

club might listen to a discussion, pro and con, on the proposed legislation, and then the president might say to his members: "Your Rotary club is not taking a position on this matter, but it is appealing to you, as a citizen, to take a position and not fail to do so. Now, please go back to your places of business or your residences and as individual citizens of your state, write your representative in the legislature and tell him where you stand on this matter -- those of you who are in favor, say so; and those of you who may be opposed, say so. Use your business or personal letterhead. If convenient, go and call on your representative in the legislature and tell him across his desk how you think he ought to vote. The club, as an organization, doesn't care what your position is; that is your own matter of judgment. The important thing is that, as a Rotarian, you will not be satisfied with yourself until you have indicated to your representative in the legislature your position as a citizen."

Such a procedure would be entirely in harmony with the policy of Rotary. Rotary is a unique organization in many ways. Rotary hasn't followed along the established path of other organizations, and there are a great many who believe that the very fact that Rotary has been unique in several ways has contributed to the success and spread of the Rotary movement. If a Rotary club were to follow the procedure outlined above, it would be unique compared to various other organizations that adopt resolutions and send them forward.

On the other hand, when a Rotary club undertakes to express itself as an organization on a controversial matter, there are at least two things to be considered.

First, there may be some difference of opinion among the club members, and if a resolution is adopted as expressing the opinion of the club, it will actually express only the opinion of the

majority of the members and there may be a dissatisfied minority.

Second, even though the matter is not a controversial one there is a danger that when a Rotary club, as an organization, appeals to the members of a legislature, and the legislators respond to the appeal, those legislators, being practical politicians, are liable to come back a little later and say, "We did what your Rotary organization wanted us to do and now that we are candidates for re-election we think it would be only fair for your Rotary organization to support us." Then, if the club refuses to support the legislators, it appears in the position of being ungrateful, of wanting something done for it while it is not willing to do something for somebody else. If the club does respond to that appeal and supports the legislators for re-election, then the Rotary club has gotten into politics.

And so, in all cases where a club decides on a particular project, several things should be taken into consideration. In some cases, corporate action by the club is desirable. In others, individual action will be more effective. Possibly the club can be of more service by combining the two.

And we see also that a club may assume one or all five roles. As "investigator," the club will discover the needs of the community. As "educator" it will inform its members and perhaps the community in general, or those who can take action. In the role of "stimulator" the club will arouse the interest of each member and perhaps the community in general, or those who can take action. And as "promoter" and "performer" the club will initiate or carry on a project where it is necessary that the club do so. In each of these cases, the individual member will also play his part. And with each part played well by every member, there will be little doubt about the success of a project.