

What I am getting at, with the thousands of legal sources of drugs and with the rapid proliferation of drugs, with the synthesis of drugs, some rather elementary college graduate can synthesize or at least distill or produce some of these drugs in the kitchen; can he not, today?

Dr. LEE. That is apparently the case; yes, sir.

Mr. FINLATOR. Mr. Chairman, let me say in that respect, some people draw the analogy it is not too much different from a lawyer making those determinations such as the Attorney General and an educator who has been the Secretary of HEW. The Attorney General will have the same amount of information, the same accouterments around him, the same advice the Secretary has had in making his determinations. And it seemed to us in designing this that rather than have these two bureaus going to the Department of Justice as some people in the public and the industry might feel, that, well, here we go, we have got a cop-and-robbers outfit, that it was far better to place upon the shoulders of the Attorney General the total responsibility, the social responsibility of the drug abuse problem, giving to him and his staff the problem of not only stronger law enforcement but also forcing upon his shoulders the responsibility to determine why we are doing these things and to understand the drug abuse problem with the industry and with the public and with the scientific community.

Chairman BLATNIK. Well, my response to that, Mr. Finlator, would be that it is a fine statement, but it is a hopeful statement, I would say. I am getting right back to the Surgeon General's Office, and water pollution a few years ago, as recently as 12 years ago, they were treating this as primarily a health problem and a local problem. They were doing excellent work on research and communication and they were holding conferences, reading papers to each other. In the meantime the rivers and lakes of a great nation were becoming polluted and filthy. For instance the point of no return in Lake Erie. That was just a short 12 years ago. Who was best informed, the most knowledgeable, didn't call it to the attention of the public and the Congress. So while these resources are available, I wonder what the average person, whether it be an attorney or an educator, the average person, knows the incredible, fantastic advance of these new synthetics, and the whole field of chemistry. As I understand, three-fourths of the prescriptions written today by doctors are written for medications that did not exist 20 or so years ago. Just a little over 10 days ago I happened to be at the national convention of Analytical Chemists in Cleveland and they were showing me equipment that was used, equipment that did not exist 10 years ago. It was like walking in an Alice in Wonderland to see the advances that are being made to the knowledge which the average person does not have.

But with all of the legal sources of these drugs, the new synthetics and derivatives and whatnot—for instance, our own laws are behind date—while marihuana is not narcotic, it can be synthetized; can it not?

Dr. LEE. That is correct.

Chairman BLATNIK. And can give you the same effect as marihuana, and it is easier to handle. And yet, it is not under our present law defined as a narcotic. Is that not true?

Dr. LEE. That is correct.