

tion of marihuana is now called for not only by pot users but by medical authorities and Government officials weary of the pointless prosecutions." The ad specifically quoted newspaper 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 or distribution.'"

I would hope, therefore, that Dr. Goddard will not only use this opportunity to clarify his own views on marihuana but will make it crystal clear that, in the light of current knowledge, the use of marihuana must be considered highly dangerous as well as illegal.

The problem, however, is much broader. I am hopeful that our subcommittee hearings, now and in the future, can enlighten the Congress on the following questions, among others:

Do we have a clear and consistent Federal policy relating to the control of drug and narcotic abuse?

Is that policy understood and administered in a consistent and coordinated way by the responsible Federal agencies, including the Bureau of Drug Abuse Control and the Bureau of Narcotics?

Does this divided authority at the Federal level impair or strengthen Federal control of dangerous drugs and narcotics? Can we improve the existing system?

In the enforcement of Federal laws in this area, are we establishing adequate priorities and using, effectively, the limited resources that are presently available? Or is the threat surpassing our ability to deal with it?

Does the present state of scientific research provide a sound basis for our drug abuse and narcotic control laws and enforcement policies?

What don't we know—and should know—about the nature and effects of individual drugs and narcotics in terms of their threat to the public safety, and is our present research program adequate to fill these gaps in our knowledge as soon as possible?

I hope, Mr. Chairman, that Dr. Goddard and succeeding witnesses will help us to answer these questions. Thank you very much.

Mr. ROUSH. Thank you, Mrs. Dwyer.

Dr. Goddard, you may proceed.

STATEMENT OF DR. JAMES L. GODDARD, M.D., COMMISSIONER OF FOOD AND DRUGS, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE; ACCOMPANIED BY WILLIAM W. GOODRICH, ASSISTANT GENERAL COUNSEL, FOOD AND DRUG DIVISION, HEW; AND JOHN FINLATOR, DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF DRUG ABUSE CONTROL, FDA

Dr. GODDARD. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today. Hopefully, I can clear the atmosphere with respect to marihuana. As evidenced by the attention given by the Congress and others and the press, it is plain that the increasing use of marihuana is a matter of national concern. The shocking growth in use of the drug has been so rapid that none of us—in Government, in medicine, or in the legal profession—has been able to counter it effectively.