

DRIVE TO INFORM PUBLIC OF MISTAKEN IDEAS ABOUT EPILEPSY

The Southern Nevada Epilepsy Society of the Epilepsy Foundation of America is preparing its annual drive to inform the general public about epilepsy.

Nationwide, about four million people have this neurological disorder, which often results from head injuries of various kinds. In the Southern Nevada area about 5000 are believed to have epilepsy. Like epileptics everywhere, they face tremendous problems in dealing with the rest of society. These problems are the prime targets of the Epilepsy Society and the educational campaign for all of 1972.

According to Dr. Mark G. Beals, President of the Southern Nevada Chapter and head of the Special Education Dept., UNLV, the way the public thinks about epilepsy makes a great deal of difference to the lives of epilepsy patients. "For far too long," he says, "people with epilepsy have faced public hostility based on such mistaken ideas as epilepsy being contagious, that those who have it are mentally retarded, or even insane. These views are totally false, and we're out to say so."

SNES will make special efforts during the years ahead to get their message before the public on radio, television, in the press,



LAS VEGAS MAYOR ORAN GRAGSON, RIGHT, PRESENTS PROCLAMATION OF "EPILEPSY DAY" TO GEORGE H. RHODINE, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS FOR THE HUGHES HOTELS AND CHAIRMAN OF PUBLIC SPEAKERS BUREAU FOR SO. NEV EPILEPSY SOCIETY.

and in speeches and special appearances of chapter officers. Dr. Beals stated that George H. Rhodine, Director of Community Relations, Hughes Hotels and Casinos, is chairman of the Chapter's Speakers Bureau.

Because of medical advances, more epileptics than ever can live normal, active lives - if society will let them. Geo. Rhodine said, "We want the people to know that their fellow citizens with epilepsy have a contribution to make to

Las Vegas and Southern Nevada. We look to the day when the man or woman with epilepsy is hired or fired on merit, not because of a medical history. We look to the time when the child with epilepsy is fully accepted at school and in his neighborhood.

that's the basic aim of proclaiming a Las Vegas Epilepsy Day. Rhodine added, "No one will call at your door asking for money; nor will you be solicited at the office for a donation. This is not a fund raising campaign. It is a campaign, of long-range duration, of hope for approximately 5000 Southern Nevadans

whom society has deprived of hope for too long. Individuals and families faced with problems in this area are invited to contact the President, Dr. Mark G. Beals, UNLV, Phone 739-3439.

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Left to right: Sarge Holbert, Paolo Scinni, and Bobbie Ennis.

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