

Dr. BARTON. I would agree.

Chairman BLATNIK. In short, do you think the threat of punishment acts as a substantial deterrent in the use of marihuana?

Dr. BARTON. I do not think there is any evidence it does act as a deterrent to the one-time user or to the experimenter in high school, college, the young adult age. I do not think there is any evidence that it does deter. In fact, there is every evidence it has spread in spite of deterrents. So that is why we would emphasize the very long-range program of more effective treatment, more effective research, both in medicine and the social sciences.

Chairman BLATNIK. You stated earlier, Doctor, that you would advocate more leniency, because the use of marihuana in many instances is merely a form of protest against society and the youngsters have sort of a fling, sort of an "experimentation." You put that in a different category, then, than in the case of car theft or car stealing, where the high percentage of car thefts are undertaken by those who are under the age of 20. Suppose you have a 16-year-old boy steal a car. Do you apply the same type of thinking in that case, or do you feel that stealing a car in that instance, a youngster at the age 16 or 17, should pretty well have a clear notion of what is right or wrong, that that is someone else's property, and taking it unlawfully without permission is unlawful, that he has a clear understanding of the law and what is right or wrong in that case. Where in the use of marihuana, he is experimenting merely with himself and not doing any harm to anyone else or anyone else's property. I don't know if I asked a question or made a speech combined.

Dr. BARTON. Being a physician, I shouldn't make a statement in the legal area. But I believe the law does recognize the difference there in taking a car without authority, and does not make it a criminal misdemeanor. I think there is a difference. And we do make a difference in our custom of what happens to a youngster who takes a car.

Chairman BLATNIK. I have no further questions. Thank you very much, Doctor. Thank you for staying with us for this full day and making yourself available.

We call now the Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Treasury (for Enforcement), Mr. James P. Hendrick.

We apologize to you for keeping you for such a long time. We admire and appreciate your patience in accommodating us. Perhaps now that you have heard a lot of the questioning, you will be able to cover areas we are interested in and it will save both of us time.

We have been novices in this whole operation, and you have been patient with us as we have been learning. What apparently we thought was a simple matter, like enforcing a speed zone, 35 or 40 or 55 miles an hour, we find this is a most complex and interwoven operation between the weaknesses of human behavior as well as the criminal element.

I distinguish between the two. We should enforce the law where it should be enforced, and at the same time to apply the medical aspects where they ought to be applied. So, Mr. Secretary, you have a prepared statement. Will you proceed to read it, if you wish, and we will then proceed with interrogation.