

The use of marihuana in this country and the rest of the world, has a long history, of course. In the United States, "marihuana" refers to any part of the plant, or an extract such as the resin, which induces changes in physical perception and in psychological reactions. These physical and mental effects will vary in the individual marihuana smoker, depending on four major factors:

- The circumstances in which the drug is used;
- The amount consumed, usually by smoking;
- The personality of the user; and
- The user's previous experience with marihuana.

The most common reaction to marihuana is development of a state of mind in which ideas seem disconnected, uncontrolled, and freely flowing. Perception is disturbed, minutes seem to be hours, and seconds seem to be minutes. Space may be broadened, and near objects may appear far away. When large doses are used—doses generally heavier than normally used in this country—extremely vivid hallucinations may occur. With such large doses, panic and a fear of death may make the experience highly unpleasant.

Gentlemen, what I have just told you about marihuana is a résumé from one of the most respected textbooks on drugs in this country. It is the third edition of the "Pharmacological Basis of Therapeutics" by Louis S. Goodman and Alfred Gilman. I refer you to pages 299 and 300 of this volume.

It should be made clear, however, that no one in the scientific or medical communities is satisfied with the level of knowledge we have concerning marihuana and similar drugs. As I have stated on several occasions, there is still much research to be done.

For example, the chemical composition of marihuana has not been fully determined, although what seems to be the plant's most active ingredients have been isolated and synthesized. Scientifically controlled marihuana studies of varying lengths have not been conducted on animals or humans to determine effects on body tissue and metabolism, or neuromuscular response, and on psychological, and cultural reasons for marihuana use, especially among our young people. The number and characteristics of marihuana users in the United States are virtually unknown, and paths to such use are unexplored.

I am aware, Mr. Chairman, that statements attributed to me, but which I did not make, have caused additional concern. Let me clarify the record in this regard.

I did not say that I would not object to my daughter smoking marihuana.

I did not, and I do not, condone the use of marihuana.

I did not, and I do not, advocate the abolition of controls over marihuana.

I did not, and I do not, propose "legalizing" the drug.

With your permission, Mr. Chairman, I would like to call your attention to one point which arose as the result of an erroneous news dispatch from Minneapolis on October 17. I was reported to have stated that I would not object any more to my daughter smoking marihuana than if she drank a cocktail.

The news dispatch was not correct and Julius Frandsen, vice president and Washington manager of United Press International, has written me a letter on the subject. With your permission, I would like to insert a copy for the record and quote just this brief portion:

"So it has become clear to me that UPI erred in attributing to you unqualified statements which in fact were considerably qualified.

I am sorry if UPI has compounded your problems. We are prepared to carry a dispatch acknowledging our error."

Mr. Chairman, I think Mr. Frandsen—and other members of the press—recognize the complexities of the issue of marihuana and wish to serve the public in the best possible manner. I think the press does sense the importance of the problem and makes every effort to provide the Nation with the best information available.

My remarks at Minneapolis and elsewhere concerning marihuana have always been in response to questions from the press. In every instance, I have made it abundantly clear that marihuana has been and still remains under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Narcotics of the U.S. Department of the Treasury. It is often erroneously assumed that the Food and Drug Administration, which administers the drug abuse control amendments, has jurisdiction over not only the controlled drugs—the amphetamines, barbiturates, and hallucinogens—but marihuana as well. Our agency has made every effort to clarify the differences wherever possible.