

the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare in the subject of marihuana.

Mr. ROUSH. I have in mind a release or a pamphlet from the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare Office of Public Information, and also a copy of this story, which is headlined "HEW Agencies Conducting Probe of Marihuana." It is from this story that my question has its source.

(The material referred to and a related story from the Associated Press follows:)

[From the Minneapolis Tribune, Oct. 15, 1967]

HEW AGENCIES CONDUCTING PROBE ON MARIHUANA

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW) is conducting a broad-scale investigation of marihuana, a Government spokesman said Saturday.

The inquiry began several months ago, and has not produced any consensus for recommending a change in Federal policy toward the drug, he said.

So far, the investigation has been conducted at a staff level among various agencies in the department—the Food and Drug Administration, the Public Health Service, and the legal office.

The studies are aimed at determining whether the present stringent restrictions on use of the weed and accompanying criminal penalties should be revised. Involved are medical, psychological, social, and pharmacological considerations, the spokesman said.

"There have been a number of viewpoints expressed in a number of memos circulating within the department," the spokesman said. "But there has been no decision or department position taken."

Although the studies have been going on for several months, they have not been refined enough for presentation to Secretary John W. Gardner, the spokesman said.

[From the Associated Press, Oct. 14, 1967]

HEW PLANS REGROUPING OF MARIHUANA

SAN FRANCISCO.—The Federal Government is considering proposals to change its classification of marihuana from narcotic to "dangerous drug," according to the San Francisco Chronicle.

The newspaper said in today's editions such consideration is going on "at the highest Cabinet level" and would remove possession and use of marihuana from the felony category.

The Chronicle said "a confidential position paper" circulated within the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare calls marihuana "clearly a recreational drug."

In Washington, a spokesman for the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare said the question of marihuana is under review, but "there is no departmental position paper."

Dr. GODDARD. I understand, but the fact that the HEW news office reprinted the story does not lend any credence to it, as you well appreciate. That is simply to keep the Secretary and the principal staff advised of what stories are being carried in the newspaper.

Mr. GRAY. This is headed "Selected News Items From the Regional Offices." What does that mean? Does that mean regional officers put out this story?

Dr. GODDARD. They contributed these and send them in and they are published in both the headquarters and the regions.

Mr. GRAY. The lead of it says, "The Department of HEW is conducting an investigation of marihuana, a Government spokesman