

LDIR#031

DRUGS 1972

C.R. LEWIS

ALASKA DRUG ABUSE PROGRAMS

The actual extent of the drug problem in the State can only be estimated. Up to date, little has been done to determine the extent of drug use in Alaska. One recent effort to do so, is a report that is being compiled by the Department of Health and Social Services. Some of the questions that they covered in their report were as follows:

- a. What is the current and expected nature and extent of the problem?
- b. What is being done now in Alaska, by whom, to treat the problem?
- c. Exactly where should the State spend how much money? What Federal money is available? To what extent should we combine Alcoholism and Drug programs?
- d. What new or changed legislation seems necessary?

As no reliable statistics are presently available, they could only develop the following assumptions:

The use and abuse of the spectrum of psychoactive drugs is increasing in Alaska, spreading from the urban areas into the bush, although we are about five years behind the metropolitan lower 48 in per capita usage. Marijuana is readily available to about 75% of Alaskans over the age of 14, and at least occasionally available to about 90%.

An interesting correlation was made between the increased use of hard drugs when the supply of marijuana was low; for example in June, 1971, Anchorage experienced a sudden marijuana shortage, and the rate of heroin use increased appreciably. Drugs are being introduced to Alaska by summer visitors, students returning from college, professional pushers, high school students returning home

DRUG HEARING - FAIRBANKS

SENATOR LEWIS: The purpose of this is legislation introduced in Alaska and report to the legislature this coming session. We don't have quite all the people here but, we will begin with testimony by Dr. Strattsma so doctor, if you will proceed we will get you on tape. If you have a written presentation, we would like you to leave it with us.

DR. STRAATSMA: Primarily, I do have a written presentation. I want to excerpt from that a letter I had written to the legislature itself - meeting in Anchorage - earlier this month. I am not sure this letter and letters like it were actually read at that meeting - the letter I am about to read is one written to that subcommittee.

In response to recent comments on marijuana legalization made by Doctor J. Ray Longdon on local Fairbanks radio and television, the following personal opinion is offered.

Having been Chairman of the Drug Abuse and Narcotic Education Board in Fairbanks for the past two years (Doctor Raymond Evans has also been associated with the Board and may have written you concerning his opinion), I have accumulated a personal grudge against marijuana. This grudge is based on facts that I have had opportunity to become familiar with during the course of countless articles I have read and during conversations I have held with people who have run half-way houses, detoxification centers, and those who have seen the results of abusive use of marijuana personally.

I frankly feel with practically 100% accuracy that marijuana is nothing but harmful to the human being. I have seen no concrete evidence that it has ever been physically or mentally beneficial to any individual, nor has it ever been shown to be conducive to a productive society. I do not admire people who meditate for a living, and I am not envious of the Indian-Hindu ascetic who is capable of lying down on a cactus plant without experiencing pain.

Sidney Cohen, recent Director of the Division of Narcotics Addiction and Drug Abuse of the National Institute of Health, states that currently only a template of knowledge concerning marijuana has been formed. Soon the National Institute of Mental Health will have enough information available to determine more exactly the "risk factor", and will make recommendations to the public accordingly. Countless Federal grants to this end are currently in use by this institution and others.

I am deeply concerned with the possibility that legalization of marijuana being proposed by physicians may be interpreted by the public as meaning that marijuana is healthful. It is my deep personal conviction that a

TESTIMONY PRESENTED BY PROFESSOR SARKIS ATAMIAN

on November 22, 1971

TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, ALASKA

chaired by

SENATOR C. R. LEWIS

Alaska State Senate

COMMITTEES:

LABOR-MANAGEMENT (CHAIRMAN)

FINANCE (VICE CHAIRMAN)



POUCH V
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801

1922 LOGAN STREET
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99504

SENATOR C. R. LEWIS

May 9, 1972

Senator Robert H. Ziegler, Sr.
Chairman, Legislative Council
Pouch V, State Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Subject: Report to the Legislative Council by
the Subcommittee on Drug Abuse

Dear Senator Ziegler:

You will find attached the report by the Subcommittee on
Drug Abuse in Alaska.

This study and the resulting report was made without the
benefit of a professional and scientific group originally
contemplated in SCS, SSHCR 21. It represents a great many
hours of research and perusal of available material and
personal interviews with law enforcement officers, judges,
attorneys, educators, parents, students, counselors, and
others whose occupation and experience was considered
relevant to the problem.

A majority of the Committee believes that this study
represents a fair appraisal of the particular portion of
the drug scene which is presently being urged upon the
Alaska legislature, that is the legalization or non-legaliza-
tion of marihuana...

