

The availability of it certainly has to be taken into account. It is more widely available today perhaps. The epidemiology and thus a better understanding of its availability and usage has to be studied.

The National Institute of Mental Health is developing and supporting projects which will give us a better understanding of why people do turn to drugs of all kinds and abuse them. This, also, is the kind of research we are interested in supporting and are supporting. We work very closely with the National Institute of Mental Health to try to develop this kind of information.

So I do not think we have any real answer to your question today as to why people use marihuana. We can only speculate. But I think there is general agreement on the point that the usage has increased at a large rate.

Senator NELSON. It would seem to me that one of the problems certainly is the educational factor. And everybody, I suppose, has read in the papers of some of the tragic incidents of young people using LSD with no notion about the effects and receiving permanent injury. My question is, what kind of a job are we doing in putting into the high school educational literature, not only on drugs—some of this is pretty tough to deal with—but also on such health hazards as tobacco? We have a pretty good tobacco lobby around the country. But what good information in a readable and interesting fashion is available in the high schools of this country as to what these drugs do, what their effects are, and how dangerous they are? What is available?

Dr. GODDARD. Senator, we think this problem is so important that we have been working with the National Education Association and the Office of Education of Health, Education, and Welfare in the development of curriculum-content material, not only for high school students but elementary school students and junior high school students as well. And the attempt is to introduce into this curriculum at the early stage of development of thought patterns and processes so that the young people can incorporate and acquire attitudes of respect toward drugs, something that seems to be lacking quite often today.

And so we have had the assistance of some of the best science teachers in the United States in developing these materials. And I will be happy to provide you with a description of this program, which is a cooperative venture between FDA, the Office of Education, and NEA. Through this kind of an effort over the long term I believe we can have an impact on the problem. I really think the educational approach is very necessary and important. Until people's attitudes can be successfully changed, we might make, indeed, very little progress in real control.

And so we have viewed this as an extremely difficult undertaking.

Now, there are, of course, other educational materials now available through some of the major drug companies. Smith Kline & French developed a very excellent booklet for the use of high school teachers on drug abuse in general.

Senator NELSON. Did they cover the specific drugs we are talking about?

Dr. GODDARD. Yes, sir, they did; including marihuana. And it is very well done, I must add, and has been widely distributed by that corporation. And this is something that is needed because these source