CAUSE DIFFICULTIES, OR DID IT?" IT DIDN'T CAUSE ANY DIFFICULTIES AT ALL. THE MORE BOOKS WERE SOLD, THE MORE INCOME WAS PRODUCED, THE MORE THINGS THE OFFICE COULD DO THE OFFICE SHOULD'VE BEEN DOING ALL ALONG.

NA: STOCKPILING?

BOB: SERVICES. OVER THE YEARS A VAST AMOUNT OF MONEY THAT CAME FROM THE BASIC TEXT SALES WAS INVESTED IN TRANSLATIONS AND GROUP ACTIVITIES TO HELP GROUPS ALL ACROSS THE WORLD AND IT DIDN'T CAUSE A PROBLEM UNTIL I'M SURE MUCH LATER, AFTER I LEFT. "THE OFFICE TOOK OVER THE SECRETARIAL POSITION OF THE WSC IN WHAT YEAR? DID THIS ADD DIFFICULTIES AT THE WSO?" IN 1983 THE CONFERENCE HAD ITS OWN SECRETARY. A GIRL NAMED CAROL K. AND SHE AND I WORKED VERY CLOSELY TOGETHER DURING THE YEAR SHE WAS SECRETARY. AT THE CONFERENCE THE FOLLOWING YEAR, SHE WAS ONE OF THE PEOPLE WHO HELPED TYPE THE MINUTES OF THE CONFERENCE AS WE DID THE CONFERENCE. WE HAD BROUGHT ALONG WHATEVER STAFF WE HAD AND COMPUTERS TO WORK ON AND DID THE BULK OF THE WORK. THIS WAS STILL AT THE RETAIL CLERK'S UNION HALL IN SANTA MONICA ON THE 8TH FLOOR. WE DID THE MAJORITY OF THE WORK. AFTER THAT CONFERENCE WAS OVER THE ONLY REAL DUTY THAT THE SECRETARY OF THE CONFERENCE DID WAS VERY, VERY MINIMAL. WE HAD ASSUMED FROM '84 AND BEYOND ALL THE TASKS THAT THE SECRETARY WOULD HAVE DONE. THE OFFICIAL TRANSFORMATION DIDN'T TAKE PLACE UNTIL SEVERAL YEARS LATER, BUT WE HAD ALREADY LONG SINCE BEEN DOING THE WORK.

NA: SO, WAS IT AN OFFICIAL MOTION THEN?

BOB: YEAH. I ALWAYS TRIED TO ENCOURAGE THAT BECAUSE WHAT HAD OCCURRED IS THAT THE CONFERENCE IN '84 ELECTED THE WOMAN THAT I HAD AS MY SECRETARY IN THE OFFICE, AS AN EMPLOYEE, THEY ELECTED HER THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY TO THE CONFERENCE AND THE SYSTEM THEY WERE FOLLOWING AT THAT TIME WAS THAT THE PERSON WOULD SERVE TWO YEARS AND THEN STEP UP AND SERVE TWO YEARS. SO IN TWO YEARS THIS LADY WOULD BE A VOTING MEMBER OF THE CONFERENCE AND I WASN'T IN FAVOR OF THAT, AND THE BOD WASN'T IN FAVOR OF THAT, SO WE EVENTUALLY ENCOURAGED THE CONFERENCE TO SEE THE WISDOM OF CHANGING AND DROPPING THE ROLE OF THE SECRETARY FROM AN OFFICER POSITION IN THE CONFERENCE. THERE WAS I BELIEVE NO OPPOSITION TO THAT CHANGE WHEN IT WAS VOTED ON. OK, "W.S.C. PASSED MOTIONS TO

EDIT THE TEXT. WHAT WERE THE REASONS OF THIS TO BE DELAYED FOR THREE YEARS?" IT WAS AN INTERESTING DEAL AND WOULD TAKE A COUPLE OF DAYS FOR ME TO EXPLAIN. THERE WAS A MOTION ADVANCED I THINK IT WAS IN '85. THE WAY THE MOTION WAS WORDED IT GAVE AUTHORITY TO THE WSO TO HAVE THIS BOOK EDITED, AND AFTER THE CONFERENCE WAS OVER, THE LITERATURE CHAIRPERSON AND I HAD OVER A PERIOD OF TIME A LONG SERIES OF DISCUSSIONS. IT WAS '85 SO IT WOULD HAVE BEEN SUZANNE. SUZANNE WAS FROM NEW JERSEY, AND I RECALL EXPLAINING TO HER ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS THAT WE DIDN'T REALLY WANT THIS JOB. THIS WAS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE LC AND NOT US. WE WORKED OUT AN AGREEMENT THAT WHEN WE GOT AROUND TO DOING IT WE WOULD HIRE SOMEBODY IF THEY WOULD HELP US FIND THE PERSON AND HELP IN THIS SELECTION PROCESS. SO, IT WAS PROBABLY THE FALL OF '85 BEFORE WE GOT INTO THE SELECTION PROCESS. AND IT TOOK US ABOUT 6 MONTHS FOR THEM TO FIND SOMEBODY THAT THEY WERE SATISFIED WITH. BECAUSE THE OFFICE BOD AND THE STAFF WERE GOING TO TAKE ON THE TASK OF US EDITING THE BOOK. THAT WAS JUST OUT OF THE QUESTION AT THE TIME. SO THE COMMITTEE FOUND A MEMBER FROM TEXAS, I BELIEVE, WE ADVERTISED IN THE NEWSLINE, IT WAS REPORTED IN THE FELLOWSHIP REPORTS, WE ASKED PEOPLE WHO WANTED TO VOLUNTEER FOR THIS TASK AS A PAID PERSON TO DO IT TO SEND RESUMES AND THEY DID THAT AND IT TOOK MONTHS TO SETTLE DOWN. THEY FINALLY THEN GAVE US A PERSON'S NAME AND WE DRAFTED A CONTRACT, THE PERSON USED, AND THEY STARTED OVER AGAIN ON THEIR SEARCH. THE PERSON HAD DONE NO WORK WHEN THEY USED. THEY HAD JUST BEEN SELECTED. WE SEARCHED AGAIN, AND I THINK IN THE SUMMER OF '86, WHICH WOULD BE A YEAR AND A FEW MONTHS AFTER THE MOTION WAS ORIGINALLY ADOPTED, THEY GAVE US ANOTHER PERSON, AND WE CONTRACTED WITH THAT PERSON, AND THEY SPEND ABOUT 5 MONTHS WORKING ON IT FOR US. MICHAEL L. WAS THEN CHAIR OF LITERATURE, AND THEY HAD PERIODIC CONTACT. HOW MUCH I DON'T KNOW, BUT I'M GOING TO PRESUME IT WAS PROBABLY WEEKLY CONTACT. MIKE WAS A VERY DILIGENT PERSON AND WOULDN'T HAVE LET SOMETHING LIKE THAT LAPSE. WHEN THE WORK WAS DONE IT WAS GIVEN TO THE LITERATURE REVIEW COMMITTEE (LRC), WHICH WAS A SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE LC. THEN HEIN SPENT PROBABLY FOUR OR FIVE MONTHS BECAUSE THE EDITING WOULD HAVE BEEN DONE SAY NOVEMBER OR DECEMBER OF 1986 AND THE LRC THEN SPENT MONTHS WORKING ON IT WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN TILL ABOUT THE TIME OF THE CONFERENCE. WHEN THEY WERE PROBABLY FINISHED WITH IT THEY THEN GAVE IT TO US TO PRINT. AND WE SENT IT OFF TO THE PRINTER AND I REMEMBER WRITING A LETTER IN SEPTEMBER OF 1987 TO MIKE WHO WAS THE CHAIR PERSON SAYING I REALLY DON'T BELIEVE WE SHOULD PUBLISH THIS BOOK. I BELIEVE WE SHOULD SEND IT BACK OUT TO THE FELLOWSHIP FOR REVIEW FOR A YEAR. I HAD NOT READ THE BOOK. I HAD NOT COMPARED THE CHANGES, BUT KNOWING HOW PARTICULAR I FELT THE FELLOWSHIP HAD BEEN AND WANTED TO BE OVER IT'S BASIC TEXT, I FELT WE SHOULD HAVE IT GO OUT FOR A YEAR'S REVIEW. THE LC DECIDED TO IGNORE MY SUGGESTION AND INSTRUCT THE PRESS TO PRINT. SO WE PRINTED AND THE BOOKS BECAME AVAILABLE OCTOBER AND ALL HELL BROKE LOOSE. THE FOURTH EDITION. SO THAT'S WHAT TOOK SO LONG. THE PART THE OFFICE HAD TO DO WAS TWO PARTS, PROVIDE THE LANGUAGE FOR THE EDITOR TO WORK FROM, AND THEN TO PRINT IT WHEN THE COMMITTEE WAS FINISHED WITH IT. AND IT WAS IN THE BEGINNING OF THAT PROCESS THAT THE BIGGEST MISTAKE WAS MADE. THAT WAS THAT I DID NOT FORESEE THAT THERE WOULD BE A PROBLEM IN THE RETYPING OF THE BASIC TEXT FOR THE USE BY THE EDITOR. AND IT WAS IN THAT RETYPING THAT PORTIONS OF IT WERE OMITTED. IT WAS SHEER ACCIDENT. I DIDN'T

