

Mr. ROUSH. My question was is that an accurate quote?

Dr. GODDARD. Yes, only to the extent of the two points they quoted. There was one they left out.

Mr. ROUSH. Do you think it is possible that other reporters present might have interpreted your remarks to mean that you would only object because it is at present against the law to possess marihuana?

Dr. GODDARD. I can't predict what others would project from that statement. I think it clearly said that there are three reasons why I would not want my child or anybody else's child to use it: the law, the possible long-term effects, and the distortions of one's perceptions. I said those clearly.

Mr. ROUSH. Now, it seems to me the more important thing here is to establish your own position with respect to this drug. As I understand it, your position is that this is a dangerous drug in terms of what it does to one's perception; that at the present time, it has no known medical usefulness; that its possible long-term side effects are unknown; and that it is capable of producing psychic dependence but not physical addiction. Is this reasonably accurate?

Dr. GODDARD. That is correct, yes, sir.

Mr. ROUSH. It is often said that while marihuana is not in itself physically addicting, the psychic dependence which it can cause may lead to experimentation with and physical addiction to other drugs, such as the hard narcotics. Do you think this is true?

Dr. GODDARD. It is a possibility, Mr. Chairman. It is not the total story, though, because there are people who seek out drugs to abuse because of their personalities. Now, we cannot attribute to marihuana the fact that it leads to other hard narcotics—it is only one of many agents that are involved in this subculture of drug abuses in our society. It is one that is most frequently involved as a precursor to the use of heroin in those areas where heroin is the common hard narcotic used by the drug subculture. And that is in 16 States, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia, largely the most populous States. But in contrast, in 12 Southern States where we also have the problem of addiction, you never see the use of marihuana. I just interjected that note of caution. It is not as clear cut as some would have you believe.

But yes, to answer your question, the possibility does exist that psychological dependence on this or other drugs subject to abuse can lead to experimentation with hard narcotics.

Mr. ROUSH. I believe you stated publicly several times, and you inferred this morning, if you did not actually say it, that you believe the present penalties for personal possession of marihuana are too severe and should be lessened. Is that correct?

Dr. GODDARD. Yes, I said they are too severe. Perhaps something more comparable to those for the drug-abuse drugs would be more satisfactory, but that we needed to reevaluate this.

Mr. ROUSH. Are you advocating that all penalties be removed?

Dr. GODDARD. No, sir.

Mr. ROUSH. I would comment that this is consistent with the task force report on narcotic and drug abuse of the President's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice, in which there is a tentative recommendation to revise present penal codes so