

SPEECH BY

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DRUG ABUSE PROBLEMS.

I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR EXTENDING TO ME YOUR KIND INVITATION TO SPEAK TO YOU THIS EVENING. I AM PARTICULARLY PLEASED BECAUSE AS MANY OF YOU MAY KNOW, THIS IS NATIONAL CRIME PREVENTION WEEK IN THE UNITED STATES, AND THEREFORE AFFORDS ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK ON A SUBJECT THAT I BELIEVE IS DIRECTLY RELATED TO CRIMINAL ACTIVITY - THAT IS, DRUG ABUSE.

YOU KNOW, WE ARE ALL AWARE OF THE EVER INCREASING CRIME RATE HERE IN THE UNITED STATES, BUT WE SOMETIMES ARE NOT SO AWARE OF THE CAUSE AND EFFECT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THAT CRIME RATE AND THE SERIOUS PROBLEM OF DRUG ABUSE. FOR CERTAINLY THE NECESSITY TO OBTAIN DRUGS HAS PUSHED MANY OF OUR CITIZENS INTO SOME ASPECT OF CRIMINAL CONDUCT IN ORDER TO PAY THE RISING COST OF OBTAINING THE DRUGS TO WHICH THEY HAVE BECOME ADDICTED.

BUT, YOU MAY ASK, WHAT DRUGS ARE WE SPEAKING ABOUT, WHAT IS IT THAT THEY DO TO PEOPLE, AND WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP SOLVE THIS PROBLEM? .

DRUGS HAVE BEEN WITH US THROUGHOUT RECORDED HISTORY. PEOPLE IN EVERY ERA, IN EVERY GENERATION AND IN EVERY COUNTRY HAVE TURNED TO DRUGS TO REDUCE THE PAIN OF EXISTENCE OR TO PRODUCE A SPECIAL EXPERIENCE WHICH WAS OTHERWISE NOT AVAILABLE.

WHAT IS NEW IN OUR TIME IS THE GREATER AVAILABILITY OF DRUGS AND THEIR EVER-INCREASING USE BY PROGRESSIVELY YOUNGER AGE GROUPS. IN LESS THAN A DECADE, THE USE OF DRUGS FILTERED DOWN FROM ISOLATED GROUPS OF ADULTS TO COLLEGE STUDENTS, TO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND NOW TO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHILDREN. WHILE DRUGS WERE ONCE ASSOCIATED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY WITH POVERTY, DRUG USE AND DRUG ADDICTION ARE NOW ALSO FOUND AMONG THE CHILDREN OF THE WELL-TO-DO AND THE VERY RICH. WHAT WAS ONCE AN URBAN PROBLEM, LARGELY CONFINED TO THE EAST AND WEST COASTS OF THE UNITED STATES, HAS REACHED ACROSS THE COUNTRY TO THE SMALLER CITIES AND RURAL AREAS.

NORTH CAROLINA LAW NOW CLASSIFIES DRUGS INTO SIX DIFFERENT SCHEDULES OR GROUPS WHICH RANGE FROM HEROIN AND LSD TO MARIJUANA TO PEP PILLS AND BARBITUATES.

HEROIN, ONE OF THE SO-CALLED "HARD" DRUGS, IS A NARCOTIC THAT COMES FROM THE OPIUM POPPY WHICH GROWS IN SUCH COUNTRIES AS TURKEY, BURMA, CAMBODIA AND THAILAND. TAKING HEROIN MAKES A PERSON FEEL THE EFFECTS OF A DEPRESSANT IN THAT HE WILL FEEL BOTH DULL AND SLUGGISH.

LSD, ON THE OTHER HAND, THE DRUG SO MANY OF US HAVE HEARD ABOUT, - IS A POWERFUL SYNTHETIC DRUG WHICH, IN SOME INSTANCES, CAN CAUSE A PERSON TO BECOME SO COMPLETELY DAZED AND DISORIENTED THAT HE COMPLETELY LOSES TOUCH WITH REALITY.

