



WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

March 25, 1983

To All Regions, Areas & Groups

We are very sorry that something as dear to all of us as Our Book has been turned into a political football and that we, as a Committee, have been chosen as home team. But it has, and we are home team, so we have to practice acceptance.

We would like to make clear to everyone the reasons for revoking WSO's right to print Our Book. When we learned that the WSO had lost an undetermined amount of money, that was not so shocking. They have always lost money, they just never had a large sum of money to lose before, so when they got it, they lost it. Therefore, it came as no great surprise.

When we learned that they had not changed their charter as directed by WSC 82 and were not planning on changing it, if at all possible, we became disturbed. Because under their present structure they are neither directed by nor responsible to the Fellowship of N. A. This meant that if they printed and copyrighted Our Book, they would own it and could do with it and the proceeds from it as they chose, with no direction from the Fellowship. Therefore, we were upset.

When we learned that they were going to contract another printer to print Our Book, with the changes, without consulting the Fellowship, we were appalled. Our Book is the epitome of Group Conscience. We spent an approximate 360,000 manhours and some \$75,000.00 writing Our Book. Anyone who attended any of the seven World Literature Conferences knows that everyone, even the newest newcomer, had an equal say. Not one point of view was ever overlooked. We had Group Conscience sessions on every chapter that make our World Service Conference look like child's play. So when a handful of individuals took it upon themselves to decide for us what we needed, censor Our Book, then try to dictate their ruling to us, with absolutely no consideration for any Group, Area, or Regional Conscienceness, we were floored.

It became perfectly clear to us, The World Literature Committee of Narcotics Anonymous, as a whole, that in no way was the Group Conscience being carried out.

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Page Culbertson, Chairman of our Committee, acted upon the directives of the Committee and took a stand in favor of Group Conscience. He did this by re-vo-king WSO's rights to print, and by mailing 200 letters to the Fellowship telling us what he did and why he did it. BY ASKING US WHAT WE WANTED TO DO, HE WAS PUTTING THE FELLOWSHIP BACK IN CONTROL. He asked for a Group Conscience by virtue of the Second Tradition. If you are in favor of Group Conscience send your letter of support to our Chairman at the address on this stationery.

Now to address the WSO letter dated March 16, 1983. The tone of the letter is deceptive. It leads the reader to believe that everything is going to be just fine, if everyone would leave them alone. They can handle it.

It does not address the issues. It makes no mention of the changes in Our Book. It does not refer to ONE of the hundreds of letters, phone calls and telegrams sent to WSO and the WSC Chairman telling them not to change Our Book. It totally fails to address the charter changes mandated by WSC 82. It leaves out the fact that a tiny group of people is attempting to override the Group Conscience of our entire Fellowship. And it is an obvious propaganda attempt to discredit and assassinate the character of our Chairman.

Furthermore, the letter states that their lawyer told them that they had an obligation to print Our Book. WSO does not tell us that they misrepresented the facts to the lawyer about WSC Literature Committee having the Copyright on Our Book. Nor do they mention that they led the lawyer to believe that it was our Chairman and not they who were acting against Group Conscience. In short, it was a fair attempt at a whitewash job, but please, WSO, don't try to con a con.

As far as the release given to WSO by our Chairman in September, WSO told him that Our Book was "ready to distribute" and that they could go no further until they had a written release, which was given immediately. That the WSC-LC gave them permission, legally documents the fact that WSC-LC can revoke that permission at any time. They in no way, legally, morally or otherwise own Our Book or have the right to print it. For them to own Our Book a contract would have had to have been signed, which none was, and some sort of consideration, monetary or otherwise would have had to have changed hands, which never happened.

WSC-LC acted in good faith in turning over all rights it had to the WSO. The good faith was not reciprocal. WSO has avoided its responsibility and illusively evaded any and all inquiries in this regard.

WSC-LC has retracted any and all rights to Our Book given to WSO. This was done by a letter dated March 1, 1983. WSC-LC has received no response. WSC-LC enumerated the reasons for such retraction. WSO has chosen not to reply.

WSO has failed in a number of ways in regard to Our Book, some of which, namely are:

1. Failed to get Our Book printed by September 1982.
2. Failed to follow the "verbatim" printing of Our Book by their autonomous deletion of parts of Traditions 4 and 9.
3. Lost an undeterminable amount of money by placing a printing contract with an irresponsible and financially insolvent printer.
4. Failing to consider the Group Conscience of N. A. as a whole.
5. Misinforming numerous parties as to the facts involved in this matter.
6. Failed to promptly admit they were wrong.

More failures and deficiencies can be enumerated but for the lack of time, it would be expeditious to say that WSO has shown its color and its inability to function as a viable organization. They have not only shown total disregard to N. A. as a whole but continue to do so daily.

So, as of March 1, 1983, when our Chairman first sent them a letter informing them that they no longer had printing privileges, they were only liable to us for the money that they had already lost. Now that they have decided to go ahead with another attempt, they are further liable for any additional funds committed, plus any damages which may result from changing our written message. Furthermore, if the WSO Inc. does not have the money for which they are liable, the Members of the Board of Directors who were responsible for the direction taken by the Board, could be possibly held personally liable for such arbitrary and capricious acts.

