

109 Cannon House Office Building

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WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 15 -- Congressman Bob Dole (R-Kans) today praised a statement by the Commissioner of Narcotics that the Congress should consider penalties for illegal use and possession of LSD, barbituates, amphetamines and other drugs.

Referring to testimony given today by Narcotics Commissioner Henry L. Giordano before the House Intergovernmental Relations Subcommittee, Dole said, "The Commissioner made it clear, and I share his views that punishment for illegal possession of these dangerous drugs deters use."

The Congressman and the Commissioner spoke during the second day of the subcommittee hearing called by Dole and two other members of Congress to investigate remarks attributed to Food and Drug Administration Director Dr. James L. Goddard.

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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 relaxed.

"Agreeing with the Narcotics Commissioner's ~~statement~~ statement, Dole said, "Those who criticize current penalties for illegal possession of marijuana are either not fully informed or they have a strong desire to legalize possession of this dangerous drug."

Dole added, "Concern for public safety, health and welfare requires that restrictions are needed to prevent persons from having unauthorized possession of marijuana."

"Based on the two-day hearing," the Congressman said, "I plan to introduce legislation providing penalties for illegal possession and use of drugs under the Drug Abuse Control Act."