MARIJUANA, HOWEVER, IS NEITHER A DEPRESSANT, SUCH AS HEROIN, NOR A DRUG WITH THE SAME EFFECT AS LSD. RATHER, IT POSSESSES CERTAIN ASPECTS OF BOTH IN THAT IT CAN DEPRESS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO USES IT, CAUSING HIM TO LOSE HIS INHIBITIONS IN MUCH THE SAME WAY AS ALCOHOL, OR IT CAN MAKE HIM FEEL SOMEWHAT DULL OR DAZED.

IN ADDITION TO THE PHYSICAL EFFECT THAT THE USE OF THESE DRUGS CAN HAVE UPON OUR CITIZENS, THE LAW IN THIS STATE PROVIDES CERTAIN CRIMINAL PENALTIES AS WELL FOR THOSE WHO POSSESS, MANUFACTURE, DISTRIBUTE OR DISPENSE THESE DANGEROUS DRUGS. FOR EXAMPLE, WITH REGARD TO HEROIN, OR LSD, YOU CAN BE SENTENCED UP TO FIVE YEARS IN PRISON AND BE FINED UP TO \$5,000 FOR A FIRST OFFENSE CONVICTION. A SECOND OFFENDER CAN GET UP TO TEN YEARS AND BE FINED UP TO \$10,000. A CONVICTION AFTER TWO SUCH OFFENSES CAN LEAD TO A SENTENCE RANGING ANYWHERE FROM 15 YEARS TO LIFE AND A POSSIBLE FINE UP TO \$15,000. AT THE SAME TIME I SHOULD ADD THAT AN OFFENDER CAN ALSO BE PUT ON PROBATION FOR A TERM NOT LONGER THAN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TIME TO

BE SERVED AND THE MAXIMUM SENTENCE. IN OTHER WORDS, I COULD BE SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR A YEAR AND THEN PLACED ON PAROLE WITH THE REQUIREMENT THAT I UNDERGO REHABILITATION TREATMENTS AFTER MY SENTENCE WAS SERVED.

I REMEMBER THE STORY OF WHAT HAPPENED TO A YOUNG BOY WHOM WE WILL CALL JOHN. JOHN IS A 17 YEAR OLD WHO HAD EVERYTHING: A GOOD HOME, DEVOTED PARENTS, PLENTY OF SPENDING MONEY. HE'S GOOD LOOKING WITH A GOOD MIND. JOHN NOW HAS SOMETHING ADDED TO ALL THIS: A CRIMINAL RECORD FOR THE POSSESSION AND SALE OF DRUGS.

JOHN'S REAL PROBLEM WAS THAT HE COULDN'T GET ALONG WITH HIS OWN FAMILY. HIS BROTHER WAS AN HONOR STUDENT AT AN IVY LEAGUE COLLEGE, AND JOHN FELT HE COULDN'T LIVE UP TO HIS RECORD. HIS FATHER WAS A SUCCESSFUL BUSINESSMAN WHO LOVED JOHN BUT DIDN'T HAVE MUCH TIME TO SHOW IT. HIS MOTHER BABIED HIM AND GAVE HIM HIS OWN WAY IN EVERYTHING. JOHN STARTED DOING POORLY IN SCHOOL - MAYBE HE FIGURED HE COULDN'T BEAT HIS BROTHER'S RECORD, OR MAYBE HE WAS TRYING TO GET BACK AT HIS PARENTS FOR WHAT HE CONSIDERED THEIR LACK OF UNDERSTANDING.

WHEN HE WAS 16, JOHN BEGAN TO GO "HIPPIE": HE GREW LONG HAIR, HUNG AROUND WITH A GROUP THAT USED DRUGS AND OFTEN DIDN'T EVEN COME HOME AT NIGHT. HIS PARENTS WERE UPSET, BUT DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO. THEY ARGUED AND CAJOLED

BUT JOHN WENT ON DOING "HIS OWN THING". HE SPENT MORE AND MORE TIME WITH THIS CROWD AND FINALLY DROPPED OUT OF SCHOOL COMPLETELY.

