

CITY AIDE ASSAILS NARCOTICS WORK

Law Official Quits, Saying
Rehabilitation Fails

By WILL LISSNER

An assistant Manhattan District Attorney resigned yesterday, charging that the state and city narcotic addict rehabilitation programs were "drastically wrong" and saying that for his own "peace of mind" he could no longer operate within "a corrupting system."

The official, Peter Schweitzer, is the 30-year-old heir to the Schweitzer interest in the Kimberly - Clark Corporation, one of the country's largest pulp and paper corporations. He said he was taking a dollar-a-year job as manager of the New York Synanon Club.

The club, at 35 Riverside Drive, is a facility of the Synanon Foundation, Inc., of Santa Monica, Calif. The foundation is an organization in which former drug addicts help addicts cure themselves through a lay-directed form of group psychotherapy.

Mr. Schweitzer said he was resigning because the law he had been obliged to uphold was "unjust." Addicts who wanted treatment are prosecuted, he said, and when committed are condemned to long waits in jail before being given an opportunity for rehabilitation.

Two Attacks on Programs

Mr. Schweitzer was one of two Synanon supporters who attacked the city and state programs yesterday.

Milton Cooper, a friend of Mr. Schweitzer's and president and major stockholder of the Island Pen Manufacturing Corporation in Brooklyn, sent an 800-word telegram to Dr. Efrén Ramirez, City Commissioner of Addiction Services, telling him "your operation is a failure."

Mr. Cooper announced that he was selling his home in San Diego, Calif., and giving the \$100,000 proceeds to the present Synanon Foundation.

Mr. Schweitzer said he based his belief that the city and state programs had failed on the fact that he knew no one involved in them who had remained off drugs for a considerable period of time.

The state program, begun April 1, 1967, has 3,100 addicts in residential treatment for which they had opted after being committed to jail by the courts. A state program based on voluntary commitments is to begin Sept. 1.

1,200 Addicts Treated

The city and its cooperating agencies have 1,200 addicts under treatment. Half come under the state program. Half are voluntary admissions under a city program begun in December, 1966.

"I don't see how any responsible person could make any evaluations of the programs in such a short period of time," said Irving Lang, counsel of the State Narcotic Addiction Control Commission.

Mr. Schweitzer said he had come to the conclusion that Synanon was successful on the basis of 12 cases he knew and 1,000 cures he had heard about and observed in California.

Mr. Schweitzer and Wilbur Beckham, eastern division director of Synanon, disclosed at a news conference yesterday at the Overseas Press Club, 54 West 40th Street, that one issue between them and the city and state agencies was that the government refused to give money to Synanon without reporting and accounting procedures which they considered "interferences" with the Synanon program.

Mr. Lang, who was in charge of all narcotics prosecutions in the New York County District Attorney's office for six years, said Synanon's New York charter specified that its treatment centers were in California, outside the commission's jurisdiction. If it amended its charter, he said, the commission would help the Synanon facility at 35 Riverside Drive get accredited.

Mr. Schweitzer dismissed the offer as a subterfuge.