

Mr. BROWN. Dr. Goddard, I don't know whether you have seen the ad in the New York Times yesterday for "Pot, a Handbook for Marihuana," but it says this—and I hate to take my time reading this New York Times advertisement here, but I want to make the point that I don't agree with you and I do agree with some of my colleagues who are concerned about the fact that your remarks have been taken as license by many, many people. You shake your head and say no, they have not, but I think the ad would indicate they have if I may read it. It says:

It is now an open secret that marihuana is considered harmless by some of the Federal Government's own health and mental health officials.

And in another paragraph it says:

"Drug chief equates peril of marihuana and that of alcohol." This headline in the New York Times reports that Dr. James L. Goddard, Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, favored removing all penalties for the possession of marihuana, leaving penalties only for its sale and distribution. This trend toward legalization of marihuana explains the growing demand for "Pot, a Handbook for Marihuana" now in its third printing. More we cannot tell you.

They are selling a handbook on the drug on the strength of your comments. I think they may be selling the drug itself on the strength of your comments.

Dr. GODDARD. I never said it was harmless. I have said it is dangerous.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. Chairman, may I ask a question of the Chair?

Will we hear any more competent testimony than that of Dr. Goddard on the medical and social aspects of marihuana and its use and will we hear from any enforcement officials or any parents whose children have "gone to pot"?

The CHAIRMAN. That was not the purpose of this meeting at the present time, which was to get clarification of the reported statement which aroused nationwide interest here.

Now, Dr. Goddard will be before this committee many times and we can pursue other matters then.

I would like to make this statement in closing, that I have gathered from the hearing today that you are against the use of marihuana and all other drugs.

You have not said whether you use alcohol or not, but there are a lot of people who don't advocate its use—I don't either—for children, tobacco or alcohol or anything else.

I think the whole controversy might be over the fact of possession here; I don't think that question comes within the province of your agency at all. I believe it is something that should never have been brought up. I think it is very unfortunate that it was.

It simply does not come within your province at all to say whether possession of marihuana should or should not be an offense. There has been a big hullabaloo here aroused that, perhaps if there had been a simple explanation given, might have cleared the air.

I think perhaps it has been very unfortunate that you have made the statements that you did when the question doesn't come before your agency about enforcement on possession.

Am I correct on this, that enforcement of penalties for marihuana possession does not come before your agency?

Dr. GODDARD. We do not have the responsibility for control of marihuana.