LIKE THESE FRIENDS, HE STARTED ON DRUGS: FIRST, SMOKING "GRASS" OR MARIJUANA ABOUT ONCE A WEEK, THEN GOING ON TO FREQUENT USE OF L.S.D. AND AMPHETAMINES. THE GROUP HE HUNG AROUND WITH KNEW WHERE TO GET DRUGS AND JOHN HAD PLENTY OF MONEY TO BUY THEM. TO MAKE POINTS WITH SOME OF HIS OLD FRIENDS FROM SCHOOL, HE OFFERED TO GET THEM DRUGS, STRICTLY AS A FAVOR. HE THUS BECAME A DRUG PUSHER. JOHN FINALLY MADE ONE SALE TOO MANY - TO AN UNDERCOVER AGENT OF THE STATE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION. HE WAS ARRESTED AND CHARGED WITH POSSESSION AND SALE OF L.S.D.

JOHN COULD HAVE GOTTEN UP TO FIVE YEARS IN PRISON. INSTEAD, THE COURTS CONSIDERED THAT THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME HE'D BEEN IN TROUBLE AND THAT HIS FAMILY WOULD HELP HIM REBUILD HIS LIFE. HE WAS PLACED ON PROBATION, AND WILL NOT HAVE TO GO TO PRISON AS LONG AS HE GOES TO SCHOOL REGULARLY, GOES TO A MENTAL HEALTH CLINIC TO TRY AND GET RID OF HIS PERSONAL PROBLEMS AND, GENERALLY, STAYS OUT OF TROUBLE. HOPEFULLY, JOHN HAS LEARNED THAT DRUGS DON'T SOLVE ANYTHING.

NOW, WITH REGARD TO OTHER DRUGS, CONVICTION OF POSSESSING "PEP PILLS" OR BARBITUATES - SUCH AS "GOOFBALLS", IS A MISDEMEANOR WITH A POSSIBLE PRISON SENTENCE OF UP TO TWO YEARS. A SECOND CONVICTION IS A FELONY AND WORTH UP TO

FIVE YEARS AND A POSSIBLE \$5,000 FINE.

FINALLY, POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA IS A MISDEMEANOR WHEREBY A CONVICTION CAN GET YOU UP TO SIX MONTHS AND A FINE OF UP TO \$500. HOWEVER, THE MISDEMEANOR TURNS INTO A FELONY FOR A THIRD OFFENSE.

IF, HOWEVER, YOU HAVE NOT BEEN PREVIOUSLY CONVICTED OF A DRUG OFFENSE UNDER FEDERAL LAW, THE LAWS OF NORTH CAROLINA OR ANY OTHER STATE, AND YOU PLEAD GUILTY TO POSSESSING A DRUG SUCH AS MARIJUANA OR "PEP PILLS" OR BARBITUATES, THE COURT MAY PLACE YOU ON PROBATION WITHOUT EVER FORMALLY ENTERING A JUDGMENT OF GUILT ON THE COURT RECORD. IF YOU ARE UNDER THE AGE OF 21, ALL RECORDS RELATING TO YOUR ARREST AND TRIAL MAY BE EXPUNGED OR ERASED FROM THE OFFICIAL RECORDS AFTER YOUR PROBATION PERIOD HAS BEEN SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED WITH THE RESULT THAT YOU DON'T HAVE TO REPORT THE ARREST ON ANY FUTURE RECORDS.

STILL, EVEN WITH THE KNOWLEDGE THAT THE USE OF DRUGS CAN PERMANENTLY DAMAGE THEIR BODIES, AND PERHAPS SUBJECT THEM TO IMPRISONMENT, PEOPLE SEEM TO BE TAKING DRUGS NOW MORE THAN EVER. AND THE DANGER IS ONLY BEGINNING.

FOR IT IS A FACT THAT SCIENCE PLACES US ON THE THRESHHOLD OF IMMENSE AND UNRECOGNIZED DANGERS FROM THE USE OF DRUGS. OVER THE NEXT TEN YEARS, THIS NATION'S CHEMISTS

WILL EITHER INVENT OR DISCOVER DANGEROUS NEW DRUGS THAT ARE UNKNOWN TODAY THAT WILL HAVE THE VAST POWER TO QUICKLY STIMULATE OR DEPRESS BODILY PROCESSES. THOSE WHO DOUBT THAT THERE WILL BE SUCH DRUGS FAIL TO SEE THE SWEEP OF SCIENTIFIC EXPLORATION.

