

When I testified on November 14, the Department was not conducting a broad-scale investigation of the marihuana penalties.

We trust the above information will help clarify this matter.

Sincerely yours,

JAMES L. GODDARD, M.D.,
Commissioner of Food and Drugs.

Mr. ROUSH. Have you sat down with representatives of these other departments and agencies at all, at any time?

Dr. GODDARD. I have not. I would have to check to find out whether Mr. Rankin has or not.

Mr. ROUSH. I will permit my colleagues to pursue this from now on.

The gentlelady from New Jersey, Mrs. Dwyer.

Mrs. DWYER. In view of the increase of use of marihuana, do you not think your statement was unwise?

Dr. GODDARD. I think the statement that was attributed to me, the error was unfortunate.

Mrs. DWYER. But do you not think that in view of the increased use of marihuana, your advocating a review of the laws concerning marihuana as far as the users are concerned is detrimental at this time?

Dr. GODDARD. No; I think—Mrs. Dwyer, I feel strongly that we do need to review our policies on all drugs being used.

Mrs. DWYER. But at this time, with this social upheaval, psychologically, was this not a very unwise statement?

I say this because in my State, there is great turmoil over the statement you were reported to have made. Young people using marihuana in my State are now saying, well, you see that Dr. Goddard in Washington said it is not harmful and the law should be changed. They are misquoting you, of course, but this is going on. I have had people who are working with youth today, priests and other people, who are just nonplussed and frustrated because these young people are saying, don't tell us not to use marihuana; Dr. Goddard says it's all right.

Now, this is not what you said.

Dr. GODDARD. That is right.

Mrs. DWYER. But with what you are now saying, that the law should be reviewed, and I do not question this as it compares with the lack of law on LSD, but I do say that, without any agreement among medical people today, no statement should be made until there is some meeting of the minds among scientific, medical, and enforcement people as to whether the law on marihuana should be changed.

Now, you have disagreement with the medical profession in my State, including Dr. Kandle, New Jersey's commissioner of health. It is in contradiction to our own State law.

I would say at this time that your statement was very unwise in view of the increased use of marihuana. You must recognize, Doctor, that it certainly is a social problem today.

That is all for now.

Mr. ROUSH. Mr. Rosenthal.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Doctor, the chairman said that he felt what was important is your position on the use of the drug and the other in-