FORCE A WORD FOR WORD READING OF WHAT WAS TYPED TO WHAT MAY HAVE BEEN PRINTED. AND IN THAT WAY WHAT OCCURRED IS THAT THE PERSON WHO WAS TYPING WOULD READ ACROSS THIS LINE AND THEY WOULD SEE THE WORD "SOLUTIONS" HERE AND THEY MIGHT HAVE GOTTEN DISTRACTED, OR THEY TURNED THEIR HEAD, AND THEY CAME BACK AND THEY SAW "SOLUTIONS" ANOTHER LINE DOWN, AND THAT'S WHERE THEY TYPED. SO THEY MISSED THE WORDS IN BETWEEN. AND THAT OCCURS. I'M A TYPIST FROM WAY BACK WHEN AND I KNOW THAT OCCURS WITH ME ALL THE TIME, AND YOU HAVE TO BE CAREFUL. YOU HAVE TO GO BACK AND CHECK. AND WE DIDN'T PROOF READ IT, AND THAT WAS THE ERROR. WHAT THE EDITOR HAD WAS MISSING LANGUAGE THAT NO ONE APPEARED TO HAVE NOTICED WAS MISSING. AND THEN WHEN THE LC THEN LATER WORKED ON IT, THEY DIDN'T GO BACK AND CHECK IT APPARENTLY.

NA: LITERATURE REVIEW.

BOB: THE LRC. THEY DIDN'T GO BACK AND CHECK IT APPARENTLY. I'M GOING TO ASSUME THAT WHEN THEY NOTICED CHANGES, IF THEY NOTICED THEM AT ALL, THEY ASSUMED THAT THE EDITOR HAD INTENDED IT, SO MAY NOT HAVE QUESTIONED IT. NOW, IT DON'T KNOW IF THEY ACTUALLY FOUND THOSE OR NOT. I'VE NEVER ASKED. BUT WHEN THEY WERE SATISFIED THIS IS THE WAY WE WANT THE BOOK TO READ THEY GAVE IT TO US. I SAID I HAD RESERVATIONS. THEY SAID PRINT IT. SO WE PRINTED IT. AND WHEN IT CAME TIME FOR THE TRUTH TO COME OUT WE ASSIGNED A TASK OF STAFF TO READ IT WORD FOR WORD. AND THAT'S WHEN THE ENORMITY OF THE OVERSIGHT HAD BECOME APPARENT.

NA: I THINK YOU ADDRESSED THAT AT THE CONFERENCE DIDN'T YOU?

BOB: I WROTE A SPECIAL REPORT, AS SOON AS I FOUND OUT, TO THE FELLOWSHIP AT THE CONFERENCE EXPLAINED WHAT HAD HAPPENED. APOLOGIZED FOR BEING POOR ENOUGH AS A MANAGER TO HAVE NOT PREVENTED THIS. EVERY TIME WE PRINTED A PAMPHLET OR SOMETHING, I WOULD ALWAYS PROOF READ IT MYSELF BEFORE WE PRINTED IT. AND THERE WERE A COUPLE OF OCCASIONS WHEN THINGS GOT THAT FAR BEFORE IT WAS FOUND, BUT USUALLY THE STAFF WAS EXCELLENT IN PREVENTING ALL THOSE THINGS. WE HAD A WOMAN ON THE STAFF NAMED JENNY AND SHE WAS JUST, I'LL USE THE WORD OVERBEARINGLY METICULOUS ABOUT ACCURACY. SO IT WAS A SURPRISE AND VERY EMBARRASSING.

NA: WE MADE A MOTION AT THE SHOW-ME REGION THAT THEY LAMINATE THE JUST FOR TODAY READING, AND IT WAS APPROVED BY OUR REGION AND BROUGHT TO THE CONFERENCE. A YEAR AND A HALF LATER IT WAS FINALLY TAKEN CARE OF AND I GOT ONE OF THE FIRST EDITIONS OF THE LAMINATED "JUST FOR TODAY" AND...

BOB: THERE WAS A MISTAKE IN IT.

NA: YEAH. I HAD TO CALL THE WSO AND TELL THEM.

BOB: YEAH. I REALLY FELT STUPID ABOUT THAT ONE TOO. I COULDN'T BELIEVE WE HAD MADE SUCH A FUNDAMENTAL MISTAKE. "HOW WAS THE DECISION TO HIRE AN OUTSIDE EDITOR FOR THE 'IT WORKS HOW AND WHY' PROJECT REACHED?" THAT WAS BEGUN IN 1984 AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR. THE LC HAD IN NOVEMBER OF '83 HAD A WORKSHOP IN SAN DIEGO AND THEY HAD WORKED ON WHAT THEN WAS AVAILABLE ON STEPS AND TRADITIONS AND I HAD GONE TO THAT WORKSHOP AND ASSISTED IN THE WORKSHOP. BOB R. AND I WENT TOGETHER AND SAT IN SOME OF THE SAME COMMITTEES. BOB B. WAS THERE, BUD K., MICHAEL L., AND OTHER PEOPLE WHO LATER BECAME RESPONSIBLE FOR A LOT OF THE STUFF. THERE EXISTED IN THE LANGUAGE OF THE LC AT THE TIME WORDS THAT PERMITTED THE LC TO USE A WIDE VARIETY OF RESOURCES. IT WAS THEIR BELIEF THAT THAT RANGE OF RESOURCES INCLUDED THE ABILITY TO HIRE PEOPLE TO HELP THEM WITH THE WORK. THE LC ASKED THE WSO IF WE WOULD CONSENT AND PUT UP THE MONEY TO HIRE SOMEONE TO DO

THE WORK THAT THEY WANTED TO HAVE DONE. MY POSITION, AT LEAST MY PHILOSOPHY AND I THINK THE BOB ECHOED THAT PHILOSOPHY WAS IF A COMMITTEE ASKED US TO DO SOMETHING THAT WAS REASONABLE FOR US TO DO AND SEEMED THE CORRECT THING TO DO THEN WE WOULD DO IT. A YEAR LATER WHEN THE PI COMMITTEE CAME TO US AND SAID "WE'D LIKE TO MAKE PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS. NO THE CONFERENCE DIDN'T TELL US TO, BUT WE THINK IT'S A GOOD IDEA. WILL YOU DO IT?" WE PUT UP \$36,000.00 OVERNIGHT TO GET PI VIDEO THINGS MADE. PEOPLE LOVED THEM. SO THESE TWO EXAMPLES HAVE ALWAYS BEEN PARALLELED. WHEN A COMMITTEE CAME TO US AND SAID WE WANTED TO DO SOMETHING THAT WAS REASONABLE AND WE HAD THE MONEY OR COULD GET THEM MONEY, WE'D DO IT. AND THAT'S HOW IT WAS STARTED. THEY CAME TO US AND SAID, "WE WANT SOMEBODY TO DO THIS."

NA: THEY JUST DIDN'T FEEL THEY WERE CAPABLE?

