



BREAKFASTING IN HOTEL, Vice President Richard Nixon (right), pours coffee for California's ex-Senator William F. Knowland during San Francisco meeting.

Early Treatment of Alcoholics Urged by Medical Authorities

Washington—UPI—Many people believe that an alcoholic has to "hit bottom"—make a real mess of his life—before he is amenable to treatment. This widespread belief is now being vigorously challenged by medical authorities. They are telling doctors that alcoholism, like cancer, diabetes and other diseases, should be diagnosed and treated as early as possible.

One of the principal proponents of this viewpoint is Dr. Marvin A. Block, chairman of the Committee of Alcoholism of the American Medical Association.

Dr. Block has played a leading role in arousing the medical profession to awareness of its responsibility for dealing with the disease of alcoholism, which now ranks as the nation's number four health problem with an estimated 5,000,000 victims.

He believes that special alcoholism clinics, while valuable, can never handle more than a fraction of the huge caseload. In his opinion, the best hope for a successful assault on the disease lies in teaching general practitioners to recognize its symptoms early and to treat its victims promptly and matter-of-factly. Dr. Block does not subscribe to the notion that an alcoholic has to progress pretty far down the trail toward skid row before he can be induced to face the facts about his condition.

"The average doctor should be able to motivate his patient to cooperate with treatment long before he hits bottom," the doctor said in an interview.

It is not even necessary, he said, to wait until the patient's drinking has reached the uncontrollable stage which is un-

usually regarded as the threshold of true alcoholism.

"If the patient shows a pattern of adverse results from drinking—that is, if his drinking is already causing significant difficulties in his job, family or any other department of his life—he can properly be called a 'problem drinker' and he should be advised to abstain completely," Dr. Block said.

Would Prevent Many Cases

"This would prevent many people from becoming alcoholics."

Research indicates that it usually takes from 7 to 17 years of drinking for a potential alcoholic to acquire the disease in full-blown form.

While Alcoholics Anonymous and others have demonstrated that it is possible for even the most hopelessly addicted alcoholic to recover, the chances for arresting the disease are clearly much greater in the early stages, before it has ravaged the patient's mental and physical health, and while he still has some power of will over his drinking.

Dr. Block pointed out that doctors no longer have to rely on warnings alone to motivate an incipient alcoholic to adopt the course of total abstinence which is his one hope for recovery. Any patient who is sincerely willing to try doing without alcohol can be powerfully supported in this resolve by modern medical treatment, including the use of tranquilizers where indicated and supervised administration of the new drug antabuse, which creates a violent allergy to alcohol.

ESTABLISH RELATIONS

Budapest, Hungary—UPI—Communist Hungary and the new African Republic of Guinea announced during the week end they will establish diplomatic relations in the near future. The announcement concluded a visit by a delegation from Guinea, a former French territory.

Philadelphia—UPI—The circulation of daily newspapers in the United States during 1958 was off by almost a quarter of a million from the previous year. It represented the first such loss in the last seven years, according to the 91st annual edition of N.W. Ayer & Sons.

Placing Accent On Oneself Said Source of Trouble

By DELOS SMITH

UPI Science Editor

New York—UPI—A psychiatric expert on routine human affairs has put a finger on a big reason why some people get into trouble with other people on a regular and highly repetitious basis.

The reason is they begin their thought

processes with an error so enormous it is pretty much like beginning some complicated arithmetic with the idea that one and one equals 27, said Dr. Edmund Bergler.

Many Disadvantages

The error is "placing the accent on oneself," he continued. While it's perfectly true the favorite topic of people is self, "too much concentration on self has many disadvantages," he said.

He limited himself to only one, but one which escaped the attention of previous scientific analysts of the workings of the mind. This is the disadvantage of feeling insulted or affronted for no sound reason.

The affronted person begins his thought processes with his "own lovable self." He begins with the question "how can he (the affront-giver) do this to me?" and this automatically makes all further deliberations stemming from the insult, worthless.

Identical List

By starting the thought processes with self, the insulted person "by-passes the fact that the other fellow, the offender, uses the identical priority list, and therefore places himself on top," Bergler said in a report to the technical journal, "Diseases of the Nervous System."

"A matter that should be explained in terms of the other fellow's needs and motivations is consequently twisted into a personal problem of self. 'This little error' has far-reaching after-effects," by causing the affronted one to torture himself with his own thoughts.

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Delos Smith



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East Pine St.

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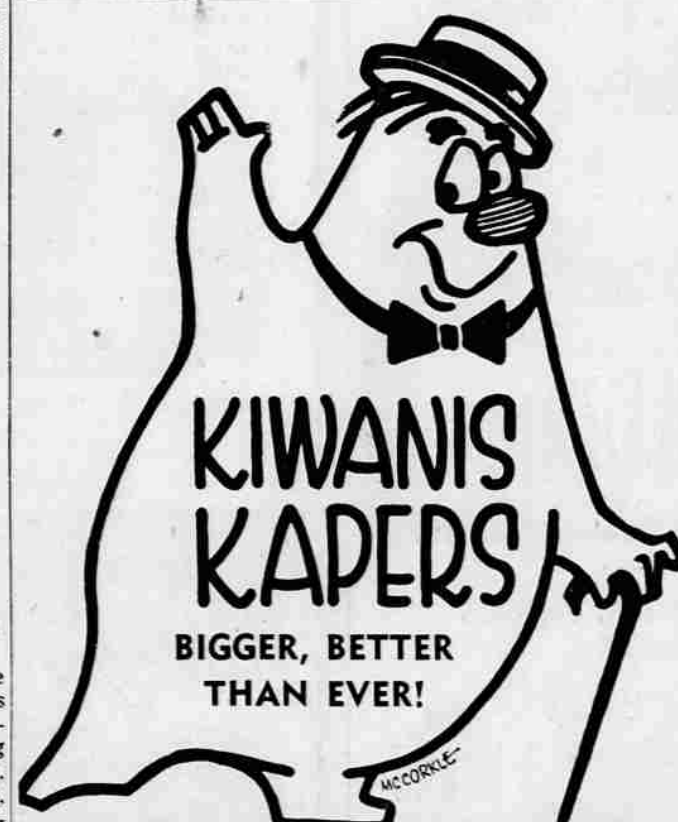


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by Marianne Martin

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