

Senator CROLL: At the university and high school levels. Is this being brought to the attention of the authorities at the university level? Is there nothing they can do—no discipline?

Dr. HARDMAN: Yes, there is discipline. What you are asking me here is to comment on the attitude towards university discipline, which I am really not competent to do. At the moment there is no offence, so that unless this incident comes to the attention of the university authorities through their own university health service or through the press, it is unlikely they will take disciplinary action.

Senator CROLL: But if it comes to the attention of the Criminal Investigation Branch of the R.C.M.P. that it is being used by students at one of our universities, would they not bring it to the attention of the appropriate university authorities?

Dr. HARDMAN: I am aware that this has been discussed in Saskatchewan because of the concern of university authorities. However, I cannot answer whether the behaviour of any individual student has been drawn to the attention of the disciplinary body of the university.

The CHAIRMAN: I do not think Senator Croll meant any individual student.

Senator CROLL: No; it is becoming prevalent.

Dr. HARDMAN: There has been discussion with university heads both in British Columbia and Regina, to my knowledge, about the matter.

Senator CROLL: Whatever reading material there is seems to indicate that the greatest abuse in the United States is at the university level, and that seems to be the case here. To what do you attribute that, and what is your comment on that?

Dr. HARDMAN: This is a drug abuse; it is a social phenomenon rather than a medical phenomenon. I think this is perhaps a part of changing social values. Our value system in our society has been strongly influenced, well, largely at the university level. It is not unique in Canada, but this has been the pattern of unrest and social revolt at the university level in all countries. In South American countries it has been carried to actual revolution rather than social unrest. I think this group of individuals is probably at the most active period of their life of rebelling against rules and society, that initially they came to experiment and sometimes the experimentation got away with them. They are experimenting with a substance that is too powerful for them.

When I was a teenager they used to say that if you took an aspirin with a drink of Coca-Cola you would have a wonderful time. The people who did this had a wonderful time. There is no medical reason for this, except natural exuberance. However, people are now dealing with extremely potent chemicals. They could not come to any harm with an aspirin and a Coke.

One of the significant factors about the use of drugs of this type is that the experience which results is influenced by the environment in which you take it, particularly LSD, with a controlled person who knows what he is doing. A person is very prone to suggestion under the influence of this drug. An experienced guider like a psychiatrist can guide you away from some of the danger areas, by suggestion.

The second factor which influences a person's experience is his own personality. If he has a marginal psychiatric condition, he can be precipitated into a full-blown mental breakdown.

The third factor, strangely enough, is what the user expects to get from it. If you have heard stories and rumours about LSD having a wonderful effect on your sex life or on mind expanding, or if you have a religious connotation and you expect to go through a mystical religious experience, you tend to do that. These three factors all tend to influence it. That was a rather long answer.

Senator CROLL: We are getting information, and this is all very useful because we are trying to understand this. Is it more prevalently used amongst male or female?

Senator SULLIVAN: About equal.