BOB: YOU WOULD HAVE TO LOOK AT THE LITERATURE RESOURCE MATERIAL THAT WAS AVAILABLE AT THE TIME TO MAKE A GOOD JUDGMENT ABOUT ANSWERING THAT QUESTION. THERE WAS SO LITTLE MATERIAL AFTER THE WORKSHOP IN SAN DIEGO ON THE TRADITIONS THAT YOU COULD PUT THREE OF THE TRADITIONS LANGUAGE INPUT ON ONE PAGE. OUR RECALLING IN THE WORKSHOPS, WE FOLLOWED THE SAME PROCESS THAT THE COMMITTEE HAD USED FOR YEARS UNDER BO, THAT IS TO CUT AND PASTE, AND IN SAN DIEGO WHAT THE COMMITTEE FUNDAMENTALLY DID WAS PUT ALL THE STUFF THAT WAS THERE AND CUT IT AND PUT IT IN IT'S PROPER ORDER. WELL, MOST OF IT WAS DUPLICATE. AND MOST OF IT WAS OUT OF THE BASIC TEXT. ON THE LANGUAGE OF THE TRADITIONS, THERE WAS ALMOST NOTHING THAT WASN'T ALREADY IN THE BASIC TEXT. THE STEPS, THERE WAS A LITTLE BIT MORE MATERIAL, BUT IT WASN'T OF THE SAME KIND OF NATURE WHERE YOU COULD CUT AND PASTE IT. SOME PEOPLE HAD WRITTEN ELOQUENTLY ABOUT THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF A STEP, AND OTHER PEOPLE HAD JUST TAKEN QUOTES OUT OF THE BASIC TEXT. THEY JUST WEREN'T GOING TO MATCH. YOU JUST COULDN'T STICK THIS IN HERE SOMEPLACE AND HAVE IT READ RIGHT. SO SOMETHING HAD TO GET DONE AND THE LC FELT THAT SINCE THE OFFICE WAS MORE FINANCIALLY STABLE NOW, PERHAPS THIS WAS A WAY THEY COULD GET THIS DONE, AS A DRAFT FOR THEM TO WORK FROM, RATHER THAN EXPECTING THE COMMITTEE TO COME UP WITH THE DRAFT MATERIAL. THAT WAS WHAT TOOK PLACE IN GETTING THAT STARTED AND A QUICK SEARCH WAS MADE AND A PERSON WAS FOUND TO WORK ON THAT AND WE NEGOTIATED A CONTRACT AND SIGNED THE DEAL AND THEY STARTED WORK, AND THEY MET WITH THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES INFORMALLY AND HAD LONG DISCUSSIONS ABOUT THE STEPS AND LONG DISCUSSIONS ABOUT TRADITIONS. AND I RECALL SEEING THE TRANSCRIPTIONS OF THIS. THERE WERE JUST DOZENS AND DOZENS AND DOZENS AND DOZENS OF PAGES. I THINK THEY ALTOGETHER SPENT 25 DAYS GATHERING INPUT FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY. PEOPLE WERE BROUGHT IN FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY IN THE FELLOWSHIP TO SIT AND TALK WITH THE PEOPLE WHO WERE GOING TO DO THIS AND THIS WAS ALL TRANSCRIBED. SO TRIED THEY TOOK THE STUFF TO THEIR HOME AND BEGAN TO WORK ON IT.

NA: THIS WAS THE EDITOR?

BOB: WELL, YEAH. IT WAS THE PERSON THAT THE COMMITTEE HAD SELECTED TO, ACTUALLY IT WAS A JOINT COMMITTEE BETWEEN THE TRUSTEE'S, THE OFFICE, THE LC THAT SELECTED THIS PERSON. WELL, THE WORK THAT THESE FOLKS WERE DOING WAS GREAT. IN MANY RESPECTS IT WAS VERY GREAT. THEY HAD BEEN ABLE TO TAKE A WHOLE LOT OF VOICES, A WHOLE LOT OF INFORMATION AND PUT IT INTO A SINGLE STYLE, PUT IT INTO A SEQUENCE THAT WAS COMPREHENSIBLE, PUT IT INTO A READABLE LEVEL OF LANGUAGE THAT KIND OF

MELDED WHERE SOMEONE WHO HAD PROVIDED INPUT MIGHT HAVE BEEN A PHD AND TALKED ABOVE MY HEAD AND AVERAGED THAT INTO WHERE THE AVERAGE ADDICT COULD READ IT. HOWEVER THERE WERE SOME CONCERNS ABOUT THE WORK THAT THEY WERE DOING. AND HOW THEY WERE WORKING. WE EVENTUALLY BEGAN TO FEEL THAT THEY WEREN'T AS RECEPTIVE TO OUR NEED TO HAVE THEM MODIFY WHAT THEY HAD WRITTEN TO SATISFY OUR IDIOSYNCRASIES. I SAY OUR, I'M TAKING ABOUT THE LITERATURE CHAIR PERSON AND THE COMMITTEE THAT INCLUDED SIDNEY R. AND SALLY WHO WERE TRUSTEES AND TWO PEOPLE FROM THE CONFERENCE, THE LITERATURE CHAIRPERSON AND THE VICE CHAIRPERSON AND ONE OF THE OFFICE DIRECTORS. AND THAT WAS THE COMMITTEE THAT WORKED WITH THIS WRITING AND THEY WERE BEGINNING TO DOUBT WHETHER THESE PEOPLE WERE WILLING TO MAKE ADJUSTMENTS IN WHAT THEY WERE WRITING TO ACCOMMODATE THEIR CONCERNS, THE COMMITTEE'S CONCERNS, AND THAT EVENTUALLY LEAD TO DEADLOCK. THEY, IN JULY OF THAT YEAR FINALLY CONCLUDED THAT, LISTEN, WE'RE PROFESSIONALS, WE KNOW HOW TO STRUCTURE SENTENCES, WE KNOW THIS AND THAT, AND YOU'RE GOING TO WORK ON THIS AFTER WE'RE DONE ANYWAY, SO WHY BOTHER US. THEY, SENSING OUR UNHAPPINESS, OFFERED TO TERMINATE THE CONTRACT AT ABOUT A THIRD OF WHAT THE CONTRACT WAS FOR. AND I THINK IN AUGUST OR SEPTEMBER OF THAT YEAR THEY OFFICIALLY SENT ME A LETTER SAYING WE'VE OFFERED TO TERMINATE THE CONTRACT FOR THIS AMOUNT AND I WENT TO THE BOB AFTER I'D TALKED WITH THE COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE HAD SAID, YEAH, WE THINK YOU OUGHT TO ACCEPT IT, I WROTE A LETTER AND ACCEPTED THE TERMINATION. HAD THEY FINISHED THE WORK, I'M NOT SURE THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN ANY DIFFERENCE. THE COMMITTEE THEN TOOK THAT MATERIAL AND WORKED ON IT THEMSELVES, WHICH IS WHAT THEY WERE GOING TO DO ANYWAY. AND THE COMMITTEE WORKED ON THAT, MAKING SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES IN IT. THE LRC MADE SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES IN IT AND THAT WAS LATER PUBLISHED, AND A LOT OF PEOPLE LIKE IT, SOME DIDN'T.

NA: 1987 I THINK...

BOB: NOW, WHAT OCCURRED WAS A PROCEDURAL NIGHTMARE THAT BEGAN TO ENVELOPE THE WHOLE THING. THE ORIGINAL PUBLICATION OF WORK ON THE STEPS AND TRADITIONS WAS WHAT CAME OUT OF THE SAN DIEGO MEETING. THE LITERATURE CHAIRPERSON AT THE TIME FELT OBLIGATED TO PUBLISH THAT WORK, EVEN IF IT WAS CRAP. AND THE COMMITTEE THOUGHT IT WAS AWFUL, BUT THE CONFERENCE HAD BEEN TOLD THEY WERE GOING TO DO IT IN FEBRUARY OF THAT YEAR, SO IT WAS DONE. BUT, LIKE I SAID, IF YOU COULD FIND A COPY OF IT, YOU WOULD FIND THAT IT WAS HARDLY WORTH CONSIDERING PUBLISHING. THAT WAS THE REVIEW FORM. SO THE WAY THE COMMITTEE STRUCTURED PROCEDURE WAS, ANYTIME YOU PUBLISHED IT, IT WAS APPROVAL FORM. AND THERE WAS A DEBATE ON WHETHER THEY SHOULD CALL THIS NEXT ONE APPROVAL FORM OR REVIEW FORM. AND THE COMMITTEE ELECTED TO CALL IT APPROVAL FORM. THE WHITE BOOK. SO THE LC DECIDED, OR THE REVIEW COMMITTEE OF THE LC DECIDED TO PUBLISH THIS AS AN APPROVAL FORM. AND BECAUSE IT WAS SO SUBSTANTIALLY DIFFERENT FROM THE REVIEW AND INPUT, IT CAUSED A LOT OF CONTROVERSY, AND IT CAUSED A LOT OF CONTROVERSY BECAUSE THE FELLOWSHIP DID NOT FULLY UNDERSTAND HOW THE WORK DONE BY A WRITER HAD BEEN USED. SOME PEOPLE PRESUMED THAT WHAT THEY HAD WRITTEN WAS WHAT THEY WERE SEEING, WHICH WASN'T THE CASE. THE COMMITTEE HAD SUBSTANTIALLY ALTERED THE WORK THAT HAD BEEN RECEIVED FROM THESE FOLKS. A LOT OF PEOPLE ASSUMED THAT WHAT THEY WERE READING IN THE WHITE VERSION OF THIS WAS WHAT THE PEOPLE WHO HAD BEEN CONTRACTED HAD ACTUALLY WRITTEN, WORD FOR



