

WASHINGTON REPORT

Congressman Edwin D. Eshleman

16th District—Pennsylvania



I am convinced that the use of the drug marijuana leads directly to the use of the highly addictive drug heroin. Some evidence out of Washington, D. C. bears me out on that contention. A succession of ex-addicts, reformers of addicts and narcotics law enforcers who appeared recently before the Senate District Committee presented a series of disturbing facts about drugs in the Nation's Capital that should be digested by parents and young people alike.

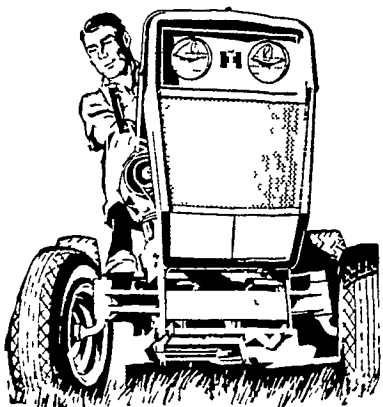
For some time the usage of drugs in Washington has been spreading. Too little was done at the outset of the problem to halt the city's traffic in narcotics. Perhaps officials were lulled into complacency with statements to the effect, "The kids are smoking a little marijuana, but everyone knows that marijuana is not particularly harmful." However, somewhere along the line the situation got completely out of hand. Today, Washington is not faced with a marijuana problem because a heroin problem has taken its place.

The extent of heroin usage is almost beyond belief. It is estimated that one-third of the students in Washington junior and senior high schools have used the hard drug. This is coupled to the estimate that over three-quarters of the teenagers in the city have experimented with drugs of some type. That means that better than one out of three young people who have had some contact with drugs have "turned on" with heroin. Even the most vocal advocate of legalizing marijuana must view those statistics with some alarm. Now, cocaine called "bam" and feared even by some heroin addicts is growing in popularity among Washington youths and threatens to complicate the problem even further.

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Begin Early In Life To Establish Credit Rating

How's your credit rating? Think you don't have one? Yes your credit rating comes about naturally as you become old enough to begin paying your own bills, according to Helen E. Bell, extension home management specialist of The Pennsylvania State University.

It's important to develop the habit of keeping money problems in hand early in life. When you really need credit, your credit rating will show that you're a person who can be trusted.

You don't need to open a charge account somewhere to establish a credit rating. Neither do you need to borrow money or buy an item "on credit." However, Miss Bell suggests you think about whether you've been paying your bills on time or if you've let some slip by. This is good self-evaluation for your credit rating.

What helps to establish a good credit rating for you? Promptness in payment of bills and being a constantly employed family are important. Changing jobs frequently could give you a shaky rating. But, steady employment with a reliable firm makes your credit rating look better.

Investments help your credit rating, too. However, young newly married couples have had little time to make such investments so it may be more difficult for them to obtain credit. If you've been around for a while, what you own or collateral is important. If you own a car, it is collateral. If you own your house, real estate, and stocks or bonds, these might be termed collateral. Miss Bell points out

crime that grows out of the dope users' limitless appetite. With great logic, the victimized blacks place the blame on the white kingpins of organized crime who import the hard drugs and make it their business to see that thousands of youths are turned into cash customers.

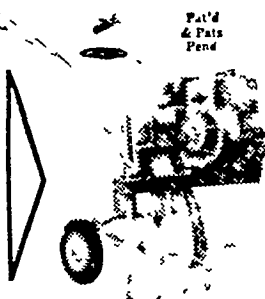
I can only add my recommendation to that of the experts who believe that we must develop a sense of urgency about the narcotics problem. We can no longer talk about isolated instances of dope usage, but must begin to recognize that we have a major peril on our hands that is at the root of many of the other national problems we are hoping to solve. It seems to me that the public and its government hardly can continue to look the other way, but must begin a crackdown at every opportunity to halt the narcotics traffic.

Lightning Rods

The thunderstorm season is at hand and buildings with lightning rods should have a good degree of protection, providing the system is connected and in good order. Building owners are urged to make an inspection to be sure that all connections are tight, that the rods are free of any matter that would burn, and that the rods are deeply grounded into moist soil. We have heard of cases where the ground rod or cable was not deep enough into the ground, and during dry summer months, the ground rod was not into moist soil and therefore did not serve as a ground for the rod system. Inspect the system now and avoid a serious fire.

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