

Alcohol Cost to U.S. \$25 Billion a Year

Washington, D.C. (RNS) — A comprehensive new report on alcohol and health reveals that alcoholism and related problems are costing the U.S. more than \$25 billion a year.

The 219-page report, prepared by a 38-member task force, also states that 36 per cent of high school students report getting drunk at least four times a year, and one in seven male high school seniors report getting drunk once a week.

"We have previously underestimated the economic costs of alcohol-related problems to our nation's economy," said Dr. Morris E. Chafetz, director of the National Institute on Alcohol

Abuse and Alcoholism. He was chairman of the task force preparing the report.

The institute, in a study made three years ago, estimated the total cost of alcoholism in the U.S. to be \$15 billion.

The new report said that most of the economic cost of alcohol abuse results from lost work, medical expenses and motor vehicle accidents. The cost of alcohol abuse in 1971 — the last year for which figures are available — was estimated to be \$25.3 billion.

Dr. Chafetz said that several recent studies showed that occasional drinking by teenagers

was becoming nearly universal and that this trend had increased sharply in the last few years. He said alcohol control laws and regulations are grossly ineffective in dealing with alcohol problems, and often contribute to the problems.

The new report also cited evidence that heavy drinking increased the risk of cancer of the mouth and throat and that the combination of heavy smoking significantly heightened the risk — to 15 times that among persons who neither drink nor smoke.

However, Dr. Chafetz said there was no evidence yet that the "moderate" use of alcohol

was harmful to a person's health.

He said human tolerance to alcohol varies from person to

person and, even, in one individual varies greatly from time to time, depending on the circumstances.

Alumni Elect Donald Karal

Worcester, Mass. — Donald W. Karal of Warren Ave., Rochester, has been elected president of the General Alumni Association of Holy Cross College. Karal, a 1949 graduate of Holy Cross, is manager of the specialty products division of Schlegel Manufacturing Company.

Northern New York. He is a member of the Rochester Sales Executive Club, the Rochester Chamber of Commerce, American Marketing Association, and National Woodworking Manufacturing Association.

COURIER DEADLINE

Karal served as a vice president of the Holy Cross Alumni Association for the past two years and has held all major offices within the Holy Cross Club of

The Courier-Journal deadline is noon Thursday for articles intended for the following Wednesday edition.



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