WORD. THAT WAS NOT THE CASE. THE REVIEW COMMITTEE HAD EDITED IT AND ALTERED IT, AND REVISED IT TO MEET WHAT THEY BELIEVED SHOULD BE IN THE BOOK. BUT THERE WAS A POPULAR MISCONCEPTION THAT WAS PUT OUT BY PEOPLE WHO WERE OPPOSED TO HAVING ANYONE PAID TO DO WORK ON THE BOOK THAT SAID THIS IS TAINTED AND WE CAN'T USE IT. THAT POSITION WAS SO STRONGLY ADVANCED THAT THE FELLOWSHIP IN GENERAL SAID, WELL, IF THERE IS SMOKE THERE MUST BE FIRE, SO MAYBE THERE'S SOMETHING TO THIS, AND WE'LL JUST PUT IT ASIDE AND NOT USE IT...AND THEY VOTED IT DOWN IN THE CONFERENCE. AND I'M NOT SAYING THAT'S WRONG. I THINK THAT THE EMOTIONALISM WAS DISHONESTLY PUT FORWARD IN MANY RESPECTS AND THAT THE MOTIVATIONS BEHIND SOME OF THE PEOPLE INVOLVED WASN'T AS MUCH WHAT WAS IN THE LANGUAGE OR THE PROCEDURE, BUT THEY WEREN'T IN CHARGE OF WHAT WAS GOING ON AND THEY WANTED IT DONE DIFFERENTLY. SO THEY WENT BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARDS, BUT THE WAY THAT THE MOTION WAS HANDLED WHEN THEY WENT BACK TO THE CONFERENCE, WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN 1985, THERE WAS NO ACTION TO CHANGE THE LANGUAGE OF THE COMMITTEE GUIDELINES THAT ALLOWED THEM TO USE WORK PREPARED BY OTHERS THAT WERE PAID TO DO IT, IN N.A. LITERATURE, THAT PROVISION IN THE GUIDELINES WAS RETAINED. THE LRC DECIDED THAT THEY WANTED TO TRY AGAIN. SO THEY CAME BACK TO US AND SAID, WELL, WHAT WE'LL DO IS WE WILL TAKE ALL THIS MATERIAL WE HAVE ON STEPS AND WE WILL WORKSHOP IT AND WE WILL ADD MORE AND GET MORE AND REWRITE, WE'LL START FROM SCRATCH ON THE STEPS. BUT ON THE TRADITIONS LET'S TAKE WHAT WE'VE ALREADY GOT AND HIRE SOMEONE TO HELP US WITH THAT, SO IN THE SUMMER OF 1985 A SEPARATE CONTRACT WAS GENERATED WITH SOMEONE THE COMMITTEE HAD FOUND, SAYING ORGANIZE THIS MATERIAL ON THE TRADITIONS, AND THIS WAS DONE. I THINK IN THE LONG RUN THIS WAS HELPFUL. BUT AGAIN THE MATERIAL WAS NEVER USED OR INTENDED TO BE USED DIRECTLY FROM THE PERSON WHO WROTE IT, IT WENT BACK TO THE LRC AND THEY BUTCHERED IT UP. THE FIRE OVER THE IDEA OF USING A PAID PERSON JUST KEPT GROWING, AND IT BECAME EVENTUALLY TO SOME AWARE PEOPLE THAT THE PERSON INVOLVED WAS NOT AN N.A. MEMBER AND THAT BECAME MORE OR LESS A SACRILEGIOUS DECISION IN THE MINDS OF A LOT OF PEOPLE. YOU COULDN'T ALLOW A NON-MEMBER TO HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE GENERATION OF LITERATURE FOR THE FELLOWSHIP. SO THAT DOOMED ESSENTIALLY THE MATERIAL THAT CAME OUT OF THE SECOND CONTRACT. BEFORE IT EVER HAD A FAIR CHANCE OF ANY DETAIL WORK BY THE LC. SO THAT WAS THE STORY OF ALL THAT. I'VE NOT READ WHAT CAME AS A RESULT OF ALL THE YEARS OF WORK ON THE BOOK ON STEPS AND TRADITIONS, SO I'M NO JUDGE TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT ANY OF WHAT WAS DONE IN THOSE EARLY YEARS IS STILL INCLUDED IN IT. NO IDEA. SO THE QUESTION OF "WAS THE MONEY WASTED?", YOU CAN TAKE ANY SIDE OF THAT YOU WANT. WHETHER OR NOT WE EVER GOT ANY USE OUT OF THAT MATERIAL, I THINK A LOT OF PEOPLE DID. WE HAD PRODUCED I THINK 5,000 COPIES OF THE STEPS IN THE WHITE PUBLICATION, WE SOLD ALL OF THEM. THEY WERE USED BY PEOPLE ALL OVER THE WORLD. SO, IT'S A MATTER OF WHETHER YOU LIKE THAT PUBLICATION, OR NOT, TO WHETHER OR NOT IT WAS WASTED. NOW, AS IT TURNED OUT, YOU TAKE THE MONEY THAT WE CHARGED FOR THAT, WHICH WAS LIKE AROUND \$5.00 TIMES THE 5,000 COPIES AND THAT'S \$25,000 INCOME. THAT WAS A LITTLE LESS, BY ABOUT \$12,000.00 THAN IT COST TO DO THAT. SO THE LOSS TO THE FELLOWSHIP, IF YOU WANT TO SAY IT WAS A LOSS, IT WASN'T VERY MUCH AT ALL. THERE'S A QUESTION HERE ABOUT "THE GUIDE TO SERVICE GENERATED OUT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE WAS PRINTED. WERE VERY MANY OF

THESE ACTUALLY SOLD?" THERE WERE A NUMBER OF EDITIONS OF THAT, I THINK ABOUT 5, AND ALONG THE WAY, I THINK THERE'S ONE OR TWO EDITIONS OF THAT DRAFT THAT DIDN'T SELL VERY WELL. WE TENDED TO MAKE TWO OR THREE THOUSAND COPIES OF THESE THINGS AND ONLY SERVICE JUNKIES WOULD REALLY BUY THEM. COMMITTEES DIDN'T WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN THAT BECAUSE IT WAS MORE HASSLE THAN PRODUCTIVE AND THEY WERE MORE INTERESTED IN RECOVERY THAN IN THIS STRUCTURAL STUFF THAT THEY DON'T NORMALLY OTHERWISE GET INVOLVED IN. I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY WERE ACTUALLY SOLD.

NA: I WANT TO ASK WHAT I READ IN THE NEW AWAKENINGS ABOUT THE PRICE OF THE BASIC TEXT AND ABOUT GETTING THE OFFICE ON IT'S FEET...IS THAT... DO YOU THINK THAT THE BOOK PRICE SHOULD STILL BE GOING UP OR SHOULD IT BE GOING DOWN?

BOB: WELL, PEOPLE HAVE TOLD ME FROM TIME TO TIME THAT THE OFFICE OR SOMEBODY, THE CONFERENCE, OR THE LC HAD SAID THAT THEY WOULD HAVE THE PRICE ARTIFICIALLY HIGH FOR A PERIOD OF TIME AND THEN REDUCE IT. I'VE NEVER FOUND ANYTHING FROM THE LC OR THE OFFICE THAT EVER SAID THAT. I KNOW PEOPLE HAVE MADE THAT STATEMENT TO ME FOR TEN YEARS OR MORE, I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING SIMILAR. DURING THE TIME THAT I WAS WITH THE WSO THE QUESTION OF THAT OCCURRING NEVER AROSE SERIOUSLY. THERE WERE DISCUSSION FROM TIME TO TIME ABOUT THE PRICING OF THE BASIC TEXT, BUT THERE WAS NEVER ANY SUBSTANTIAL PERCENTAGE OF THE BOB WHO FELT THAT SHOULD OCCUR. IT'S A MATTER OF SOMETHING THAT'S BOTH EASY TO UNDERSTAND AND HARD TO ACCEPT. IT'S EASY TO UNDERSTAND WE HAVE A FELLOWSHIP IN INDIA, AVERAGE WAGE FOR THE MEMBERSHIP IN INDIA IS PROBABLY WHAT AMOUNTS TO IN AMERICAN MONEY, MAYBE \$60.00 A YEAR. MAYBE \$70.00 A YEAR. VERY FEW OF THEM READ ENGLISH. THE ONLY WAY THAT THEY ARE GOING TO GET LITERATURE IS IF SOMEONE ELSE TRANSLATES IT FOR THEM AND PROVIDES IT FOR THEM. THE SAME WITH MOST OF THE OTHER LANGUAGES, THE FRENCH COULD HAVE DONE THEIR OWN, GERMANS WOULD HAVE DONE THEIR OWN, SPANISH OVER A LONG PERIOD OF TIME COULD HAVE DONE THEIR OWN, PORTUGUESE, MAYBE. MOST OF THE OTHERS, NOT. WE HAD A NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS ON THE ISSUE OF LITERATURE IN NON-ENGLISH LANGUAGES WITH THAT DOUBLE-A COMPANY, AND THEIR POSITION WAS THAT THEY REFUSED TO GET INVOLVED IN TRANSLATIONS. THEY SAID TO PEOPLE IN DIFFERENT LANGUAGES, YOU WANT TO TAKE OUR BOOK AND TRANSLATE IT, YOU DO THAT, BUT LET US KNOW, SEND US COPIES AND PROTECT THE RIGHTS. WELL, THEY MADE A COUPLE OF MISTAKES IN DOING THAT. WHAT THEY LEARNED FROM THAT MISTAKE WAS, IN SOME PLACES PEOPLE TRANSLATED IT DIFFERENTLY THAN WHAT THEIR ENGLISH LANGUAGE VERSION WOULD CONVEY. FOR INSTANCE, IN GERMAN, WHEN THEY JUST LET THE GERMANS DO WHATEVER THEY WANTED TO DO, THE TRANSLATION COMES ACROSS IN GERMAN AS THOUGH YOUR RECOVERY ISN'T REALLY A HIGHER POWER THING, IT'S ME, I CAN DO THIS. RATIONAL RECOVERY. SO WHAT THEY NOW HAVE LEARNED OVER THE YEARS, WAS THAT WAS A MISTAKE. BECAUSE THE TRANSLATIONS THEY WENT THROUGH WERE DONE BY PEOPLE YOUNG IN RECOVERY AND THERE WAS NEVER ANY ASSURANCE OF THE LEVEL OF UNDERSTANDING, SPIRITUALLY, OF THE PEOPLE INVOLVED, AND THERE WAS NEVER ANY ASSURANCE OF THE LEVEL OF UNDERSTANDING OF ANY OF THE LANGUAGES INVOLVED BY THE PEOPLE IN THE TRANSLATIONS. WE FELL INTO THAT TRAP ONCE. WE HAD A MEMBER FROM CANADA TRANSLATE SOME STUFF INTO FRENCH, AND WE PRINTED IT THE WAY HE WROTE IT FOR US IN THE TRANSLATION. THE PEOPLE BACK HOME IN CANADA REFUSED TO USE IT BECAUSE IT WAS SO POORLY WRITTEN. THEY SAID, "WHAT IDIOT WROTE THIS?" AND WHAT WE LEARNED WAS THAT THE GUY'S GRASP OF BOTH LANGUAGES

