

The expert committee that was at the U.N. in New York at the time—and two of our top men were members: Dr. Eddy and Dr. Isbell—determined there was enough information at that time to determine how dangerous this substance was and where it should be put in the Single Convention.

Mr. ROUSH. Just one more question, Mrs. Dwyer, before I leave the witness. Isn't it true that it's only been within the last year and a half they have been able to safely experiment with marihuana—and I can't give you the scientific reason, but it has to do with isolating certain properties so they can conduct controlled experiments, is that true?

Mr. GIORDANO. Yes, this has been helpful. They have had tetrahydrocannabinols from the natural substance, but it takes a large amount of marihuana. It's been a difficult situation extracting and getting sufficient quantity of tetrahydrocannabinols to be able to use them.

Now, they have synthesized it, and it's a more stable product.

Mr. ROUSH. Mrs. Dwyer.

Mrs. DWYER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I am sorry we don't operate under a 5-minute rule because the minority members aren't going to have much time to ask questions.

However, Mr. Commissioner, I want to be repetitious in this. I take it that you believe that the laws concerning possession of marihuana should not be less stringent and that we have an increase in the use of marihuana in spite of existing legal penalties because of the breaking down of other laws in this country today. Do you not believe that? If the laws on marihuana were less stringent, would we have less users?

Mr. GIORDANO. The situation would improve? No, it would not improve. It would get worse.

Mrs. DWYER. Thank you very much. Do you believe there is a different relationship between the use of marihuana and the use of heroin or other dangerous drugs? In other words, have you found that marihuana is the first step and then on to heroin and do you have any statistics to show this is so?

Mr. GIORDANO. I have, Mr. Chairman, several charts here which I think you may want to introduce and the staff can look them over, which list addicts and also show the number of marihuana arrests. But let me say of the 60,697 active addicts, 90 percent of those started on marihuana.

Mrs. DWYER. These are unusual statistics. Will you repeat that, please?

Mr. GIORDANO. Of the 60,697 addicts that are currently heroin addicts, 90 percent of those started on marihuana. I want to be clear on this. It's a steppingstone. Now, this doesn't say that just because somebody smokes a marihuana cigarette he is going on to heroin, but it's a trigger.

Mrs. DWYER. Does the Bureau of Narcotics have any figures which show that an arrest of a youth for mere possession has a deterrent effect, that there were far fewer rearrests for use of marihuana or other drugs?

Mr. GIORDANO. Mrs. Dwyer, we would not have those figures because, as I say, our statistics are geared to the traffickers; and as you see, they are either sellers or possessors who may use it but are pri-