

April 1, 1926.

Miss Winifred C. Putnam
Assistant Director
The National Information Bureau, Inc.
215 Fourth Avenue
New York, N.Y.

My dear Miss Putnam:

Referring to your letter of recent date inquiring of the attitude of government authorities towards Captain Hobson's World Conference on Narcotic Education, you are advised that so far as I have been able to determine the executive departments having to do with narcotic education or with the Philadelphia exposition look upon his conference with contempt and are resentful because of the methods he has used to spread the impression that these departments support his movement. There is also resentment because of the persistent and unscrupulous efforts he has made to bring about the endorsement of his general program by government agencies that he has been told can never honestly endorse it. I have considerable confidential information about the foregoing that I am not at liberty to disclose.

The conference is the third effort that Captain Hobson has made to enlist the support of the government. I am sending you a copy of a circular, together with proposed resolution, that was sent out in June, 1925 not only to superintendents of education but to hundreds of physicians and others. The circular was accompanied by copies of the article: "The Peril of Narcotics", which article was printed as an extension of remarks in the Congressional Record after the committee to which it had been referred for consideration refused to endorse it. You will observe that the inclosed resolution calls for a world conference and an appropriation. This applies also to another draft of the resolution that was submitted to the Head of one of the Departments last fall, but without results satisfactory to Captain Hobson. The resolution that the House of Representative got and passed simply called for appropriate participation by the United States in the Philadelphia conference. Neither "world" nor "appropriation" was mentioned. The resolution was referred to the education committee thus avoiding Mr. Porter, Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, who has represented the United States abroad on opium committees and who naturally knows a great deal about the subject.

Some of Captain Hobson's friends testified at the Hearings. No one in the government service was asked to appear, so far as I have been able to determine, and I believe that none of the government departments knew that the resolution had been introduced until it was passed. I have been advised that Mr. Porter was absent when the resolution came up and that but for this he would have opposed it. He, no doubt, knows that the League of Nations opposed narcotic education by propoganda and he probably also knows that Captain Hobson tried to enlist the support of the opium committee of the League but without success.

In the Hearings it was made to appear, by the adroit insertion of one half of a sentence from the agreement of the first opium conference, that the nations represented at Geneva favored narcotic education. It was not stated, however, that the education mentioned referred to education against smoking opium in the Eastern provinces of the eight nations represented at the first conference, nor was the positive stand taken against narcotic education by the body representing all of the nations referred to at all.

In the face of a rebuff by the State Department, Captain Hobson sent out a circular letter to ambassadors and ministers inviting them to send representatives to the conference, and intimating the United States was behind him.

The resolution that passed the House has been referred to the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate. There are on this committee several senators who have become familiar with Captain Hobson's organization. The committee has made inquiries about the resolution and I understand that it is decidedly hostile.

The feeling of all of the government departments concerned, and I believe also of the Senate committee, is that the Philadelphia conference is a gesture of propoganda for the purpose of advertising the International Narcotic Education Association. I think, however, it may safely be said that no government service will participate in it- but at the same time the advertising campaign carried on by Captain Hobson, in which he claims or infers that practically all authorities and agencies are enthusiastically behind him, will doubtless bring together a good crowd of people most of whom know practically nothing about narcotic *addiction* education.

I will be pleased to have this letter regarded as confidential.

L. J. Ambler
Sincerely yours,

Lawrence Kolb,
Surgeon.