WAS INADEQUATE, SO FROM THAT IT BECAME REAL CLEAR, THAT IF N.A. WAS GOING TO MAINTAIN CONSISTENCY IN IT'S SPIRITUAL MESSAGE FROM THE ENGLISH TO OTHER LANGUAGES, THAT WAS GOING TO HAVE TO BE DONE UNDER THE MANAGEMENT OF WORLD SERVICES. THE OTHER PART OF THAT THAT MAKES IT REALLY UNDERSTANDABLE IS THAT IF YOU UNDERSTAND THE WORLD'S ECONOMY AND THE WORLD'S POPULATIONS. THERE ARE ONLY PROBABLY A HALF DOZEN, MAYBE 18 COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD WITH A STANDARD OF LIVING AS ADEQUATE TO SUSTAIN THIS KIND OF DUTY. OF TRANSLATION, PRODUCTION, PRINTING, AND DISTRIBUTION FROM LOCAL ECONOMY. AND WHERE THIS IS EASILY UNDERSTOOD IS THIS IS THE SAME PROBLEM THAT RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS HAVE FACED THROUGH THE CENTURIES. THAT'S WHY CHRISTIAN MISSIONARIES ARE SENT ALL OVER THE WORLD FROM THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, THE RICH COUNTRIES, WHERE THEY CAN AFFORD TO DO THIS. AMERICA BEING THE BASTION OF ALL OF THIS KIND OF WORK. THE SAME IS TRUE WITH RELIEF EFFORTS. I MEAN, IF YOU WANT TO STOP STARVATION IN SOMALIA, YOU GET AMERICA TO DO IT. YOU CAN SEE WERE THIS IS LEADING MAYBE. IT BECAME REALLY THEN A CONFLICT, DO WE PUT THIS BURDEN FINANCIALLY ON A MEMBER OF N.A. OR DO WE FIND ANOTHER WAY TO DO THIS. THERE REALLY IS NO WAY. WE CAN'T GO OUT AND BORROW MONEY FROM THE GOVERNMENT OR GO OUT AND ASK FOR DONATIONS FROM THE WORLD TO TRANSLATE THIS. IT BECAME THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE PEOPLE IN WORLD SERVICES THAT WORLD SERVICES HAD THE DUTY OF PROTECTING THE SPIRITUAL INTEGRITY OF THE TRANSLATION, AND THEN, REALISTICALLY, TO GET THE TRANSLATIONS IN THE HANDS OF OTHER PEOPLE WE HAD TO PRINT IT FOR THEM. YOU CAN'T DO THAT UNLESS YOU CHARGE ENOUGH MONEY FROM AMERICAN MEMBERS TO SUSTAIN THOSE COSTS. AND THAT'S THE BASIC ISSUE. NOW, IF, AND I USED TO MAKE THAT EXPLANATION AT THE WSC ON THE TWO OCCASIONS WHEN A MOTION CAME UP TO REDUCE THE PRICE OF THE BASIC TEXT. I'M NOT A MEMBER. I'M NOT LIKELY TO GO OUT AND BE SUSCEPTIBLE TO USING DRUGS. BUT THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE IN OTHER COUNTRIES WHERE WE HAVE NO MATERIAL IN THAT LANGUAGE AND NO MEETINGS, AND THOSE PEOPLE ARE JUST GOING TO CONTINUE TO DIE IF YOU REDUCE THE PRICE OF THE BOOK, BECAUSE WE ARE NOT GOING TO HAVE THE MONEY TO PROVIDE THESE SERVICES. AND IT REALLY WAS NEVER MY DECISION, BUT I'M THE ONE WHO GOT UP AND MADE THAT ARGUMENT AND I WOULD STILL MAKE THAT ARGUMENT TODAY. AS TOUGH AS IT IS FOR AN AVERAGE N.A. MEMBER WHEN HE COMES BACK IN THE FELLOWSHIP WHO'S LOST EVERY BIT OF MONEY HE'S GOT, WHO'S UNEMPLOYED, HE'S IN TREATMENT AND DOESN'T THINK STRAIGHT, FOR HIM TO PAY \$8.80 OR \$9.00 FOR A BASIC TEXT AIN'T EASY. I'VE NEVER SAID IT WAS EASY BUT THE CHANCES ARE PRETTY GOOD THAT WITHIN A YEAR OR TWO THAT PERSON IS GOING TO HAVE A JOB, AND THAT PERSON IS GOING TO BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO PAY \$8.00 FOR A BOOK, OR \$9.00, OR \$10.00 AND THAT'S THE ISSUE AS IT'S ALWAYS BEEN ARGUED AT WORLD SERVICES REGARDING THE PRICE OF THE BASIC TEXT, REGARDLESS OF WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN SAID BY SOMEONE BACK IN 1982 WHEN THIS WAS ALL GOING ON.

NA: THERE WAS A MOTION BY OUR REGION SENT TO THE CONFERENCE THIS YEAR IN ATLANTA TO PUT IT BEFORE THE CONFERENCE THAT THE SOFT COVER BASIC TEXT BE AVAILABLE FOR \$5.00 AND OUR RSR WAS TALKED TO ON THE SIDELINES ABOUT THE MOTION AND HE DECIDED THAT HE WOULD WITHDRAW THE MOTION. SO, THE MONEY ISSUE HAS NOT GONE AWAY.

BOB: AND IT PROBABLY WON'T. SEE, THE APPROACH THAT I'VE ALWAYS HAD WITH THAT IS THAT THESE ARE ISSUES THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR NOT THE OFFICE. BECAUSE THESE

ARE SPIRITUAL MATTERS, THEY'RE NOT BUSINESS MATTERS. THE OFFICE ALWAYS GOT PUT IN THE POSITION OF HAVING TO DO IT BECAUSE THE TRUSTEES NEVER HAD ENOUGH BALLS TO DO THEIR JOB AS THE SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE OF THE FELLOWSHIP.

NA: JUST LIKE THE HIV ISSUE. LOOK HOW MANY YEARS IT TOOK THEM TO RESPOND TO THAT ISSUE. BOB: HAVE THEY? I DIDN'T KNOW THEY DID.

NA: THEY CAME OUT WITH A POSITION LETTER OR WHATEVER THEY CALL IT, BASICALLY SAYING IT'S AN OUTSIDE ISSUE. I REMEMBER CALLING THE OFFICE IN 1987...

