

find an easy solution to develop rapid sexual maturity. Of course, this is to no avail.

Some of them blame society for not inspiring them or sufficiently challenging them. Others recognize their own emptiness of character and their flaws and turn to drugs to change that. As I mentioned before, some individuals feel the use of drugs helps them to communicate. Studies of groups of users have been carried out. All that seems to happen is that the smokers describe to each other the feelings that they experience, but in the long run they find their loneliness and other feelings of emotional distress are not resolved. They nevertheless carry on because they receive gratification from the temporary illusion the drug produces.

At one time I had the privilege of living in Vancouver for a year. I have had close association with drug users of various types and I have had the opportunity to witness first-hand the terrible and ravaging destruction of personality incurred by the use of drugs. It is an accepted fact that a large proportion of people using heroin started out using "pot" and progressed to harder drugs in order to get more of the desired effect. There is evidence of this kind of cross-addiction occurring. Many of its users and promoters say that "pot" is less harmful than tobacco or alcohol. I should like to know how many people have progressed from the use of tobacco or alcohol to the use of heroin. I suggest there are not very many. It has been said that 30 per cent to 50 per cent of all young people in our country use "pot", so we should legalize it. There are those who say the penalties are too harsh, so we should legalize its use and bring about less incarceration. That is the kind of philosophy that suggests you throw the baby out with the bathwater.

I should like to reinforce this argument by again referring to the report from the John Howard Society which indicates the actual penalties imposed in Canada on the users of drugs, particularly marijuana. Marijuana, or "pot", is classified as a narcotic and it is an offence to be in possession of it. This is an indictable offence for which a person is liable to 7 years in prison. The fact is that trafficking in a narcotic, or possession for the purpose of trafficking is an offence for which a person is liable to life imprisonment. The importing of "pot" is an indictable offence which carries a minimum sentence of 7 years and possible life imprisonment.

Let me read the statistics as to what is actually being done by the judiciary of our

country. In 1967 the disposition of 453 convictions for possession was as follows: there were 242 suspended sentences, 33 suspended sentences and probation supervision, 67 sentenced to under six months in jail, 61 to less than one year, three only sentenced to three years or less than four years, and 47 not stated. In view of this I think the cry that many young people are being given long term prison sentences has no foundation. Only 3 out of 453 were incarcerated for three to four years.

Nevertheless, I am willing to concede that some of the penalties might be too harsh. This is an area at which we should look very seriously in order to bring the legislation more into line with the apparent seriousness of these crimes. I would suggest that less harsh legislation should be enacted, although the harsh legislation that exists is not being applied. Let me challenge those who promote the use and trafficking in "pot" on the basis that its use is not harmful. They do not really know what they are talking about because there is not sufficient evidence from any researcher to indicate without a doubt that its use is harmless in the long run. I conclude my remarks by leaving a message. I should like to associate another slogan with the just society. I say to the youth of Canada, get off the pot.

Mr. Philip G. Givens (York West): Mr. Speaker, I wish to associate myself with all those who have congratulated the mover and seconder of the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne. They did their job well. I listened with great interest to the views expressed by my good friend the hon. member for York East (Mr. Otto) and my friend the hon. member for Timiskaming (Mr. Peters) about the questionable value of speeches in this House. I happen to agree with them, but I also have the urge to get on the record. I will succumb to that urge as have other hon. members.

What I wish to place on the record was not contained in the Throne Speech but it deals with a matter I would have included in that Speech had I had anything to do with its preparation.

● (9:20 p.m.)

Our society today is experiencing accelerating change in a world of rapidly shrinking physical dimensions and exploding knowledge; a world of extraordinary technical achievements amidst disturbing social, political and human problems. In short, it is a