

CLARIFICATION OF DR. GODDARD'S VIEWS ON MARIHUANA

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1967

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON INTERSTATE AND FOREIGN COMMERCE,
Washington, D.C.

The committee met at 11 a.m., pursuant to notice, in room 2123, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Harley O. Staggers (chairman) presiding.

The CHAIRMAN. The committee will come to order.

The purpose of the hearing today is to obtain clarification from Dr. James L. Goddard, Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, concerning statements he is reported to have made with respect to marihuana.

Dispatches carried by a major news service on October 16 and 17 stated "Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Dr. James Goddard says he would not object to his daughter smoking marihuana any more than if she drank a cocktail."

This dispatch received wide publicity throughout the United States and, although its accuracy has been denied, the denial has not caught up with the statement as originally reported, as is often the case.

Ever since the original statement was reported, I have been requested by Members of the House to hold a hearing to provide for clarification of this matter. I have refused up until now, because I wanted enough time to pass for the facts to be developed. I think we are now in a position to discuss the subject in perspective, and therefore have called this hearing to obtain from Dr. Goddard a clarification of his remarks concerning marihuana, both as reported, and as actually delivered.

Dr. Goddard, we are pleased to have you with us again, and you may proceed with your statement.

STATEMENT OF DR. JAMES L. GODDARD, COMMISSIONER OF FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE; ACCOMPANIED BY WILLIAM W. GOODRICH, ASSISTANT GENERAL COUNSEL

Dr. GODDARD. Mr. Chairman, we appreciate the opportunity to appear before this committee today to clear the atmosphere about our position with respect to marihuana.

As evidenced by the attention given by representatives of Government, the press, and the professions, it is plain that the increasing use of marihuana is a matter of national concern.