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A National Plan

From Manhattan

With the great growth of any organization founded upon fine principles there comes a time when the individualistic method of procedure becomes not obsolete but may lose its purpose....

The need of a national committee to plan a *modus operandi* which would be both pliable and supple enough to meet the requirements of all groups is paramount; a committee of representative members which would shape the working tools.

True it is that each group has a problem all its own. It must have its way of functioning which is expedient for its need. Yet the basic principle of the 12th Step cannot be lost. Snobbery, condescension or patronage must *never* enter into any phase. The man in dirty shirt, baggy trousers and worn out shoes is in the same position and just as important as the woman in mink coat and a square-cut diamond. Both are alcoholics.

A.A. will never get into the category of the kind of organization which has large national conventions which are used primarily as an excuse for wayward husbands and misunderstood wives to break loose or a repressed alcoholic to do some high-powered drinking. But A.A. should get together nationally and solve such problems as visitation, offices of consultation in key cities and many other vexing questions. A schedule of making calls upon sponsored

patients in approved institutions such as Knickerbocker in New York City or Valley in Toledo, O., should be religiously kept, should the sponsor fail. A committee should shape the policy of these most important functional procedures. Loosely knit status is all right to a degree but basic features should not and must not be haphazard.

In any event let some group make a start on a truly purposeful program. - *I.B. Manhattan*