

on February 7. The plan would transfer to the Attorney General the responsibility of the Secretary of the Treasury for enforcing the laws relating to narcotics and marihuana and the responsibility of the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare for enforcing the Drug Abuse Control Amendments of 1965 as they relate to depressant and stimulant drugs.

The statistics gathered by Federal law-enforcement agencies reflect a steady increase in the illicit drug traffic and in the use of narcotics and other dangerous drugs: 62,000 active narcotic addicts were reported by the Bureau of Narcotics in 1967, compared to 45,000 in 1960. Of the new addicts reported in 1967, 21.2 percent were under 21 years of age compared to 13.9 percent in 1963. We are informed that the traffic in narcotics is so well organized that the supply of narcotics is closely controlled in relation to demand.

In 1963, 6,444 pounds of marihuana were seized at the borders and within the United States. In 1966, the figure had risen to 23,716 pounds, and preliminary reports for 1967 suggests that the quantities seized have doubled over 1966.

In the past 18 months, Federal agents have seized over 600 million dosage units of controlled depressant and stimulant drugs, including over 2½ million dosage units of LSD and other hallucinogens.

These facts clearly call for vigorous and effective public action against drug abuse. The President's message of February 7, 1968, described his plan of action to insure the public safety, including the reorganization of law enforcement functions.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. When you use the word "drug abuse" you include the word "narcotics?"

Mr. HUGHES. Yes, sir.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Mr. Chairman, with your permission, could someone now or later define for the committee what the differences are between drugs and narcotics, what they are and the differences?

Chairman BLATNIK. Yes. We will get the definition from the Bureau, from HEW and also the Narcotics Control Bureau.

Mr. HOLIFIELD. I think it is pretty easily explained.

Mr. HUGHES. I would be glad to try a generalization. I think the experts can do it better, perhaps.

Generally speaking, the narcotics are the addictive, so-called, drugs—cocaine, heroin, opium. The other drugs, the depressant-stimulant drugs, are drugs which have legitimate uses but which are subject to abuse.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. But not addictive?

Mr. HUGHES. Generally they are not considered addictive in the sense that the opiates are, heroin, cocaine, and so on.

Mr. HOLIFIELD. Isn't it true that marihuana and LSD, that type of synthetic drug, in that field, not the narcotic field, not the synthetic narcotic field, are not considered habit forming; there is no physiological problem of withdrawal which is concomitant with the narcotics?

Mr. HUGHES. That is my understanding.

Mr. HOLIFIELD. There is a bodily resentment against withdrawal from narcotics and there isn't in the case of marihuana, LSD, and that sort of thing, as I understand it. They may want to go back to them but there isn't the bodily need for it.