

Chairman BLATNIK. The reorganization plan transfers to the Attorney General of the United States the administration of the narcotics laws now in the hands of the Secretary of the Treasury and the administration of the drug abuse laws now in the hands of the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare. Under the plan, the Bureau of Narcotics and the Bureau of Drug Abuse Control would be joined together in a new Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs and placed in the Department of Justice. Narcotics laws, enforced by the Treasury Department since 1909, relate to marihuana and the so-called addictive narcotics such as opium and heroin. Our drug abuse laws, enacted in 1965, deal with stimulants, depressants, and hallucinogenics such as LSD. There is obviously a relationship between all of these.

We are all aware that serious social and criminal problems have developed from the use and abuse of narcotics and dangerous drugs, particularly among our young people. We all are searching for proper answers to these vexing problems. This plan is an attempt to produce a unified approach within the Government and more effective enforcement of the laws within the limitations of existing authority vested by the Congress.

In his message transmitting the plan, the President stated the new organization in the Department of Justice would:

- consolidate the authority and preserve the experience and manpower of the Bureau of Narcotics and the Bureau of Drug Abuse Control.
- work with States and local governments in their crackdown on illegal trade in drugs and narcotics, and help to train local agents and investigators.
- maintain worldwide operations, working closely with other nations, to suppress the trade in illicit narcotics and marihuana.
- conduct an extensive campaign of research and a nationwide public education program on drug abuse and its tragic effects.

These are important objectives and they clearly justify the adoption of this plan.

Drug abuse and narcotics addiction are complex and involved problems, as will be spelled out more clearly and precisely by specialists in various fields, not only in enforcement, but also in pharmacology, human behavior, the incredible advance of chemical developments and synthetic medications, and new compounds. These are the involved problems that do not lend themselves to any single line of approach. In spite of the fine record of the Narcotics Bureau through the years, and a fine record it has had indeed, and the Bureau of Drug Abuse Control more recently, it must be said that a larger and larger segment of our population has become subjected to these debilitating influences. This is particularly true of many of our young people in the schools, colleges, and on the streets throughout the country. There are, therefore, other approaches and considerations that also must be explored before we can say we have found the ultimate solution.

In other legislation pending before other committees, the President has asked increased penalties for the illegal manufacturing and sale and possession of LSD and other dangerous drugs and increased appropriations to employ more criminal investigators and agents. These are not matters within our jurisdiction, but it is important that we be aware of them to give us a better perspective of the broad picture before us and to call attention of our colleagues in the House to the importance of these problems that hopefully will come before the proper legislative committees.