

of Health, Education, and Welfare is specifically charged with carrying out the education and information programs on narcotics, including marihuana. The Food and Drug Administration is specifically charged with maintaining control over what is called synthetic marihuana through the IND provisions of the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.

We have a very broad concern in the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, with respect to the problems of juvenile delinquency. It is on this point that I think we need to examine carefully what we are currently doing in our society.

I made the comment in other hearings that we are really asking the question, are the penalties for possession for use—not possession for sale—are these really serving the best interests of society in terms of helping reduce the problem, and, two, in terms of the individuals who are arrested and convicted under those penalties? We have the situation where in one State alone, last year, we had a 140-percent increase in the arrest of juveniles for possession of marihuana. Sixty percent of those juveniles were ages 17 and 18. Now, our concern, stated very simply, is this: Are we making these people opt for a life of crime rather than rehabilitating them? Is this the desire of our country? Can't we look and find better ways of handling juveniles? That in essence is a summary of what I wanted to say. I think Mrs. Dwyer is quite right, we need to use this as an occasion for review in toto of all our activities relating to drug abuse, whatever the nature of the drug abuse may be.

Thank you.

(The complete text of Dr. Goddard's prepared statement follows:)

PREPARED STATEMENT OF JAMES L. GODDARD, M.D., COMMISSIONER OF FOOD AND DRUGS, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

Mr. Chairman, we appreciate the opportunity to appear before you 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. The shocking growth in 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. For example, the Department of Justice of the State of California has reported a total of 28,319 adult drug arrests for 1966, the highest figure to date, fully 32.1 percent above the 1965 figure. Some of this increase comes from the enforcement last year, for the first time, of the drug abuse control amendments, which became effective on February 1, 1966. However, to quote from the California report, "Marihuana offenses accounted for approximately one-half of the 1966 arrests and showed a 71-percent increase over those reported during 1965." Arrests for "heroin and other narcotics" rose by about 11 percent. "Dangerous drug arrests showed a 4-percent gain," the report also adds. California's adult marihuana arrests in 1966 were triple that for 1960. Among juveniles, the rise was even more dramatic; drug arrests in general increased 87 percent between 1965 and 1966, but juvenile marihuana arrests increased 140 percent, from 1,623 to 3,869. The marihuana arrests, plus the 898 dangerous drug arrests, accounted for 95 percent of the juvenile drug arrests in California during 1966.

We could pursue this further, Mr. Chairman, but I hope this illustration will show that, as we have talked about the problem in professional circles and have done our studies and exchanged our memoranda, the agencies of law enforcement have encountered a grim situation that is developing with great momentum—with a momentum that seems to exceed our own ability thus far to explore the problem and come up with sound solutions that are in the public interest and that can be quickly put into effect.