

Nov. 14 -- Called to Bee for statewide exposure

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WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 14 -- Congressman Bob Dole (R-Kans.) today urged the top Food and Drug Administration official to review an alleged statement to students that marijuana is no more dangerous than alcohol.

Dole spoke at the opening session of a Government Operations subcommittee inquiry. Dole, a member of the Committee, and two other members of Congress, recently requested the hearing to investigate remarks attributed to FDA Director Dr. James L. Goddard.

Dr. Goddard is reported to have told a group of Minnesota students that marijuana is no more dangerous than alcohol and that penalties for possession of the drug should be removed.

"The effect of Dr. Goddard's statements could result in increased use of the drug," said Dole. "This is particularly true," he added, "when one is dealing with so dangerous a substance as addicting or habituating drugs and with so impressionable an audience as young people."

Pointing out marijuana is a dangerous drug, Congressman Dole said inconclusive research does not show the degree of danger. "However," he said, "marijuana may be far more dangerous than LSD or thalidomide."

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"I call upon Dr. Goddard to carefully review his statements and the consequences that they may have upon the youth of our nation," Dole said. "If he recognizes the potential dangers," the Congressman added, "I urge him to repudiate them for the welfare of the country."