

Senator NELSON. You do not have any jurisdiction over marihuana?

Dr. GODDARD. No. I should point out, however, that the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare has a very broad interest in marihuana in that they have responsibility for the dissemination of information and educational materials on narcotics including—and drugs that are abused, including marihuana. The National Institutes of Mental Health specifically have responsibility for the conduct of research. The National Institutes of Mental Health have a responsibility to provide services under the Narcotics Addicts Rehabilitation Act. The Food and Drug Administration has a responsibility to control the distribution of synthetic marihuana, and to the investigation of the new-drug exemption provisions of the Food and Drug Act. And so the Department is broadly concerned in not only those ways but in its concern with respect to juvenile delinquency where marihuana is often involved in the acts committed by juveniles in our society.

So although we have no responsibility for the control of marihuana—I am trying to say that the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare is very much concerned about the whole subject.

Now, let me make several points about marihuana. First, the shocking growth and use of marihuana has been so rapid that none of us in government, in medicine, or the legal profession has been able to counter it effectively.

The use of marihuana in this country and the rest of the world has a long history, of course.

Senator NELSON. You refer to the shocking increase in its use. Do we have any good statistics on what the increased use is?

Dr. GODDARD. I can give you—to answer you, good statistics in the sense they were seen by a practicing physician, no—some good data on arrests related to marihuana from the State of California. This one source shows, as I recall, juvenile arrests last year increased over the previous year 134 percent. It went up to about 3,800 arrests last year.

Senator NELSON. In California?

Dr. GODDARD. Yes—juveniles, now.

Senator NELSON. When you say juveniles, do you mean under 18?

Dr. GODDARD. That is my understanding of their definition; yes, Mr. Chairman.

Now, in addition—

Senator NELSON. Well, let me get this straight. In coming to your conclusion that there has been a shocking increase in the use of marihuana, you have relied upon various estimates?

Dr. GODDARD (continuing). And statistics that are available. For example, it is estimated that between 400,000 and 3 million persons currently use marihuana or try during the year.

Senator NELSON. Between 400,000 and what?

Dr. GODDARD. Between 400,000 and 3 million people in a year try or use marihuana, and as many as perhaps 20 million people in our society have used marihuana.