AND YOUNG AMERICANS, FROM JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS THROUGH UNIVERSITY GRADUATE DEPARTMENTS, ARE THE GROWTH MARKET FOR THESE DRUGS FOR, WHETHER WE LIKE IT OR NOT, WE LIVE IN A TIME OF GREAT ANXIETY AND PROFOUND DOUBT IN WHICH YOUTH SEEKS ESCAPE FROM FRUSTRATION, BOREDOM, LACK OF PURPOSE, ANGER AND DESPAIR. DRUGS OFFER THEM SOME FORM OF ESCAPE. THUS, WE ARE CONFRONTED WITH A WHOLE NEW SET OF PREVENTION AND CONTROL PROBLEMS IN THE FIELD OF NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS.

RECOGNIZING THAT THIS IS SO, OUR WATCHWORD FOR BOTH THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE MUST BE THAT DRUGS ARE GUILTY UNTIL PROVEN INNOCENT.

WE MUST CONTINUE AND IMPROVE OUR EFFORTS TO SLOW DOWN THE IMPORTATION OF NARCOTIC DRUGS INTO THIS COUNTRY. WE HAVE RECENTLY NEGOTIATED A TREATY WITH TURKEY TO CURTAIL THE GROWTH OF THE OPIUM POPPY AND IT IS HOPED THAT THIS WILL HELP STEM THE TIDE OF DANGEROUS NARCOTICS COMING FROM EUROPE. SIMILAR TREATIES HAVE ALSO BEEN MADE WITH SUCH SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES AS THAILAND AND CAMBODIA.

WE MUST DO ALL THAT WE CAN TO STOP THE INCREASING AMOUNT OF ILLEGAL TRAFFICKING IN DRUGS. THOSE INDIVIDUALS, WHETHER THEY BE A PART OF ORGANIZED CRIME OR RATHER PROFESSIONAL CRIMINALS, MUST BE PERMANENTLY PUT OUT OF BUSINESS.

BUT NO AREA OF POLICE ACTIVITY CALLS FOR GREATER SKILL OR DISCIPLINE THAN DRUG CONTROL. OF ALL CRIMES, THE VICTIM HERE IS THE LEAST RELIABLE AND THE LEAST LIKELY TO COOPERATE. EVIDENCE IS DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN IN DRUG ABUSE CASES FOR IT TAKES MONTHS FOR NARCOTIC AGENTS TO GAIN CONFIDENCE OF INFORMERS AND OBTAIN EVIDENCE OF SOURCES. SURELY DRUG CONTROL IS A MOST DANGEROUS AND DIFFICULT AREA OF CRIMINAL LAW ENFORCEMENT.

IN OUR OWN DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, WE HAVE HAD TO TRIPLE THE NUMBER OF SBI AGENTS DURING THE LAST FOUR YEARS TO ENABLE US TO ACTIVELY SEEK DRUG PUSHERS AND DEALERS. AND WE HAVE HAD SOME SUCCESS FOR THE NUMBER OF DRUG ARRESTS BY THE SBI HAS INCREASED APPROXIMATELY 500 PERCENT DURING THIS SAME PERIOD OF TIME.

STILL, THE INVESTIGATIONS OF ILLEGAL DRUGS HAS SIMPLY BEEN OVERWHELMING FOR DRUG INVESTIGATIONS ARE BECOMING MORE TIME-CONSUMING, MORE COMPLICATED AND MORE COSTLY. WHERE DEALS ONCE INVOLVED \$10.00 TO \$25.00, THEY



OFTEN GO NOW AT SEVERAL HUNDRED OR EVEN THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS. AS A RESULT, ONLY LAST FRIDAY, WE ASKED THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR TEN NEW DRUG AGENTS IN EACH OF THE NEXT TWO YEARS.

