

Similarly, there seems to be some concern that the functions of the Public Health Service relating to research on drugs capable of abuse and to the rehabilitation of narcotics addicts will now be entrusted to a law enforcement agency; I myself would oppose any such approach to that problem, but I do not interpret the reorganization plan as having this intent. If there is such concern, appropriate witnesses from the executive branch can, it seems to me, and should clarify the matter.

There also seems to be some concern that FDA's field inspectors are going to be transferred to the proposed new agency. However, I think it should be pointed out that the product accountability inspections under the Drug Abuse Control Act and the regular manufacturing control inspections under the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act are conducted by different personnel, and it is only the former group which I'm told will be transferred.

Mr. Chairman, I am certain that there are other potential problems relating to the proposed reorganization which may cause legitimate concern among affected parties. However, it is my hope that these can be identified and adequately dealt with through the hearings which you are now conducting.

Again, I appreciate the opportunity to come here and share my thoughts with you and the other members. If there are any questions, I will be glad to answer them to the best of my ability.

STATEMENT OF HON. SEYMOUR HALPERN, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE
STATE OF NEW YORK

I would like to express my appreciation to Chairman Blatnik and the distinguished members of his Subcommittee on Executive and Legislative Reorganization for allowing me to present my views on the President's proposed reorganization, which would unite the drive against drug abuses under the auspices of a new Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs.

There is no question but that a concerted effort must be made to expand and improve our actions to curb the dangerous drug abuses that are plaguing our Nation, and particularly our young people. The image of youngsters being dragged into the morass of drug addiction, with its accompanying manifestations of lawlessness and despair, is horrifying enough. More distasteful yet, however, is the realization that this toll of human desperation is, to those involved in organized crime, merely a byproduct of an extremely profitable commercial enterprise.

It seems quite clear that an improvement in the efficiency with which we combat the narcotics racket would be obtained by combining the efforts of the present Narcotics Bureau and the Bureau of Drug Abuse Control. The major question at issue is to which Federal agency the jurisdiction over these activities should fall. I firmly believe that, given the generally recognized nature of the perpetrators of these abuses, the Justice Department would indeed be best equipped to take on the responsibilities of the newly combined Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs.

A fight against the illicit drug problem is largely a fight against organized crime, and the Justice Department, with established facilities to conduct this fight, is in the best position to make the greatest progress on this front. Whereas the Treasury Department and the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare may well be better placed to handle certain facets of the drug problem, the root of the issue is big-time crime, and no actions to attack peripheral facets of the problem can succeed unless the activities of organized crime are not recognized and combatted as part of the same effort.

Thus, Mr. Chairman, I lend my strong support to the proposed plan to establish a Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs under the auspices of the Justice Department.

STATEMENT OF HON. SILVIO O. CONTE, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS
FROM THE STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS

I would like to thank Chairman Blatnik and the other distinguished members of the Subcommittee on Executive and Legislative Reorganization for affording me this opportunity to testify on the President's proposed reorganization to create a new Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs.