

Admittedly, marihuana may be no more dangerous than alcohol. Yet, insufficient research has been done on marihuana to substantiate this conclusion. For all we know, marihuana, and especially its synthetic offspring, may be far more dangerous than LSD or thalidomide. If that be so, then Dr. Goddard's statements equating marihuana with alcohol in our present social climate could lead many persons down a far more dismal road than the one Dr. Goddard would follow.

For these reasons, then, I call upon Dr. Goddard to carefully review his statements or those attributed to him, and the consequences that they may have upon the youths of our Nation. He certainly recognizes the potential dangers contained in such statements and therefore should repudiate them for the welfare of the country.

Mr. DOLE. In your statement, you indicated what you did not say. I wonder if you might indicate what you did say?

Dr. GODDARD. Mr. Chairman, may I just in my own words say, the question came up, Doctor, is marihuana more or less dangerous than alcohol? That is my recollection of the question.

I said it is dangerous to compare the two drugs, and I started giving a comparison. Then the fuse blew, and when they asked the question again, they said, Doctor, would you rather your daughter smoked marihuana or drank a cocktail?

I said I would not want my daughter or anybody else's daughter to smoke pot, because we do not know what the long-term effects are; I would not in view of the current legal context, and certainly because it is too dangerous in that it alters one's perception of reality, or if you drive a vehicle or operate heavy equipment, it is very dangerous. That is what I did say that got mixed up in the story.

Mrs. DWYER. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DOLE. Yes.

Mrs. DWYER. It occurs to me that perhaps you might have said at the press conference in Minneapolis what you have said in your statement about marihuana, and I want to read this paragraph:

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 the fear of death may make the experience highly unpleasant.

Would it not have been wise for you to have told these young students some of the harmful effects of marihuana?

Dr. GODDARD. Yes, I would have to say it would have been wise in retrospect. At the time, I was asked, however, to compare alcohol and marihuana. I was trying to do so and be responsive to the question asked.

Mrs. DWYER. With the increased use of marihuana, it does seem to me that a statement of this nature to young people would have been very effective, especially coming from a man as respected as you are in the medical community.

Thank you, Mr. Dole.

Mr. DOLE. In Mr. Frandsen's letter, he indicates that Mr. Cohn asked whether you would mind if your daughter smoked marihuana, and you replied, "No, except in the context of the present law."

I am not certain what you meant by that, but under the present law, there are penalties for possession of marihuana and not penalties for possession of drugs under FDA's jurisdiction.