I quote from "How It Works" beginning with the 12th step: "Having had a spiritual awakening as a result of those steps, we tried to carry this message to addicts and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

"This sounds like a big order, and we can't do it all at once, we didn't become addicted on one day, so remember---EASY DOES IT.

"There is one thing more than anything else that will defeat us in our recovery, this is an attitude of indifference or intolerance toward spiritual principles. Although there are no musts in N. A., there are three things that seem indispensable. These are, Honesty, Open-mindedness, and Willingness to try. With these we are well on our way."

Our program tells us to "practice these principles in all our affairs". Has this been done by WSO? We think not.

We forgive WSO in their failures for it is made up of addicts. Our question is: have they forgotten this?

Is WSO's attitude toward our spiritual principles one of "indifference or intolerance"? Their actions answer this question in the affirmative.

"Honesty, Open-Mindedness and Willingness to try" are indispensable in this program. "With these we are well on our way". To the converse, without these, we go nowhere, except maybe backwards.

Has WSO been honest with N. A. as a whole? Not partially, or not by telling us only what they want to tell us, but fully honest in regard to Our Book? Are the WSO members being honest with themselves? Their actions certainly speak louder than their words.

Has WSO been open-minded? Their failure to acknowledge WSC-LC concern of Our Book, their failure to respond properly to WSC-LC and their disdain of anyone else advising them, shows that they are no longer teachable, and humility, if ever gained, has been lost.

Has WSO been willing to try? Yes! they tried, and tried, and tried again, but to no avail. They also tried to change Our Book, but they will not. Their willingness only goes toward their own goal, not to N. A. as a whole.

WSO has demonstrated that it is incapable as a functioning organization and should either be disbanded and/or moved, reorganized and/or sued.

"Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to

place principles before personalities". If legal recourse is necessary, it may be necessary to obtain a Group Conscience of N. A. as a whole to decide if WSO's violation of our principles is more important than their personalities.

It has been learned, not directly, that WSO's decision to go ahead and print Our Book was based upon advise from their attorney. This attorney stating that since WSO had been authorized to print Our Book, they are obligated to do so. This was after WSC-LC withdrew such authorization. Is it not irrational to think this way? If the authorizing party authorizes you to do something and then formally withdraws that authorization, the only obligation you have is to cease. Simply cease. As ludicrous as it seems, the WSO thinks this meant to proceed. And these are our leaders!! These are our trusted servants!!

This might be a blessing in disguise. This may show us that N. A. unity is very necessary for us to survive, especially against ourselves. We have but one ultimate authority and we should seek His will and His guidance, for this is a time of decision.

The WSO has patronized and disregarded this Committee for far too long. In January, 1983 our Chairman tried to call them twice a day for ten days, twenty phone calls, with absolutely no response.

We do not function as a Committee to play games with WSO or anybody else. We exist to express as best we can the N. A. message of recovery in written form as approved by the Fellowship. Yet never, we repeat NEVER has WSO distributed anything, we repeat ANYTHING for us. The N. A. Literature Committee Handbook was approved in 1980 and still has not been put on their order forms. Our Book was approved in 1982 and they had to change it before they could even attempt to distribute it. They were supposed to distribute all material "verbatim". In December 1982 we printed 17,000 pamphlets for WSO and distributed 1,400 of them. They could not distribute one of the remaining pamphlets that we sent them.

We would like to ask you if anyone received one of the 13,600 review pamphlets that the WSO was mandated, by WSC 82, to have distributed? Do you receive your literature orders promptly? Did you get any response from letters, calls, telegrams, etc. about changing Our Book?

By the guidelines in our Service Manual the WSO is a link, a contact center for N. A. Our experience, as a Sub-Committee of the WSC, is that we have a better chance of getting help by calling any Regional Hot-Line. They are supposed to

aid loner groups and members, which they do not. They are supposed to publish a yearly World Directory, which they do not. They are supposed to publish a Quarterly Newsletter, which they do not. They are supposed to make available tapes of important functions which they do not. They are supposed to distribute new literature, which they do not. They are supposed to act upon the directives of the WSC, which they do not. And they are supposed to abide by the Twelve Traditions, which they do not.

As we see it, the WSO is in direct violation of Traditions 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 9 and 12, they are impeding our growth, they are helping to kill the addict who still suffers. If we as a Fellowship fail to take some sort of positive direction in regards to this matter, we will be endorsing their incompetence. We, as a Committee, suggest that the WSO be disbanded and declared defunct, and that we adopt a new structure for a true World Service Office of Narcotics Anonymous.

All the functions that WSO is supposed to perform, we the Areas and Regions of this Fellowship are performing for them. Years ago, when N. A. was a small Fellowship, we understand that WSO was a very efficient organization. However, we have grown phenominally in the past few years and WSO is obviously incapable of handling our service needs. They are also obviously unwilling to relinquish or "let go" of their responsibilities, which they are not fulfilling.

We ask you to please keep our primary purpose in mind as well as our common welfare. We ask that you keep the principles of this matter above the personalities involved. We would also like to remind everyone that all the problems that we are experiencing right now are due to the phenominal success of our Fellowship.

Page will be out of town on business for several weeks so any questions can be answered by any of the Literature Committee Trusted Servants or the WSC Administrative Committee Chairman.

Your Trusted Servants,

World Literature Committee of
Narcotics Anonymous