The committee also believes that the recommendations which
conclude the study will, if implemented, be a major step in
attacking the total drug problem in Alaska. Interdiction
of drug supply attacks all drug traffic, from marihuana to
heroin, and is clearly within legislative authority and
responsibility.

The subjects of education and treatment can and should be
taken up under another study.

Senator Lewis has asked for "written opinion" on the drug question in Alaska. The Legislative Council, of which Mr. Lewis is a member, has been charged by the Alaska Legislature to "contract with a nationally recognized scientific consulting firm to assimilate and evaluate available information relating to 'drug abuse' with the purpose of making recommendations to the Seventh Legislature, Second Session"

It seems appropriate to ask if opinions gathered from many sources are substantial data to warrant a contract with a consulting firm for evaluation. Let me refer to a commission established by the Congress of the United States in reference to the same type project. The National Commission on Marijuana and Drug Abuse is to report to Congress and the President on Marijuana in March 1972, and on Drug Abuse in 1973. To provide adequate information, the Commission has requested a number of agencies to survey the extent of drug use. They have sent out several page questionnaires to their agency constituents.

The essence of this statement is that a grass roots survey is needed to obtain viable information regarding "drug abuse." At this time the amount of available information is negligible. Of course, most people have opinions but limited numbers of opinions do not provide enough credence on which to build laws. Possibly the contracting of a nationally recognized consulting firm should be done with the idea of building a survey instrument and making

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

September 15, 1971

MEMO FROM DON:

VIETNAM - PART II

There is nobody in Vietnam who thinks the American military can solve the heroin dilemma there short of sending the troops home.

Heroin is too available, too cheap. There is no way to stem the supply while the lucrative American market is there. There is something about the American G.I. in Vietnam, bored, turned-off, sometimes frightened, feeling unappreciated, that makes him a prime candidate for heroin pushers.

There are also amongst his buddies hardened users of heroin, 16,000 to 20,000 scattered throughout the forces. It has been proven that addicts breed addicts. As one psychiatrist explained to me, like the unloved child who steals candy from the drug store only to give it all away, the heroin addict likes to have extra heroin in his pocket for friends as yet uninitiated.

* * * * *

G.I. heroin users are encouraged to turn themselves in to their chaplains or commanding officers. There is no punishment. Instead, they are assigned to one of several clinics where withdrawal (drying out) is undertaken.

To lessen the pain of withdrawal, tranquilizers and sedatives are administered. There is some counseling by medics and former heroin users. They are told that this is their only chance to straighten up, that they will be sent back to their units after this brief treatment, but if they are caught again, out of the army they go and back to the United States with a "less than honorable discharge".

Back in the United States they will be eligible for whatever rehabilitation programs the Veterans Administration may develop.

* * * * *

The military in Vietnam is also making a real effort to determine who is using heroin, recognizing that no progress can be made until the users are identified.

At the present time all G.I.s going on rest and recreation vacations or preparing to go home to the United States are given individual tests

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

October 10, 1971

MEMO FROM DON:

I will describe only briefly the drug problem in Iran (Persia) because its influence on the U. S. heroin epidemic is insignificant.

Like the U. S. Iran is a "victim country" in that heroin and opium are smuggled in for consumption by the local addict population. (Iran and the U. S. share the dubious distinction of being the world's leaders in the use of heroin and opium.)

200,000 to 300,000 pounds of opium are smuggled yearly into Iran from Turkey and Afghanistan. All of this goes to the Iranian addict population, consisting of 50,000 heroin addicts and 500,000 opium addicts.

But this does not mean that next month or next year the same smugglers will not also discover the lucrative American market. Our government must cooperate with Iran in efforts to destroy all world illegal drug traffic.

Iran has thousands of miles of desert border with Turkey and Afghanistan. Every 20 miles a small unmechanized Iranian patrol tries futilely to guard against heavily armed gangs of smugglers. The Iranians desperately need helicopters and have asked the United States Army to sell them five surplus helicopters about to be returned from Teheran to the U. S. So far the U. S. Army has refused the offer of \$100,000 each, insisting on what I consider an unrealistic price of \$200,000 each, 2/3 the original cost. I agreed to make every effort to help Iran buy the aircraft at a more acceptable price upon my return to the United States.

NOTE:

As this memo is printed in Washington, D. C., Secretary of Defense Laird, after lengthy negotiations with Iran and with me, has advised me that two helicopters will be sold to Iran at \$180,000 and \$190,000 each, the remaining three to be sold in June, 1972 if price agreement is reached. I am pleased that two helicopters will immediately be put into use against the drug traffic but I will continue to urge a successful conclusion of the entire purchase.

