

result have confined their efforts to those projects which individual members can support without bringing the club into the picture. This tendency became so prevalent that it became necessary to amend the resolution to make it clearer that Rotary clubs are not prohibited from engaging in service activities as a club. As a result of this amendment (1936) three procedures have developed:

- a) Many Rotarians still maintain that all Rotary activity should be by individual Rotarians and that the club should merely be a source of information and encouragement and inspiration.
- b) Many Rotarians just as sincerely believe that there is value in collective action in Rotary, that Rotary clubs should do some things in a body.
- c) A third group believes in harmonizing the two ideas so that every Rotarian will continue to feel his individual responsibility to be of some service in his community, and at the same time some things will be done by the club as a whole or directed by the board or committees of the club, so that the members may feel that they are doing something worth while as a group.

At the present time all three procedures are in operation. Each club must decide for itself whether one plan should be advocated in preference to another.

CHOOSING THE PROCEDURE

In deciding what procedure is to be followed with regard to a proposed activity, the Rotary club may wish to take into consideration questions such as the following:

- 1) Can the activity be considered as vocational service, international service, or community service?
- 2) Does the activity involve the passing and publishing of a resolution? If so, and such a resolution does not conform to the general opinion of the

community, will its adoption jeopardize the local standing of club members?

Are the club members prepared to stand up to any criticism which may result?

3) Will the resolution be passed unanimously by the club? Will there be a dissatisfied minority?

4) Is a club resolution the most effective means of action, or can independent action of individual Rotarians accomplish more?

5) Would a combination of individual and club action be desirable?

6) Is there any controversial issue involved? If so, will action split the club?

7) Is there any possibility that club action will involve it in politics?

8) Will there be any duplication of the efforts of other local agencies?

There are other questions which may also be asked, all depending on the kind of project considered and local conditions in the community. In the following paragraphs are further thoughts which may well be considered before any club project is launched.

PROJECTS INVOLVING LEGISLATION

Many projects do not involve legislation. On the other hand, the club may become interested in or be appealed to support some cause that requires the enactment of legislation. A club may be asked to support the passage of a proposed bill in a state legislature. The measure proposed may be a very worthy and humanitarian one, which would certainly merit the sympathy of all, and at first thought would seem a real opportunity for community service. But when we ask ourselves a few of the questions previously mentioned, we may decide that there are good reasons why individual action is preferable to club action.

In this particular case, the Rotary