The importance of the volunteer committees of the American Association of Industrial Nurses increases as the programs and activities of the Association grow. In many cases the AAIN would be unable to expand its services without the experience, thought, and hard work so freely provided by the appointed committees. Because of the importance of these committees to the AAIN and to industrial nursing as a whole, the JOURNAL periodically features the work of these committees.

One of the prime purposes of the American Association of Industrial Nurses has been to provide a means whereby industrial nurses as an organized group can make effective contributions to legislation which affects the profession. An early and outstanding example of legislative action by the AAIN is the 1945 testimony of Miss Catherine R. Dempsey (then AAIN President) before the Senate Affairs Committee in reference to the exemption of industrial nurses from the military draft.

The AAIN Committee on Legislation is the group within the organization which is continually concerned with legislative matters and which provides continuity for the legislative work of the Association. The appointed Committee has two essential purposes. The first is to serve in an advisory capacity on the national level. In this capacity the Committee studies national legislation which may affect the industrial nursing profession, suggests reasonable responses of the Association to such legislation, and may carry out this Association response in the form of testimony, official letters, and statements when requested by the AAIN Board of Directors. The second purpose of the Committee is to provide advice and counsel to the local, state and regional Associations of the AAIN in legislative matters. The Committee on Legislation does not take direct action in matters of local or state legislation, but rather, if consulted, suggests ways in which constituent groups of the AAIN in the area affected by the legislation may take action. This procedure is based on the time proven assumption that local groups can most effectively and appropriately deal with local problems.

In this second capacity as an advisor for AAIN Constituent Associations, the Committee on Legislation prepared a comprehensive "Manual for Local and State Committees on Legislation." This Manual was distributed at the September Presidents' Meeting held in New York City. Each Constituent Association now has a copy of the Manual which serves as

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provides actual samples of letters and testimony used by AAIN Associations in carrying out their local legislative programs.

Presenting as it does both theoretical and practical material on legislation, the Manual deserves to be carefully studied by each Constituent Association. It will serve as an invaluable guide to any Association which is or may be confronted with legislative problems.

Current Chairman of the Committee on Legislation is Mrs. Patricia Blankenship, R.N., D. C. Transit Systems, Inc., Washington, D. C. Committee members who assisted in the preparation of the Manual are: Mrs. Elizabeth Bradley, R.N., Texas Instruments, Inc., Dallas, Texas; Mr. Charles F. Brower, R.N., Aluminum Company of America, Massena, New York; Miss Charlotte Burmeister, R.N., Liberty Mutual Insurance Co., Baltimore, Maryland; Miss Beatrice Hardy, R.N., Potomac Electric Power Co., Washington, D. C. Mrs. Lillian Redd, R.N., Miller and Rhoads, Richmond, Virginia; Miss Lucille Sala, R.N., National Can Corporation, Baltimore, Maryland. Serving as Special Advisor is Mrs. Mabel Zachary, R.N., Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Companies, Washington, D. C.

both a practical, “how-to” guide and reference on legislative action.

The Manual is presented in three-part form. The first of these parts outlines the national legislative policy of the American Association of Industrial Nurses, the general procedures governing all AAIN Committees, and the specific procedures followed by the National Legislative Committee.

Part II of the Manual is concerned with legislative functions on a state and local level. The Manual discusses recommended procedure and organization for local and state Committees on Legislation, suggested procedures for the formation of legislative policy, and methods by which state Associations and local Associations within the state can effectively cooperate in their legislative work.

The final section of the Manual presents specific suggestions on how constituent members may go about influencing pending legislation. The various methods open to an Association are outlined. The most effective forms of legislative correspondence and legislative testimony are discussed as well as the available information sources on legislation.

The Manual also stresses the common sense rules of courtesy and tact which make for effective legislative action. This section of the Manual

Functions of the Committee on Legislation:

1. To study all pending legislation of interest to AAIN as an organized group or to industrial nurses as individuals, and to report on such legislation to the Board of Directors.

2. To submit information concerning pending legislation to AAIN Headquarters office for distribution to constituent associations when deemed advisable.

3. To make recommendations to the AAIN Board of Directors regarding needed representation in legislative matters.

AAIN COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION 1958-1959