



CITY OF NEW YORK
 DEPARTMENT OF WELFARE
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HENRY L. McCARTHY
 COMMISSIONER

January 29, 1952

Dr. Robert Strauss
 Yale Center on Alcohol Studies
 New Haven, Conn.

Dear Dr. Strauss:

Father Gregory L. Mooney, formerly of the Holy Name Mission for Homeless Men, now chaplain with this Department's Hart Island Men's Shelter, has suggested that I write to you in connection with plans that we are considering for an enlargement of the program at the latter Shelter.

At present the Hart Island Men's Shelter houses about 400 homeless men and attempts to effect whatever rehabilitation is possible through the means of regular meals, proper rest and restoration or development of work skills through required assignments at various jobs. These 400 men come to Hart Island from this Department's Men's Shelter off the Bowery where substantially, only a housing, feeding and employment referral service is given.

In addition to the homelessness of these 400 men there may or may not be an associated problem of alcoholism. At present we do not know whether and to what degree these men have a drinking problem.

Father Mooney has told me of his former use at the Holy Name Mission of the "Homeless Man Study - Form HNC" questionnaire in getting the sort of information which we seek for Hart Island. This Bureau is interested in obtaining this data for two reasons: (1) to supplement our knowledge of homeless men by information in this important area and (2) to use this data as one of the methods in determining which of our men are alcoholics and potentially subjects for the alcoholism classification and treatment program which we hope to start soon. Dr. Ruth Fox has volunteered to give some time for the treatment program being planned, which would also utilize the services of our own physicians. The major elements of this treatment program would be physical rehabilitation, the administration of Antabuse, and membership in Alcoholics Anonymous.

Specifically, I should like to obtain from you authorization to use the above questionnaire in our work at Hart Island. (If this authorization is granted, would you be able to furnish us with instructions in the use of the questionnaire