

AFTERNOON SESSION

Chairman BLATNIK. The Subcommittee on Executive and Legislative Reorganization of the House Government Operations Committee will please come to order. We are resuming our hearings on Reorganization Plan No. 1 of 1968 and House Resolution 1101, which is the resolution of disapproval.

We have had to make another change again, for the fifth time, Mr. Giordano. Dr. Barton, we appreciate your standing by and being available to us and I understand you do have a meeting in Chicago this evening and have to leave this afternoon. So we will have Dr. Barton as our first witness this afternoon.

Dr. Barton is the medical director of the American Psychiatric Association. I believe you have a position paper to read on behalf of the Association.

A copy of the Advisory Position Statement of the American Psychiatric Association concerning President Johnson's proposal for the creation of "a new and powerful Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs," a paper dated March 5, 1968, is available in each member's folder.

Dr. Barton, please proceed with your statement.

**STATEMENT OF DR. WALTER E. BARTON, MEDICAL DIRECTOR,
AMERICAN PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION**

Dr. BARTON. The American Psychiatric Association doesn't think it is appropriate at this time to render a categorical opinion in support of or in opposition to the proposition. Since this document was prepared early in March we have had a chance to study in detail the reorganization plan, but would still not presume to tell the Government how to organize its business. We are, after all, physicians and would state our opinion in medical terms.

The treatment of drug addiction is a medical problem. The care of addicts should be put under the aegis of medical authorities, whereas the problems of importation, regulation, and the traffic of drugs should be the continued responsibility of law enforcement agencies.

The association, on behalf of the psychiatric profession, can only express strong reservations about transferring the administration of the health and medical aspects of the problem from the agency that has traditionally administered them to an agency which is primarily concerned with law enforcement. There is a strong implication in the President's proposal that its primary intent is punitive. This move, he says, will eliminate the division of responsibility which has hampered our response to a national menace, and with this action America will serve notice to the pusher and the peddler that their criminal acts must stop. The American Psychiatric Association does indeed acknowledge the use and abuse of addictive and dangerous drugs has become a national menace. It will fully support any tightening of the national effort to bring to book those criminals who further the menace.

It is our view, however, that in the long run a primarily punitive approach directed to the user or addict is not the most promising answer to the problem. And that greater promise lies in the combina-