

OU faculty get cash awards

U. S. Rep. James Blanchard, D-Pleasant Ridge, argued that "the existence of waste, duplication and inefficiency in government programs" is a prime reason for the enactment of his "sunset" legislation.

Blanchard recently testified before the House rules subcommittee on the legislative process during the first day of hearings on HR 2, "The Sunset Act of 1979." The bill would provide the mechanism to review federal spending programs and terminate those which have not been renewed.

Among the principal reasons for sunset legislation, Blanchard said are:

- A serious gap in congressional control over the federal budget.
- The impending shortfall between needed federal programs and the money to pay for them.
- The need to coordinate tax policy and spending policy.
- Concern with proliferating rules and regulations.
- The increasing public skepticism about government.

BLANCHARD, prime sponsor of the house bill, was joined this year by Rep. Norm Menela, D-California, and Richard Gephardt, D-Missouri, in sponsoring the bill. It was first introduced by Blanchard in July 1975.

A companion bill has been introduced in the Senate by Sen. Edmund Muskie, D-Maine. The Senate passed a similar measure, 87-1, at the close of the session last fall, but too late for consideration by the House of Representatives.

In his testimony, Blanchard said: "We must adjust congressional procedures to fit the complexity and size of the federal government. We cannot allow our hands to be tied by the inadequacy of old approaches or by the inflexibility of impulsive responses."

"We all know the kind of proposals that have been put forth: meat-ax cuts in appropriations, constitutional amendments and desperate referenda."

"The problems are complex and allow for no easy solutions; and the sunset concept is no instant cure-all. The question is, however, whether we are going to approach this subject in a rational and statesmanlike manner and honestly try to set up a process to do something about it; or, whether we are going to simply react to all sorts of honest but emotional movements, their self-appointed leaders and the legislative concoctions they generate."

Alcoholism Prevention

Their goal: Prevent alcoholism

"Alcoholism Prevention" will be the theme of the June 1-2 annual conference of the National Council on Alcoholism-Greater Detroit Area (NCA-GDA).

The conference, in the Michigan Inn, Southfield, is open to the public as well as to counselors and other professionals.

Among featured speakers will be former U.S. Rep. Wilbur Mills of Arkansas, a recovering alcoholic, and Dr. Joseph Porsch, personal physician to Betty Ford and Billy Carter.

Registration and program information are available from the NCA-GDA at 973-0581.

Among conference topics: Women and alcoholism; alcoholism and the family; alcoholism and the older adult; early detection and prevention.

NEARLY ONE person in four in southeast Michigan is directly or indirectly involved with a problem drinker, according to Dolores (Doey) Shaver, the group's education consultant. But the closeness of the relationship often prevents those persons from seeking help for the problem drinker.

When a woman has a drinking problem, Ms. Shaver says, "her husband or friends may try to cover up by insisting that her drinking isn't serious

or it doesn't really hurt anybody.

Many believe their sons or daughters are too young to have a serious problem with alcohol or that an elderly person shouldn't have to deal with a drinking problem, reasoning that any day over 70 is a gift, but not realizing we have to protect that gift."

And so the persons surrounding the drinker are guilty of literally loving the drinker to death.

Only one problem drinker in 10 will seek help, she said. The rest will either go insane or die as a direct result of their drinking.

LACK OF information about alcohol

or the alcoholic often prevents us from intervening in the behavior before it becomes a crisis," Ms. Shaver said. "There is no reason why someone has to get into a few car accidents, develop a serious health condition, lose a job or jeopardize a relationship before admitting that drinking is the cause."

"A preventive approach is really important. I think we all have to learn to develop more meaningful life skills."

"I used to tell my kids they shouldn't drink, but I would buy them T-shirts with beer advertisements on them. I didn't even notice this contradiction until one of my kids pointed it out to me. I was giving a double message."

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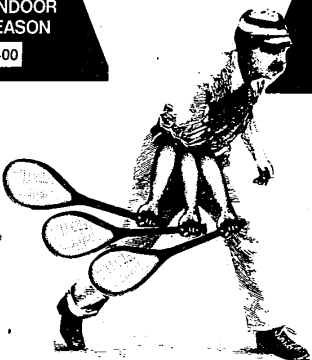
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