BUT WHILE WE MAY PROVIDE SOME MARGIN OF CONTROL, LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES ALONE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO CURE THE PROBLEM. FOR DRUG ADDICTION IS NOT ONLY A LAW ENFORCEMENT PROBLEM BUT IS ALSO A SOCIAL PROBLEM OF PROFOUND IMPLICATION CALLING ON OUR GREATEST MEDICAL AND SOCIOLOGICAL SKILLS.

DRUG ADDICTION IS AN ILLNESS FOR WHICH ONLY MEDICAL SCIENCE CAN PROVIDE A CURE WHICH IN TURN WOULD ENABLE US TO REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF CRIME. FOR EXAMPLE, THOUSANDS OF POOR PEOPLE PAY AS MUCH AS \$25.00 A DAY FOR NARCOTICS - MONEY THEY CAN ONLY RAISE BY CRIMINAL ACTS. THOUGH USUALLY NONVIOLENT, ADDICTS SEEKING WAYS TO SUPPORT \$25.00 AND \$50.00 A DAY HABITS ACCOUNT FOR A SUBSTANTIAL PART OF ALL SERIOUS PROPERTY CRIMES IN SUCH PLACES AS NEW YORK CITY.

IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC STATES, STATISTICS OF THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION SHOWED THAT PROPERTY CRIMES INCREASED BY ALMOST SEVEN PERCENT FROM 1970 TO 1971 AND LARCENY OFFENSES BY ALMOST NINE PERCENT - INCREASES WHICH IT IS FELT ARE DIRECTLY RELATED TO INCREASED DRUG ABUSE.

THUS, IT SHOULD BE CLEAR THAT THE PROBLEM OF DRUG ABUSE, IN SOME WAY, TOUCHES ALMOST EVERYONE OF US TODAY.

WE IN NORTH CAROLINA NOW HAVE A LAW THAT REQUIRES THE REGISTRATION OF ALL WHOLESALERS, MANUFACTURERS, DISTRIBUTORS, AND RESEARCHERS OF DRUGS.

WE HAVE A NORTH CAROLINA DRUG AUTHORITY WHICH, AMONG OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES, LICENSES ALL "RAP" HOUSES ACROSS THE STATE TO MAKE SURE THAT THESE HOUSES MEET CERTAIN NECESSARY STANDARDS.

WE HAVE NEW TREATMENT PROGRAMS BEING INITIATED IN MANY OF OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES THROUGH OUR MENTAL HEALTH CENTERS. BUT TREATMENT CENTERS TAKE MONEY AND A LOT OF IT.

THE DRUG PROBLEM IS A PEOPLE PROBLEM AND THEREFORE ITS SOLUTION DEMANDS THAT ALL OF US MUST GET INVOLVED IN A SIGNIFICANT WAY WHETHER IT BE IN SUPPORT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT, LOCAL COMMUNITY ACTION OR BY SUCCESSFULLY MEETING OUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS PARENTS.

FINALLY, WE MUST PROVIDE SUFFICIENT EDUCATION FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE. COURSES IN THE DANGER OF DRUGS SHOULD BE INTEGRATED INTO SCHOOL CURRICULA WITH STRONG SUPPORTING EVIDENCE. IN A SOCIETY SATURATED WITH PHARMACIES AND DRUGSTORES, WHERE MILLIONS REGULARLY TAKE MEDICATION AND THE USE OF DANGEROUS DRUGS IS INCREASING, CAN ANYONE SAY

IT IS MORE IMPORTANT FOR PEOPLE TO STUDY THE FRANCO-PRUSSIAN WAR THAN TO KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT THE BODY AND ITS CHEMISTRY. H. G. WELLS OBSERVED IN 1920 THAT CIVILIZATION IS IN A RACE BETWEEN EDUCATION AND CATASTROPHE. THAT DISASTER CAN RESULT FROM THE FAILURE TO EDUCATE ON DRUG ABUSE.

SUCH EDUCATION CAN BE VITAL TO OUR OWN SECURITY AND WELL BEING FOR IT MAY WELL BE THE MOST PROFITABLE INVESTMENT WE CAN MAKE.

IN SHORT, IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO DO WHATEVER NEEDS TO BE DONE.