LONDON:

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

MEMO FROM DON:

November 23, 1971

HEROIN - U.S.A.

I must ask you to be understanding with my problem in writing this memo. It should be two thousand pages instead of two. If it offers no pat solutions, perhaps it is because there are only arduous and complicated solutions, challenging the decency, the intelligence and the greatness of the American people.

* * * * *

We must face up to a rapidly growing heroin crisis in the United States. How big is it?

- Nobody knows, somewhere between 250,000 and 500,000 hard-core heroin addicts whose "habits" cost them an average of \$30 per day. Particularly hard hit are the minorities and the young.
- Cost to U. S. society in terms of property stolen by addicts may be as high as \$8 billion a year.
- Despite increased seizures here and abroad, heroin flow into the U. S. remains at about 6,000 pounds per year.

* * * * *

Why do we have this epidemic? Again nobody really knows, but there are hints, all having to do with the manifold social and personal problems that seem to make many Americans vulnerable to drug use. Drug use breeds on certain forms of human misery -- lack of communication, boredom, racial discrimination, poverty and lack of purpose in life to list but a few. Unless we learn to cope with these problems, we deal only with the symptoms.

- Drug abuse per se is the symptom or physical manifestation of much deeper human problems. The first and essential step is to begin to identify the underlying causes. Here is where each of us can help, in making our society responsive to the alienated, the insecure and the lonely. Instead of the relief of drugs, we must offer goals of opportunity and achievement.

* * * * *

In the meantime the symptoms must be treated. Heroin addicts need medical rehabilitation. Society needs protection from the crimes addicts commit to support their habits. The illegal traffic must be curbed. What is being done?

- Turkey's decision to halt opium production is helpful, but similar agreements must be reached in other countries, especially in S. E.

Canadian Commission Would Legalize the Possession of Marijuana

By WILLIAM BORDERS

Special to The New York Times

MONTREAL, May 20—A Canadian Government commission recommended this week that the possession of marijuana be legalized but that selling it remain a crime.

Estimating that perhaps one Canadian out of 18 had at least tried marijuana or hashish, the commission concluded that "the risk of detection of simple possession is relatively slight."

"A real fear of being discovered in private use could only be developed and maintained by using the methods of a police state," the commission said in a 426-page report, concluding, after exhaustive research, that the hazards of smoking mari-

juana did not justify such methods.

The commission found little indication of physical dependence on marijuana or hashish, or of "the craving and urgency" associated with stronger drugs and with alcohol and tobacco.

But it did say that Canada should retain "a social policy designed to discourage the use" of marijuana and hashish as much as possible, particularly among children.

Would Reduce Penalties

That is why selling the drugs, or possessing a quantity that indicates an intent to sell, should continue to be illegal but with sharply reduced penalties in the commission's view. The five-member panel ap-

pointed three years ago by the Canadian Cabinet, plans to make another report later this year covering heroin and other harder drugs.

Putting these recommendations on marijuana before the House of Commons in Ottawa this week, Health and Welfare Minister John Munro carefully avoided endorsing them. Any legislative future for them, especially in what is likely to be an election year, is considered quite uncertain at best.

In the United States last March, a Federal commission recommended similar changes in the law, including the legalization of private possession of marijuana. But President Nixon, who had appointed the majority of that panel, has made

it clear that, although he thinks some existing penalties for possession are too harsh, he wants marijuana to remain illegal.

The Canadian commission was headed by Gerald Ledain, the dean of Osgood Hall Law School at York University in Toronto. The other members were a criminologist, a political scientist, a psychiatrist and a social worker.

Sharp Rise Is Found

In the research that preceded its conclusions, the commission reported that 10 years ago the use of marijuana and hashish was not nearly so common here as in the United States, but that there had been "a rapid and very sharp increase in Canada within the past five years."

Sureys the commission took indicate that only 79,000 Canadians had begun using one of the two drugs by 1966, but that by last year the comparable figure was at least 1.3 million.

Studying court records, the commission found that convictions for possession of marijuana or hashish were increasing, but that smaller and smaller percentages of the people convicted were being given jail sentences.

Under present Canadian law, possession of marijuana can bring a maximum sentence of seven years.

**SUMMER IS FOR KIDS.
HELP THE FRESH AIR FUND.**

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA

Senator Lewis has asked for "written opinion" on the drug question in Alaska. The Legislative Council, of which Mr. Lewis is a member, has been charged by the Alaska Legislature to "contract with a nationally recognized scientific consulting firm to assimilate and evaluate available information relating to 'drug abuse' with the purpose of making recommendations to the Seventh Legislature, Second Session"

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PLEASE REPLY BY AIRMAIL

Thought you might like to see this.

