

people that are speaking out that there is nothing wrong with it, that it is nothing worse than alcohol. This started the increase of the marihuana problem.

Mr. REUSS. I am not suggesting there is nothing wrong with it. I am simply wondering about your views on the relative psychological effects of marihuana, alcohol and nicotine.

Mr. GIORDANO. I will speak to marihuana. As I say, there have been many studies on marihuana. Most of them have been from outside the United States. Marihuana was legal, that is it could be used legally, in 1937—in medicine. In 1937, when the marihuana tax went into effect, which controlled marihuana, the same as the Harrison Act controls narcotic drugs, the medical profession made a decision at that time that the benefits of marihuana in medicine were so minimal that we were going to abandon it because of the dangers of the drug, and it doesn't do any good in medicine.

So, in that period of time until now, there hasn't been research in the United States that will satisfy the people in the United States. They want U.S. research. So this statement about more research is good.

But there have been many studies around the world that have shown the dangers of marihuana, how it leads to psychotic episodes.

In Israel there was a study on mice, which indicated it reduces the fertility rate in mice.

You heard Dr. Barton the other day say it is almost like LSD because there is a recurrence of the episode without using the drug.

Mr. REUSS. What I wanted was the basis of your belief that marihuana has more deleterious effects than alcohol or nicotine. What is that basis? You have shown what marihuana does.

Mr. GIORDANO. I think it is unfortunate that it has to keep coming back to a comparison between alcohol and nicotine or something else.

I think people agree alcohol is a dangerous substance. I would like to keep it in the proper perspective, what they have to say about marihuana and its dangers.

I would like to provide the committee a report by some of our top experts in the World Health Organization, where they describe the various alcohol dependencies, drug dependency, morphine-type drug dependency, cannabis type, marihuana, drug, alcohol type, which explains the difference between them.

Mr. REUSS. May we have that? That would be very helpful.

Mr. GIORDANO. Yes. Alcohol and marihuana pharmacologically are different type substances. They have different actions. So you can't compare things unless there is a similarity to them.

One is a sedative. The other is a stimulant.

Mr. REUSS. I gather the World Health study, which you have handed me, makes that comparison.

Mr. GIORDANO. It tells exactly what they are, what the reactions and what the dangers are of the substances, and I think it would be very helpful to the committee.

Mr. REUSS. I will ask the chairman for unanimous consent that there be received for the record the two documents as presented by Mr. Giordano.

Chairman BLATNIK. Without objection, it is so ordered.