BOB: SEE, IF THIS IS MY ONLY CRITICISM I'LL LEVEL AGAINST ANYBODY IN THE FELLOWSHIP, IS THAT THE TRUSTEES AS A GROUP HAVE CONSISTENTLY, FOR THE 14 YEARS THAT I HAD FAIRLY CLOSE OBSERVATION, REFUSED TO TAKE A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN ADDRESSING THE ISSUES OF THE FELLOWSHIP AT THE FELLOWSHIP LEVEL. IF MISSOURI WANTS TO TALK ABOUT REDUCING THE COST OF THE BASIC TEXT, IT SHOULD BE THE TASK OF THE TRUSTEES TO VISIT ENOUGH PLACES TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE SO THE ISSUE CAN BE DISCUSSED OPENLY WHEREVER IT NEEDS TO BE DISCUSSED. NOW, IF THE FELLOWSHIP IN MISSOURI WANTS TO MAKE THAT DECISION THAT THE COST SHOULD CHANGE AND THESE OTHER CONSEQUENCES RESULT FROM IT, THEN I CAN UNDERSTAND IT BEING PUT FORWARD AGAIN. BUT THE FELLOWSHIP HAS NEVER BEEN GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE ALL SIDES OF THE ISSUE. THEY SEE THIS FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF OUR GUY'S COMING OUT OF TREATMENT AND AIN'T GOT ANY MONEY, WHY IN THE HELL SHOULD WE PAY ALL THIS GODDAMN MONEY FOR THE BOOK.

NA: THEN YOU'VE GOT THE ADDICT IN MISSOURI, MYSELF, WHO TRIES TO STAY INFORMED, YET FINDS IT HARD, AND I SEE THE BUDGET OF THE TRUSTEES, THE MAJORITY OF THE MONEY GOING TO TRAVEL, THINKING, THAT CAN BE ELIMINATED, AND THE SAVINGS THERE CAN BE REDUCING THE PRICE OF THE BASIC TEXT.

BOB: I WOULD SAY, THEN, THAT'S A FALSE ECONOMY IF THE TRUSTEES ARE DOING THEIR JOB. SOMEBODY HAS GOT TO TAKE LEADERSHIP IN SPIRITUAL MATTERS AND NOBODY DOES. I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEIR MOTIVATIONS ARE. I DON'T KNOW WHAT REASONS THEY HAVE FOR NOT DOING ASSERTIVE WORK IN THE FELLOWSHIP ON SPIRITUAL ISSUES. THERE'S NOTHING IN THE BYLAWS OR THE GUIDELINES TO PREVENT THEM FROM DOING THOSE KINDS OF THINGS. I DON'T KNOW IF I ANSWERED THIS QUESTION, "WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE THE FELLOWSHIP KNOW, ONE IMPORTANT THING. . . WHAT WOULD THAT BE?" THERE IS TOO MUCH ENERGY DEVOTED TO DIVISIVENESS RATHER THEN CONSTRUCTIVE OR BUILDING OF THE FELLOWSHIP AND MEETING THE NEEDS OF ADDICTS. THERE'S TOO MUCH SUSPICION BY THOSE WHO ARE NOT IN AUTHORITY OR RESPONSIBLE POSITIONS OF THOSE WHO ARE IN AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBLE POSITIONS AND THAT DISTRUST CARRIES WITH IT SO MUCH ENERGY AND SO MUCH TIME THAT'S LOST IN CARRYING THE MESSAGE TO OTHER ADDICTS. SO IF I WERE TO LEAVE ANYTHING AS THOUGHTS ABOUT THE FELLOWSHIP, IT NEEDS, FROM THE HIGHEST LEVEL TO THE LOWEST LEVEL TO GET OUT OF THIS ADVERSARIAL RELATIONSHIP OVER WHO'S IN CHARGE AND WHAT'S BEING DONE, AND WORK TOGETHER IN FINDING SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS THAT REALLY DO EXIST AND GET ABOUT CARRYING THE MESSAGE OF RECOVERY TO OTHER PEOPLE. THE ONLY SUBSTANTIAL WASTE THAT I'VE SEEN IN THE FELLOWSHIP IN MY ASSOCIATION RESIDES SPECIFICALLY IN THAT AREA. ABOUT THE TIME I WAS LEAVING THE OFFICE IN 1990, THERE WAS A GROWING PROBLEM WITH A FELLOW NAMED DAVE IN THE EAST.

NA: GRATEFUL DAVE.

BOB: HE WAS, WE WERE TOLD PRINTING AN EDITION OF THE BASIC TEXT AND THE DISCUSSIONS THAT WERE ENSUING AT THAT TIME WERE HOW TO DEAL

WITH THIS. AND MY ADVICE TO THE PEOPLE THAT I REPORTED TO WAS THAT YOU HAD A RESPONSIBILITY TO DEAL WITH THIS LEGALLY. BUT IF YOU DEAL WITH IT PRIMARILY LEGALLY, YOU ARE GOING TO SPEND AN AWFUL LOT OF MONEY AND YOU ARE NOT GOING TO REALLY ACCOMPLISH A WHOLE LOT. YOU MAY ENFORCE THE COPYRIGHT RESPONSIBILITIES THAT YOU HAVE, WHICH YOU DO HAVE A DUTY TO DO. BUT UNLESS YOU GO INTO THE GROUPS AND THE AREAS WHERE THIS OCCURS AND SPEAK WITH AUTHORITY ABOUT SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLES INVOLVED IN THIS MATTER, YOU'RE NOT GOING TO WIN AND IT'S NEVER GOING TO GO AWAY. AND I TRIED MY BEST IN THE YEAR 1990 TO CONVINCE THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, THIS IS YOUR JOB. THIS IS NOT A WSO MATTER. IT IS YOUR JOB TO GO AND TALK ABOUT SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLES INVOLVED IN BOOTLEG PRINTING, PRINTING MATERIAL THAT IS DIFFERENT THAN AS THE CONFERENCE APPROVED IT, AND IF YOU CAN'T FIND ENOUGH SPIRITUAL FOUNDATION TO STOP IT, THEN IT SHOULD CONTINUE. YOU SHOULD ALLOW IT. AS WE WERE CONCLUDING MY REMARKS, I WAS REMINDED OF THE PULPIT THAT I HAVE BEEN STANDING ON FROM TIME TO TIME ABOUT A DIFFERENT ISSUE THAT I COULD LEAVE SOME PARTING WORDS ABOUT. OF THE NEARLY 200 PEOPLE WHO WERE INVOLVED IN THE WSC IN 1983, ABOUT 80% OF THOSE PEOPLE ARE STILL CLEAN. ABOUT 20% OF THEM ARE STILL IN N.A., THE REST ARE SOMEPLACE ELSE. AND IF YOU WENT THROUGH EVERY YEAR OF ALL THE LEADERSHIP POSITIONS IN THE SHOW-ME REGION, AND ALL THE OTHER PLACES, YOU'D FIND A VERY SIMILAR STATISTIC. THAT AS PEOPLE REACH 5 YEARS AND 6 YEARS, MORE THAN HALF OF THEM LEAVE THE FELLOWSHIP AND GO TO SOME OTHER THING. AND THAT HAS ALWAYS BEEN AN ENORMOUS DETRIMENT TO THE STRENGTH OF THE FELLOWSHIP.

NA: WHAT'S THE SOLUTION?

BOB: WELL, THE SOLUTION IN MY OPINION IS VERY SIMPLE. WE SPEND A LOT OF TIME DEALING WITH H+I, WE SPEND A LOT OF TIME WITH PI AND A LOT OF TIME WITH LEADERSHIP. I MEAN WITH LITERATURE. YOU NEED A COMMITTEE AND A PROCESS INVOLVED WITH RETENTION. OTHER ORGANIZATIONS UNDERSTAND THAT THEY LOSE THEIR MEMBERSHIP AFTER A PERIOD OF TIME AND A WHOLE HANDBOOK NEEDS TO BE DEVELOPED FROM PEOPLE WHO HAVE DEALT WITH THIS WHO HAVE SEEN IT AND UNDERSTAND IT SO THAT THEY CAN DEVELOP GUIDANCE ON HOW YOU AS A MEMBER CAN BE CONFRONTED WITH A GUY WHO YOU SEE AT A MEETING WHO COME ONCE A YEAR TO GET HIS MEDALLION AND WHO MAYBE ONCE OR TWICE IN BETWEEN BUT YOU ALWAYS SEE HIM AT THE A.A. THINGS YOU HEAR ABOUT. WHAT DO YOU DO TO EXPLAIN TO THAT PERSON? WHAT DO YOU DO TO ENTICE, TO RECRUIT THAT PERSON TO STAY IN N.A. WELL, THERE ARE SOME VERY DIFFERENT OPINIONS AND VERY DIFFERENT ANSWERS TO THAT. AND I HEAR THEM ALL THE TIME. THE ONE I HEAR MOST IS WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO BE THERE FOR THE NEWCOMER. BUT THAT DOESN'T CUT IT AFTER 5 OR 6 OR 7 YEARS FOR THE PERSON WHO FEELS THAT THEY'RE TIRED OF GIVING AND DOESN'T GET ANYTHING. WELL, IT MAY BE THAT THEY STILL NEED TO GIVE IN ORDER TO GET, BUT THEY KIND OF BLOCK THAT OUT. NO ONE CONFRONTS THEM IN A WAY THAT GETS TO THEM. THERE'S A WHOLE LIST OF THINGS THAT YOU CAN SAY TO PEOPLE TO EVENTUALLY PRESS THE RIGHT BUTTON. BUT WE JUST DON'T HAVE THEM AS A READY RESERVOIR FOR YOU TO USE AGAINST THOSE PEOPLE WHO HEAD FOR THE HILLS. SO N.A. NEEDS TO GET INVOLVED SERIOUSLY WITH RETAINING MEMBERS BEYOND 5 YEARS SO YOU DON'T HAVE THIS PYRAMID THING COME SO SOON AND WITH SO FEW YEARS. THERE IS A SMALL CIRCLE OF PEOPLE IN N.A., A SMALL PYRAMID OF PEOPLE IN N.A. WHO'VE BEEN AROUND 10 YEARS OR MORE, WHEN THERE SHOULD BE 5 OR 6 TIMES THAT MANY. AND AS LONG AS THEY CONTINUE TO DO THAT, N.A. WILL

HAVE CERTAIN FORM OF IMMaturity THAT HELPS PUSH THESE PEOPLE AWAY. THEY FIND THE MATURITY IN THE CALMNESS OF OTHER PLACES AND THAT'S WHERE THEY GO. SO AS LONG AS THEY'RE GOING, THEY'RE NOT RETAINING THAT AND BRINGING THAT LEVEL OF CALMNESS AND MATURITY HERE. IT'S A VERY ESSENTIAL THING, AND IN THIS JOURNEY THAT I AM ON NOW, IT'S ABOUT THE ONLY THING THAT I AM ACTIVELY PROMOTING TO MY FRIENDS AND ACQUAINTANCES ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

NA: I'VE GOT A QUESTION THAT I'VE POSED TO PUBLISH, AND THAT'S A REQUEST FROM EVERYBODY HOW THEY THINK NEW ITEMS SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE FROM THE OFFICE. LIKE THE LITERATURE RACK, KEYTAGS, THAT KIND OF STUFF. LIKE OUR REGIONAL SERVICE OFFICE WILL PUT TOGETHER A NEWCOMER PACKET. NOW THEY'RE SELLING AN OUTSIDE ENTERPRISE'S JEWELRY, THAT KIND OF STUFF FROM OUR OFFICE. WERE KEYTAGS AROUND BEFORE YOU WERE THERE? WAS THAT SOMEBODY'S HOME GROUP DECIDING THEY NEEDED KEYTAGS AND

... BOB: THERE'S TWO DIFFERENT ISSUES YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT. ONE IS A PHILOSOPHICAL ISSUE AND THAT'S KIND OF THE ONE YOU'RE SEEING. SHOULD WE BE DOING THIS, SHOULD WE NOT BE DOING THIS. THE OTHER ISSUE YOU HAVEN'T TALKED ABOUT AND YOU WOULDN'T NECESSARILY ADDRESS, AND THAT'S BEST ILLUSTRATED BY A PROBLEM THAT AROSE SOME TIME BACK, IN THE SCHEME OF THE POWERS WE WERE DEALING WITH AT THE WSO WHEN I WAS THERE IN THE MID 1980'S. ONE OF THE PROBLEMS THAT WE HAD PUT OFF DEALING WITH UNTIL WE HAD SOLVED SOME OF THE OTHER PROBLEMS WAS THE LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OF MEMBERS MAKING MONEY OFF OF THE FELLOWSHIP. WE HAD A FAIR NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO MAKE JEWELRY OR CLOTHING OR CLOCKS OR BUMPER STICKERS OR ALL KIND OF THINGS THAT HAD THE N.A. LOGO ON THEM. THOSE OF US WHO HAVE SOME CONCERN ABOUT THE LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF N.A. WERE CONCERNED BY THESE PEOPLE DOING THESE THINGS, AND WE HAD AT THE TIME, I THINK THEY STILL USE, AN EXCEPTIONALLY BRIGHT ATTORNEY WHO HANDLES NOTHING BUT TRADEMARK AND COPYRIGHT MATTERS. THERE IS GENERALLY A PROVISION IN THE LAW FROM CUSTOM, NOT FROM LEGISLATION, IF YOU DON'T USE IT, YOU LOSE IT.

NA: HAVE YOU EVER BEEN INTERVIEWED FOR THE N.A. WAY OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT OR IS THIS YOUR FIRST INTERVIEW?

BOB: YEAH, THIS IS MY FIRST AND LAST INTERVIEW. THERE WILL NEVER BE ANOTHER ONE. LIKE I SAID BEFORE I WAS RETICENT TO HAVE THIS DONE, OR TO DO IT, BECAUSE I HAVEN'T IN THE THREE COPIES OF THIS THING I'VE SEEN BEEN PLEASED BECAUSE OF WHAT I THINK IS IT FACILITATES THE CONFLICT AND CONTROVERSY IN THE FELLOWSHIP, BECAUSE IT TAKES NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR IT'S CONTENT. AND THAT'S KIND OF LIKE SAYING, IT'S OKAY TO TAKE AND THROW A GAS BOMB INTO A CROWDED ROOM, BECAUSE I'M NOT IN THE ROOM, BUT ANYONE WHO'S IN THE ROOM WILL GET TO SEE THIS EXPLOSION SO THEY KNOW IT'S GOING TO TAKE PLACE, AND THEN THEY'RE GOING TO HAVE TO FEND FOR THEMSELVES. BUT THAT REALLY ISN'T THE WAY THE WORLD IS SUPPOSED TO WORK WHEN IT COMES TO RESPONSIBILITY. IF I'M GOING TO MAKE THIS BOMB, THEN I'M GOING TO THROW IT IN THERE, I'M GOING TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT OCCURS. AND THIS PUBLICATION DOESN'T SEEM TO BE DOING THIS FOR WHAT IT ALLOWS TO BE PRINTED IN IT'S PAGES.

New Awakenings thanks Bob again for the interview and for this most apropos warning to the readers.

New Awakenings does not have a committee on Ultimate Truth, that's up to you. Bob's article should've given you lots of practice. This interview was slightly edited for size. The first part appeared in Volume 3 Number 1.



# 1984

To the World Service Conference of Narcotics Anonymous and participants.

We also direct this letter to the Board of Trustees, Board of Directors W.S.O., Inc., all W.S.C. Subcomm., [Subcommittees -ed.] and to all of Narcotics Anonymous.

Our Area is writing this letter in grave concern over the direction of W.S.C. of NA. We are writing in response to the items that have been dealt with in W.S.C. 84 and the way the Conference is being run.

Item No. 1: Voting procedures of conference. We would have to see this as violation of our 2nd and 9th traditions: "Tradition 2 for our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority - a loving God as he may express himself in our group conscience; our leaders are but trusted servants, they do not govern"; "Tradition 9 N.A. as such ought never to be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve!"

having other than R.S.R.'s vote at conference is watering down group conscience, by having the Board of Directors, Board of Trustees, Subcomm Chairs, Sec., Treasurer and Co-Chair as voting participants. Whose group conscience do they carry! The Boards, the Subcomm. or their own. This is also a violation of tradition 4. Each group should be autonomous, except in matters affecting other groups, or NA as a whole. (A Narcotics Anonymous Group is any meeting which meets regularly at a specific place and time for the purpose of recovery provided that it follows the twelve steps and twelve traditions). The service arms are not NA, they are of NA (only). We would have to ask our Conference to follow our tradition. As it stands at this point we have 26 voting participants besides R.S.R. and can expand as we form new subcomm. and expand our Board of Trustees to 15 from 12. How can we ever get a true group conscience through a loving God of our understanding as it "states in the 2nd tradition".

Item No. 2: Conference procedures on voting on amends to main motion, and other items concerning group conscience we have found violations of the 2nd, 4th and 9th traditions in these matters too. We feel that any motion that has been sent out for group conscience should not be amended. To amend is to change the item that was sent out for group conscience and is therefore no longer group conscience because NA as a whole hasn't seen the

main motion with the amends. (Violation "Tradition 9") Conference is set up to serve us, NA, not in reverse. No item should be voted on without being first put out for group conscience, including amends. Amends are input and as such should go to subcommittees for further work. Let RSR vote with group conscience, yes no or abstain on items sent out for group conscience only. Anything else is input for the following conference.

Item No. 3: Traditions 4 and 9. Conference is again in violation of traditions 2, 4 and 9. No group conscience has been taken in 1983-1984 on these items: The motion put on the floor by the chairman of the Board of Directors and the subsequent action taken by the conference for the fellowship to vote in 60 days to return to traditions 4 and 9 as written in the red first edition or to stay as it is. This is setting a precedent to force group conscience to vote on items that were not put on the agenda for that year and did not seek input from the fellowship first.

Item No. 4: 4th Step inventory guide. Violations of traditions 2, 4 and 9. Again this item was never sent out by conference for group conscience disregarding conference and literature committees procedures previously adopted by NA as a whole. This inventory guide has helped many NA members in our area with their recovery.