Mainichi Daily News, Monday, October 25, 1971

Drugs Would Beat US Troops In Viet, Chou Told Nasser

LONDON (UPI) — Chinese Premier Chou En-lai told the Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser that Peking wanted the United States to send more troops to Vietnam "an insurance policy" and they would be beaten by drugs, Nasser's friend and confidant Mohammed Heikal said Sunday.

In the seventh installment of a book on Nasser, serialized in the Sunday Telegraph, Heikal said Chou En-lai told Nasser of mainland China's policies in Southeast Asia during a meeting in 1965. At the time American involvement in Vietnam was increasing rapidly under former President Lyndon Johnson.

Heikal said Nasser wanted Americans to withdraw from Vietnam and allow the people there to settle their own fate. "But Nasser had a surse in store for him," Heikal wrote.

"When he and Chou dined together in Alexandria on June 1965, Chou said that he did not want Johnson to withdraw any American soldiers. On the contrary, he wanted the United States to send more and more of its young men to Vietnam," Heikal said.

He quoted Chou as saying to Nasser, "We are afraid that the American militarists may press for a nuclear attack on China and we think that the American involvement in Indochina is an insurance policy against such an attack because we shall have a lot of their boys close to our finger-tips."

Chou continued, according to Heikal, "So the more troops they send to Vietnam, the happier we shall be, for we feel that we shall have them in our hands, we can have their blood."

Heikal said if you (Nasser) want to help the Vietnamese you should encourage the Americans to send more and more soldiers

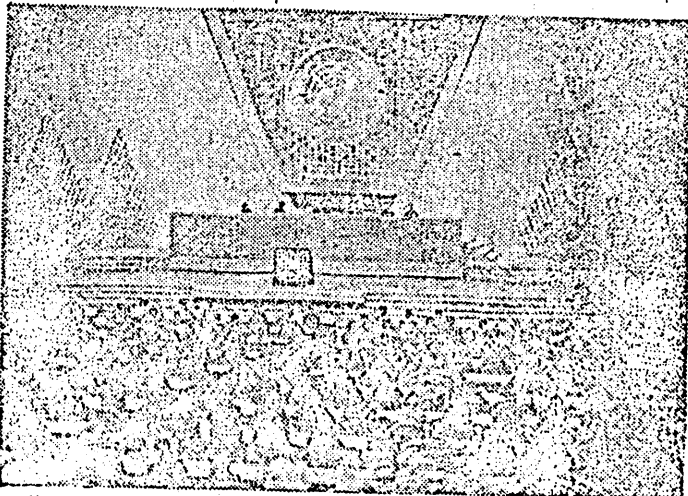
into Vietnam."

Heikal said Chou told Nasser the Chinese were "planting the best kinds of opium especially for the American soldiers in Vietnam."

"Do you remember," Heikal said Chou asked Nasser, "when the West imposed opium on us?"

"They fought us with opium," Heikal quoted Chou. "And we are going to fight them with their own weapons. We are going to use their own methods against them. We want them to have a big army in Vietnam which will be hostage to us and we want to demoralize them. The effect which this demoralization is going to have on the United States will be far greater than anyone realizes."

800 Join Mock UNGA Session



Scene at the general assembly of the Mock United Nations session. Pretty neat huh

KYOTO—The 12th session of the Mock United Nations General Assembly was held on the first floor of Kyoto International Conference Hall Sunday from 1.30 p.m.

4th committee—Problems of environmental education.

About 800 students participated in the session sponsored by the Kyoto Federation of College E.S.S.s, Kyoto Municipal Government, Kyoto Rotary Club, Kyoto Chapter of the U.N. Association of Japan and Kyoto Unesco Association and supported by the Kyoto American Cultural Center, Japan International Students Union, the Mainichi Daily News and the Kyoto Shimbun.

At the general assembly, agenda items were 1) Pollution problems and problems of natural resources; 2) Problems of environmental pollution; and 3) Problems of environmental education.

At the same time, subcommittees met in four rooms on the sixth floor of the hall for one hour from 2.30 p.m.

The committees' discussion items were as follows: 1st committee—Problems of pollution, natural resources, and environmental education; 2nd committee—Problems of natural resources, development of new techniques, and organizations relevant to natural resources; 3rd committee—Problems of waste in agricultural activities, in industrial activities and in consumption activities and pollution by radioactive materials.

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