

I am glad to see that the President is recommending several courses of action to deal with the problem of narcotics and drug abuse and the illicit traffic in these drugs on a broad front and to fit these activities into an overall war against crime and lawlessness. The reorganization plan currently before you is one of those proposals.

The idea of creating a single agency within the Justice Department to enforce the laws against illicit traffic in narcotics and other dangerous drugs is not a completely new one. As long ago as 1949 the first Hoover Commission recommended that the Bureau of Narcotics be transferred to the Justice Department. And in 1963 President Kennedy's Advisory Commission on Narcotics and Drug Abuse recommended that the enforcement responsibilities of both the Narcotics Bureau and those of FDA relating to illicit traffic in dangerous drugs be transferred to Justice.

The idea has much appeal from the standpoint of logic and it seems to offer the possibility of increased efficiency and economy of operation. During our subcommittee's hearings it was disclosed that in perhaps as many as 90 percent of the cases in which persons are apprehended by one of these agencies, they also have in their possession a drug subject to control by the other agency. And although some agreements exist to promote cooperation and coordination, there is no question in my mind that this organizational and jurisdictional division is uneconomical; that it makes the task of each agency more difficult; and that it is a barrier to the development of a unified effort to combat the rapidly increasing traffic in illicit drugs. Perhaps for these and other similar reasons, it does not appear that there is any serious opposition to the idea of consolidating the Bureau of Narcotics and the Bureau of Drug Abuse Control. The only opposition of which I am aware centers about the question of where the new agency should be located in the Federal organizational structure. The proposal in the reorganization plan to locate it in the Department of Justice appears to me to be the most logical approach. The bulk of the responsibilities of both the Narcotics Bureau and the Bureau of Drug Abuse Control are of an enforcement nature, and the Department of Justice is the chief law enforcement agency in the Federal Government. I believe that within Justice the new agency would have at its fingertips resources which neither of the existing agencies possesses and which can be obtained only with considerable effort.

Since each of the agencies would be transferred intact, I do not see why the reorganization should have a detrimental effect on either. In fact, the transfer ought to have a salutary effect on the Food and Drug Administration because it would enable the agency to concentrate its efforts on assuring the safety and effectiveness of drugs in legitimate commerce which, after all, is its primary responsibility.

I am aware of concern in some quarters that the Department of Justice has not in recent years been as diligent in its enforcement responsibilities as it might have been. And while I am also gravely concerned about the rapidly increasing crime rate and about the widespread disrespect and disregard for law and order which we have witnessed, I do not believe that this situation can be attributed in its entirety to deficiencies within the Department of Justice or to the men who have headed it. One should remember that the Justice Department also houses the Federal Bureau of Investigation which is one of the most respected law enforcement agencies in the world. At any rate, I believe it would be a mistake to make decisions about reorganization on the basis of who happens to head the affected agencies at the moment and what their political philosophy might be—especially this type of reorganization where the most effective and efficient system possible is a must. I believe that such decisions should be made on the basis of what is logical on a long-term basis and what would appear to make the greatest contribution to increased efficiency and economy during any administration. And from this point of view I would have to favor the proposed reorganization plan.

I am aware that there are some other reservations about the proposed reorganization. However, I believe such reservations are the result of misunderstandings. For example, there seems to be some concern in medical circles that a law enforcement agency will now be making decisions about which drugs will be brought under the Drug Abuse Control Act. However, the act provides for a committee of outside medical experts to consider such questions and make appropriate recommendations to the enforcement agency and this will not be changed by the reorganization.