Conclusion: That the W.S.C.. starts to serve the fellowship not vise versa. As an area we strongly insist on the 4th step inventory guide be put back in W.S.O. Inc. inventory and be put back on order blank for the fellowship to purchase and use. The conference must follow traditions as well as the rest of NA.

The Board of Directors and Trustees abstain from voting at WSC 84-85. That the world subcomm chair [WSC Subcommittee Chairs] abstain from voting at WSC 84-85.

That world conference officers abstain from voting at WSC 84-85.

That no item not on the agenda be voted on at WSC 84-85.

That no item that has not been sent out to group conscience be voted at WSC 84-85. That Tradition 4 and 9 stay the same until the Conference ask the fellowship for input first and to be dealt with at 84-85 conference, not in 60 days after 83-84 conference.

That Conference follows our tradition and to remember they serve us not us to them.

LITTLE APPLE AREA OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

# Two Red Herrings

Thank you for the opportunity to share on a couple of issues I see as currently diverting the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous from the Program of Narcotics Anonymous. As many readers of this newsletter may begin to perceive, we have been surely diverted before. When Jimmy K. was disposed of by what we have since come to know as The Royal Family our attention was on our new book and with its unauthorized alteration. Back then, before Group Conscience was so effectively dismantled, we forced the restoration of the text. As the ought-never-be-organized was organized into an effective Business the text was re-altered while we focused on cleansing the book of some vestiges of another program. By the time we focused on the crucial issue of RSR-only voting we were procedurally fucked and it was too late. But these events are understandable in an historic perspective and not the sorts of red herrings being drawn across our trace today. These two red herrings are the degenderization of the literature and the proposition that we are losing older members through something other than loss of First Step.



Try degenderizing Our Book yourself. If you use the Baby Blues this is easily done with whiteout and the book represents no great loss when you're finished playing around. Step Three can become "...God as we understood God." No problem? Until we get to Tradition Two. "...One Ultimate Authority-a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience." The proposition is that "He" and "Himself" be removed to leave, "...as may be expressed in our group conscience." Now who is expressing Her/Himself? Might the triple redundancy be there for good reason?

In those dwindling places where group conscience is still practiced, or in the memories of some in places where there was a history and custom of doing NA, the word "may" of Tradition Two has significance. While we might easily delete it without contradicting the current *practice* of authority in NA, we must begin to see that lies and manipulation have produced that practice and the practice gets Authorized after enough newly indoctrinated members have swelled the service ranks. If we try writing, "...a loving God as God may express God's Self", we run afoul of our freshman English teacher and hopefully see, not sexism to be rooted out of NA, but the limitations of language.

The group is not God's voice and is not guaranteed to hear it. The group's obligation to try is as weighty as they come; the right to govern itself thus,

## Daily Definition ☺

from Webster's New World Dictionary,  
College Edition

**red herring,** 1. a smoked herring. 2. something used to confuse, or to divert attention from something else: from the practice of drawing a herring across the trace in hunting, to distract the hounds.

without outside control, is non-negotiable. A loving God and a coercive management are each others' disproof.

I am grateful for the issues raised but "The Born-again vs. the Dykes" is a loathsome spectacle within NA. When newly popularized literature goes on sale (the 6th Edition?) some will be laughing all the way to the bank. The issue of popularization and debasement of our Program has yet to be done real justice, even in the pages of the *New Awakenings*. "If we take out the God stuff we won't frighten off so many newcomers." "If we drop our Traditions in H&I work we'll be able to reach more addicts." "If we downplay the total abstinence part more will benefit from our Program..." Each of us has the opportunity to count ourselves in or out each day.

Which really brings us to this notion that oldtimers disappear for some special or mysterious reason that more written products or unaccountable committees will cure. We've lost oldtimers who chose not to make the transition to an NA disentangled from AA. Each day we lose members who say, "It's better over there." Chasing the feel-good reminds me of using, not recovery. If you can live with such a first step of denial, go with our blessings, please, before they make you a Trustee or something.

"Addiction is a disease which involves more than simple drug use." There are an infinite number of ways to go out and if you think about it, getting loaded might be one of the more honest, more socially responsible of them. I might, for instance, rationalize why I should get in on some of the money, property and prestige around here. The principles contained in our Basic Text will not give out on us; we may give out on them. There is no graduate program here. Our graduates get loaded.

Many of those who would properly be our leaders today, as described in our 2nd Tradition, are missing because of heartbreak, frustration or disgust at the direction we have taken with the manipulators at the helm. A real Fellowship inventory might let us see what we need to see in all this.

For the most part oldtimers abandon NA for the same reason people with one day or seven days or seven years abandon NA: their NA First Step gets shaky. To pretend otherwise is to say that surrender becomes less important with time, that anonymous addicts are in fact *not* equal, or that a simple (not always easy), basic program of Principles actually *does not work*. ♦

## WELCOME TO THE LAST WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE AS WE KNOW IT

*The practices and principals from the Guide To Service are already in use.*

*Did we really know where we were going when we started?*


From the beginning of WSC 94 to the creation of the Leadership Committee's resolution process that will be submitted at the beginning of WSC 95, most of the structure for decision making and conference structure outlined in the Guide To Service has been implemented. Most of this has been done with the approval of, or little objection from WSC participants, including the RSR's. We have given our Leaders the authority to:

1. Completely ignore established conference policy as outlined in TWGS [the disregard for the Budget Prioritization Process] ;
2. The change of conference approved plans and projects because leadership believed it was necessary [the resolution process given to the Leadership Committee and the removal of the Outreach Committee from the Composite Group];
3. Combine WSO paid staff into the service structure with no clear separation between the responsibilities and authority of staff and that of our volunteer members [WSO Directors as facilitator and presenters in WSC workshops and WSO Directors becoming active participants on the Interim Committee.] ;
4. Total authority over budget decisions [no discretionary budget outline to guide decisions like funding extra members to the Leadership meetings or funding additional members to the World Service meeting in Dallas] ;
5. Control over how information is released [the Conference Digest on WSC 94 which only gave us a narrative of the Conference instead of the Conference Report which gives the actual report from each committee];
6. Change the very nature of the World Service Conference without the approval of the Fellowship or the Conference [the decision to have a {mostly} Issues Only Conference Agenda Report and World Service Conference, even though the Conference voted against this idea at WSC 94 {motion #94 failed}]; ;
7. Create a new form of service with the creation of the Leadership Committee. This committee was formed and structured similar to the Primary Service Board in the Guide To Service.

The "Issue" with these decisions is not whether they were right or wrong, good or bad, or even whether these decisions had our approval, which most of them did. The "Issue" is that the RSR's have delegated so much authority to the conference Leadership that most decisions are no longer made at the World Service Conference by the conference participants. More of our decisions seem to be made Outside the World Service Conference than during the World Service Conference. Did we really know we were going here when we started? Did anyone?

Our present method of decision making and the service structure that we are quickly developing to handle all of this Delegated Authority is best described on pg 98 to 104 of A Guide to Service in Narcotics Anonymous. Please notice that on pg 100 there is a structural overview chart of the New World Service. There are 2 levels of service between the World Service Conference and any of the world service committees or the WSO. At present we already seem to make more decisions from content or "straw poles" than from Motions and votes. Has most of the authority for decision making, and the delivery of services, been turned over to a new form of leadership already? Is this where we want to go?

The Groups in our Region have a Conscience. Their Conscience is not a vote, the vote on a motion is only a reflection of their Group Conscience. Their Group Conscience is the morals, values, and beliefs that guide them, their collective awareness of, understanding of, and surrender to spiritual principals. When the RSR from our region votes

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at the World Service Conference, our Groups judge the RSR by whether he or she represented the true conscience of their Group, not by whether a motion passed or failed. When the vote of our RSR is reduced to a straw pole, or only discussion input for some other service body to make the decision, then the true Group Conscience of the Groups in our region [and all regions] has been ignored. The Groups will respect and support the service structure in our Fellowship only as far as the service structure respects their 2nd Tradition.

There is a very fundamental "Issue" that appears only below the surface in this years Conference Agenda Report. That "Issue" is that there are no motions from our leadership in the Conference Agenda Report. A lot of decisions have been made this year, and more decisions will be made next year. Who will be making them? No one seems to be asking the Fellowship anymore.

We seem to have moved farther away from the Groups, Areas, and Regions while taking our inventory than we ever were before we started. Is this the level of separation that we want? Can World Service ever be directly responsive to the collective Morals, Values, and Belief in Spiritual Principals that make up the Conscience of the Groups in our Fellowship? Do we want to?

We may have already had the last World Service Conference as we understand it in the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous. May the Love of God guide us and protect us from ourselves.

*This report is submitted as input to the Inventory as the final report from a pool member of the World Services Inventory Composite Group*

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