

if these companies which spend literally millions of dollars advertising their various brands be required to set aside 15 per cent of their advertising budgets to promotional health advertisements relating to the sale of alcohol. That could include messages like the don't drink and drive message we see from time to time in various magazines.

Again, since spirits are not allowed to be advertised on television, the brewing industry is in a somewhat unique position along with the wine industry in so far as advertising requirements are concerned. We did not want to ban advertising but felt that a 15 per cent set-aside for positive advertising would be sufficient. I am advised by the Brewers Association of Canada that it has voluntarily moved on a set-aside of 10 per cent for positive health-related advertising in the area of alcohol abuse. However, the Minister ignored that recommendation.

There were a number of recommendations relating to specific target groups. The Minister mentioned Benji whose name has become synonymous with the need of families and society to deal with the issue of drug and alcohol abuse, not only by older citizens but also by young people.

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One of the problems that was repeatedly cited in this report was the fact that treatment centres are not available for young people who seek help. In most cases, treatment centres are targeted toward older citizens. Even in the cases where there are very positive programs working to get people off illegal drugs or legal drugs, those centres are struggling simply to survive.

When the Minister announced his famous drug strategy, I think many organizations that are specifically delivering treatment programs, like the Stonehenge Rehabilitation Centre in Guelph, Ontario, felt they would be able to benefit from the Government's program. Unfortunately, we discovered very soon after the drug strategy was announced that, according to the Minister's own interpretation: "The federal drug strategy funds cannot be used to pay per diems or any other form of billing for client costs in existing treatment centres". Therefore, a place like Stonehenge, which was in dire straits and appealed to the area Member of Parliament for assistance, was on the verge of a real financial crisis and could not get the help that was required through this so-called \$210 million program to combat drugs.

One of the points made by the committee was that we have tried over the generations to inhibit the supply of illicit drugs being made available. In other words, there was an effort to get the pushers, traffickers, and the people coming in by the ports. We heard from the RCMP that this is a never-ending battle because of the line of drugs coming from the Bermuda Triangle and the Middle East.

We must take the approach of encouraging people to take control of their own lives and turn away from the use of drugs. That includes the use of treatment programs and prevention

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programs. Therefore, another of the extremely important recommendations we made, but was ignored by the Government, dealt with the issue of federal Government and federal Crown corporations offering employee assistance programs. Presently, if someone working for a federally regulated company comes forward to admit they have a drinking problem, or it becomes evident that their performance shows they have a drinking problem, and that person would like to deal with it, it may cause a situation where they may face firing or retribution.

Our committee recommended that the federal Government do everything possible to encourage federal Government employees and employees of federally-regulated agencies to have access to employee assistance programs. We thought that was a reasonable request, yet it was refused by the Minister. Therefore, a federal Government employee who is having serious problems relating to the consumption of alcohol or other drugs and may even be threatened by the loss of his or her job, is not afforded the opportunity of participating in an employee assistance program.

That contrasts very poorly with the record of companies like Dofasco in my community which, in fact, works very closely with employees. When a problem is identified, that employee can voluntarily enter a drug rehabilitation program that is funded by the employer. The employee can take leave from work under the employee assistance program that is available take control of his or her life and deal with the problem, and come back to the job without facing a possible firing or demotion. We thought that recommendation was reasonable, but it was ignored.

We also recommended that the federal Government make available assistance programs in the case of spouses and family members of federal employees who are specifically located in remote areas. I think of some of our military members whose families may be stationed in very remote parts of the country and may be subject to undue pressure of isolation and find themselves in a situation where their consumption of alcohol increases as a result of that isolation, frustration and lack of back-up. We recommended that the federal Government make available to the spouses and family members of employees who are located in remote areas the opportunity to benefit from employee assistance programs offered under the auspices of the federal Government. That recommendation was refused.

There are a number of other recommendations that the Minister of National Health and Welfare chose to ignore. I hesitate to say it, but I think one of the reasons is that his Department's record of expenditures in the area of alcohol and drug abuse generally has been abominable.

I have been studying this issue for a number of months, and the vast majority of federal Government funds that have been funnelled into the so-called national drug strategy have been funnelled toward the so-called area of interdiction, whether it be through the Solicitor General's office or improved staffing requirements of the RCMP. The funds have been funnelled