

May 7, 1981

OPEN LETTER TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES

While "personal recovery depends on N.A. unity," at the level of the Board of Trustees, it might be said, "N.A. unity is dependent somewhat on the personal recovery of the individual Trustees."

In observing the behavior of the Trustees in the past few years, it has occurred to me that the illusion of high office may have arrested your spiritual development much in the manner that true humility within the basic N.A. group arrests our disease.

Since you were not all chosen by the Fellowship and are largely self-appointed, it stands to reason that you may have misjudged your own abilities.

When asked to define matters concerning the Traditions, you speak of grey areas. However, in matters of politics and power you seem to be clear and concise in your evaluations and actions. You attempt to exert pressure and influence on individual members who disagree with your tactics, even to the point of attempting to smear other Board members when they demur.

You strongly defend your personal rights and freedoms, giving little thought to the effect on the Fellowship as a whole. You conduct your personal lives as though the practice of Principles and the attempt to establish moral standards were the sole province of the newcomer. The newcomer who looks to you for guidance and example.

You have appointed yourselves best able among us to guide us. Your road map is the 12 Traditions, yet when you find us in the swamp you equivocate. You love to fall back on the tired old cop-out, "What do you expect, I'm just a sick addict."

Perhaps most of you have sacrificed your personal recovery under the false assumption that you are working for a greater good. I want to tell you the only good there is begins inside of you as an individual. If you have ignored this primary "save your own ass" principle of your program, you are no good to us, in N.A., to yourself or to whatever God you serve.

If you are unwilling to be exemplary in your behavior, honest and open in your dealings with others, then you are unfit to serve. You represent an ideal. If your character is not strong enough to bear the burden, admit it and step down. You have done enough damage to yourself and the Fellowship already. We have lost the one man on your Board who thoroughly embodies the Principles and Traditions. There is not enough of substance left among you to warrant your function at this time.

An N.A. Member

cc: Chuck Skinner
Cliff Kraft
Bob Barrett
Greg Pierce
Chuck Gates
Sally Evans
Carl Baggatt
World Service Office (archives)