

Reagan's drug abuse adviser praises Straight at banquet

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Carlton Turner, President Reagan's adviser on drug abuse, praised 300 supporters of Straight Inc. Wednesday night for working to prevent drug abuse without depending on government money.

"You saw a problem. You came together as a community . . . you put together a program that works," Turner said.

Turner was speaking at Straight's \$25-a-plate dinner, held at the Host International Hotel at Tampa International Airport.

He told the supporters, including several state representatives and State Attorney General Jim Smith, that the Reagan administration has launched a five-pronged attack against drug use. The federal government, said Turner, is stopping drug traffic at its source through international agreements, intercepting drug shipments before they get here and researching the causes of drug abuse.

However, in the two other areas of gov-

ernment effort — drug prevention and treatment — Turner urged the public to become more involved.

"We need organizations like Straight," Turner said. "We need community-minded people like we have here."

Straight, which has been operating in Pinellas for six years, is regarded by some as controversial because of its treatment techniques. The program uses intense peer pressure to teach its clients "to relearn the values, rules and behavior of the main culture," according to material published by Straight. Some parents and former clients think Straight brainwashes teen-agers. Others believe the program works miracles.

The program treats 750 clients in Pinellas Park and at branches in Sarasota, Cincinnati and Atlanta.

Straight is trying to raise \$400,000 this year to build a drug-prevention education center at its Gandy Boulevard headquarters. By 1987 Straight wants to raise \$1.2-million nationwide and open 26 new branches.