

Dr. Smith also holds an appointment in the National Institute of Mental Health. The focus of the Bureau of Drug Abuse Control is to control the illicit activities in this area and to mount related programs to train the people through public education.

As we have indicated, the programs of public education involve schools, the National Institute of Mental Health, and physicians throughout the country. This can't be done by a single Bureau or Division, or even Department, of Government.

Mr. EDWARDS. But you think Justice ought to be in charge of this?

Dr. LEE. We think they ought to be in charge of the specific program responsibilities that are proposed for transfer in the reorganization plan.

Mr. EDWARDS. I must say, Mr. Chairman, I just can't understand a high official in HEW thinking that that is a good proposal.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Dr. Lee, if Justice did a really successful job in enforcement, with new manpower, and a massive effort was made at incarceration, and so forth, what effect would that have on drug use in the United States?

Dr. LEE. Well, I think if we could prevent the trafficking, if you can get at the major traffickers, I think it will reduce the hazard that many young people are exposed today with respect to dangerous drugs.

These drugs are readily available to them. Some experiment once or twice, with sometimes disastrous consequences. Some young people, because of personal psychological problems, become chronic users of drugs such as LSD.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Has our law enforcement been weak or lax, in effect, that it has permitted this situation to develop to the point where you say it is?

Dr. LEE. No; I say it is a complex problem. I think the problem of alienation is one of the most serious social problems we face.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. No. You suggest, Doctor, that if there is an effective Justice Department program, it will dry up the sources of drugs.

Dr. LEE. It can contribute significantly to this.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Now let me see if I can develop my own thoughts for the record.

How did we get to this situation today? Has there been a lack, a weak enforcement policy, an inadequate enforcement policy?

Dr. LEE. Well, until 1965, of course, there was no specific provisions dealing with this problem. That program went into effect in February of 1966 and we think that significant progress has been made.

During that same period we have gotten new scientific information about LSD, the potential for birth defects, the chromosomal damages, and this apparently has contributed significantly to the young people's reduction in use of LSD.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Before 1965 we still had laws relating to narcotic barbiturates, marihuana, and so forth.

Dr. LEE. I think I would certainly prefer to have the people from Treasury comment on the problems of narcotics, because that has been their responsibility for many years. And this other has been HEW's responsibility.

I think it would be better in developing the information you need to ask them about that particular facet of the problem.