

Marijuana Use . . .

(Continued from Page 2)

Leis and Weiss) that "marijuana is a harmful and dangerous drug" and that because of its "harmful and dangerous nature and effects. . . the statutory prohibition of its possession, sale and, thereby its use does not constitute a legislative interference with any fundamental right of a citizen." In other words, the prohibition of the possession, use and sale of marijuana does not abridge the inherent rights of a citizen.

Although a one time experimental user or casual user might (notice the "might") take pot without apparent harm, a continual user develops psychological dependence which is detrimental, Edward R. Bloomquist, M.D. indicates in CALIFORNIA MEDICINE, May 1967 (page 352).

Jules Saltmen, consultant in education materials for the Public Affairs Committee, and well known writer on medical and health subjects advises that a musician's excellence declines when influenced by marijuana and that many times the kind of individuals who use marijuana will take heroin for greater kicks. (Phamplet, WHAT WE CAN DO ABOUT DRUG ABUSE, 1967; Public Affairs Pamphlets, 381 Park Avenue South, New York City, 10016.)

"Psychosis may develop with extended abuse of amphetamines and hallucinogens, including marijuana. Chronic abuse of drugs or drug dependence almost always is characterized by preoccupation with the drug experience and by neglect of personal and social responsibilities. Crimes may be committed to secure funds to pay for drugs—especially by narcotic addicts." (Summary on the Use and Abuse of Drugs prepared by American Medical Association, 1968: from TREASURE STATE HEALTH, State Department of Health, Helena, Montana.)

Donald Louria, M.D., Associate Professor of Medicine at Cornell University Medical College, Associate Physician at Bellevue Hospital, and Chairman of the Narcotics Subcommittee of the New York City Medical Society, and Chairman of the New York State Council on Drug Addiction, is a man with knowledge of marijuana. In his book NIGHTMARE DRUGS he warns against marijuana, stating that, ". . . adverse manifestations include striking anxiety, hysteria, and even acute psychotic episodes. Instead of becoming euphoric, the person may become paranoid. Chronic use apparently increases mental instability. In India and North Africa, heavy chronic use of certain forms of marijuana has been clearly associated with insanity." He classifies marijuana as a hallucinogen and says, "The feeling of power, the distortions of perception, time and space make the marijuana user accident-prone. The automobile accident rate (in the United States from alcohol abuse) is high enough without the added danger of large numbers of persons driving under the influence of marijuana." (1966)

". . . marijuana is no longer considered a medically useful drug and has been removed from most pharmacopoeias. Currently the sole use of marijuana in this country is to induce a state of intoxication." (H. David Archibald, M.S.W., Executive Director, Addiction Research Foundation of Ontario, Canada.)

In their book DRUG ABUSE, a source book and guide for teachers, (1967), Angela Kitzinger, Professor of Health Education, San Diego State College, and Patricia J. Hill, Consultant in School Health Education, California State Department of Education, write: "Marihuana, like alcohol, acts almost entirely upon the nervous system, affecting motor control, perception, and judgment and releasing inhibitions which normally stand guard over behavior. Marihuana ordinarily produces an initial stimulation, during which the smoker becomes emotionally unstable, exhilarated, talkative, and giggly. . . To the marihuana smoker time and space are distorted; sights and sounds are exaggerated. He becomes intoxicated and he may walk unsteadily, see fuzzily, and act stupidly. He is liable to be highly suggestible; he is apt to experience a false sense of courage which may induce irresponsible and dangerous behavior." (1967)

"You will hear it said that some commonly abused drugs are not habit-forming. That depends on what you mean by 'habit-forming'. It is true that not all drugs lead to physical dependence, but all abused drugs lead to emotional dependence. And for the maladjusted or immature, emotional dependence can be a severe problem.

"At what point do you lose control? No one knows. But the worst mistake is to assume you can stop once you start. There is probably not one drug abuser alive—or dead—who didn't say, 'I won't get hooked. It can't happen to me.' It can—and it did." (DRUG ABUSE, THE EMPTY LIFE; Smith, Kline & French Laboratories, Philadelphia, Pa., 1965.) (copyrighted, Reprinted by permission)

Dr. Robert William Baird who operates a drug clinic in New York believes that marijuana does not help dieting; that a heroin addict seldom starts on heroin first; that 95 percent of the heroin addicts started on marijuana; that marijuana smokers are unstable emotionally; that the unpredictability of marijuana makes it more dangerous than alcohol; that marijuana is addictive, and that "pseudo intellectuals" attract youth to marijuana. (See page 134, COSMOPOLITAN, September 1968).

(CONCLUSION: Dangers of marijuana.)

Sen. for Lower Fire Insurance

U.S. Senator Mike Gravel announced recently that he will join Senator Joseph M. Montoya (D-N.M.) in co-sponsoring a bill to provide better fire protection and lower fire insurance rates for citizens living in rural areas.

The bill, titled the Cooperative Rural Fire Protection Act, provides for technical assistance, training, and equipment for fire control forces in rural areas which currently have either limited or no protection.

"This legislation will be of particular value to Alaska," the Senator said, "because it will provide vital assistance to communities of 5,500 or less persons as well as to people living outside any limits of incorporation."

The federal government would provide 75% of the cost and the States would pay the other 25%.

Other benefits to be provided by the bill include assistance in the purchase of fire insurance which is currently prohibitively expensive in many rural areas.

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