

Chairman BLATNIK. So if one person, let's say a student, happens to have the old-fashioned weed or the grass or hemp or what is it, hashish, is that what they call it?

Dr. LEE. There are a variety of names.

Chairman BLATNIK. Yes. I heard recently that Minneapolis is one of the fertile growing grounds for marihuana, right outside of Minneapolis. But at any rate, it is all over the place. So if a student or someone is smoking the old-fashioned kind of weed, he gets caught, he is slapped with a felony, a very serious legal charge; is that not true?

Dr. LEE. Yes, sir. This depends on the enforcement procedures. Certainly, Mr. Giordano and Mr. Hendrick can describe their procedures with respect to marihuana. They are responsible for the administration of that.

Chairman BLATNIK. You are right and we will get to them. But someone must be able to differentiate between those. Then the student right next to that student, in the same room, he is smoking a derivative marihuana and probably gets a more effective response. He is getting more of a bang for a buck, I would say, and the best, under existing law, Federal and State, he will be held and booked on a misdemeanor charge. Is that true?

Dr. LEE. That would be correct.

Chairman BLATNIK. So you see how close the chemistry is related to the enforcement. And it takes a pretty wise and well-trained person to engage in that type of operation.

Dr. LEE. This is, I think, like many other problems that we face today. Because of the enormous advance in science and technology, the problems have become much more complicated in terms of their solution. The relationships at the Federal, State, and local level are much more complicated. Traffic safety, pollution problems, as you mentioned, and a variety of other areas are good examples. And this is certainly another example and some of the problems we face certainly are a direct result of the fantastic advances which have been made in the development of new drugs.

Chairman BLATNIK. Now, in this new Bureau, the combination, will there be liaison and communication which will depend upon the initiative, creativeness, and the understanding—there is no question about dedication. I am not questioning the dedication of the men in enforcement. The difficult thing is, do they have enough concept and understanding of the complexity of the problem that is frustrating the top medical people? As recently as last week there was a committee that met in Chicago on how to cope and how to proceed with many of these imponderables. You have so many legal sources of these different types of drugs, drugs proliferating, and different derivatives being available more and more, some of which can be manufactured with do-it-yourself kits. How complicated the enforcement problem, and the chemical and medical aspects are becoming. When you think how relatively simple was the problem of prohibition, to manufacture the smelly stuff, you could smell it a block away, you can smell a brewery. I have seen places back in the depression where they made homemade brew, moonshine, and you could smell it a ways away. It was illegal to manufacture it, transport, sell it, possess it. And we just had one awful time trying to cope with the problem of prohibition. It gave rise to the greatest eras of the gangsterism and racketeering and profiteering; it probably started this whole business. Racketeering and