

Red Cross Rejects Prison Study Role

Delegates at the closing sessions of the American Red Cross convention here today considered resolutions on the organization's blood program, chapter mergers, fund raising and other programs.

Missing from the resolutions presented for delegate consideration, however, was one proposed by the Sacramento Red Cross chapter aimed at insuring proper treatment of federal prisoners.

The proposal, vetoed by the convention's resolutions committee, urged the Red Cross national board of governors "to conduct a study aimed at providing Red Cross assistance to the federal government in its effort to insure the proper treatment of prisoners being held in federal confinement facilities.

Mediation

The proposal asked that the study include providing help in mediating disputes between prisoners and officials in federal facilities and that results of the study be used for possible expansion of such services to state, county and local jails and prisons.

The resolutions committee, however, nixed the proposal — as well as an identical one submitted by the Santa Rosa Red Cross chapter — on the grounds the prison activity would not be

a "useful extension" of the Red Cross role.

Furthermore, "We're not penologists," resolutions committee chairman Richard G. Heydt said.

Unwelcome

In its report, the committee noted "the American Red Cross has no experience or expertise in the field of civil penology which would be useful to either the federal, state or local authorities.

"Additionally, it is believed that any such efforts of the American National Red Cross would not be welcomed" by governmental agencies.

The committee report said the Red Cross is already providing its standard relief services in situations of prison conflict when requested by authorities.

Among resolutions passed by delegates at the closing session today were ones:

- Authorizing Red Cross to work with federated fund-raising agencies under agreements which would insure complete independence for Red Cross programs.

- Endorsing establishment of a national blood service and expressing the willingness of Red Cross to develop and coordinate such a service.

- Reiterating the Red Cross position on American prisoners of war in Southeast Asia and urging the government of North Vietnam to obey the Geneva Conventions and permit Red Cross inspection of prisoner of war camps.

Elections

Ten members of the national Red Cross board of governors were elected today. Newly elected to three-year terms were: Mrs. John Drexel III of Newport, R.I., and Palm Beach, Fla.; Mrs. Stanley A. Earley Jr. of Dayton, Ohio; Raymond L. Geraldson of Chicago; Lonard A. Jacobvitz of Albuquerque, N.M.; Leroy Robinson of Charlotte, N.C.; Harold A. Rogers of Seattle, Wash., and George W. Rooney of Akron, Ohio.

Reelected to the board for three-year terms were: John W. Cleary of Milwaukee, Wis.; G. Robert Gadberry of Wichita, Kan., and Mrs. John S. Williamson Jr. of Baltimore, Md.