

*The Address—Mr. Rondeau*

On May 22, 1969, the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Munro) addressed a convention of the American Pharmacists Association in the following terms:

Speaking about the increasing use of marijuana and other hallucinogenic drugs in a first speech before the Canadian Pharmaceutical Association, I said I was worried about the alarming way the number of marijuana users was growing. I quoted the figures that were available then: 54 cases in 1964; twice as many in 1965; more than 400 in 1966; almost 1600 in 1967. We now have the 1968 total,—

At the present time, according to the statistics provided by experts in that field, about 20 per cent of the student population are addicts and use all kinds of drugs.

In my opinion, this is an extremely serious problem. Our youth take large amounts of drugs and barbiturates. The federal government in its Speech from the Throne does not even mention it. Another Montreal newspaper reported the following and I quote:

Addiction to heroin costs \$1 billion to the community. The traffic and consumption of heroin throughout Canada costs about \$1 billion per year to society as stated this weekend by Dr. Houssein Moghadam of the School of Hygiene at the University of Toronto.

I could continue to quote statistics and comments to give you some idea of the importance of this problem.

One piece of news made a particular impression on us last year. As a matter of fact, there appeared in the newspapers—and the federal government did nothing about the matter—the following news item:

Sixty million dollars worth of drugs are seized; Scotland Yard implicates the Defence Department and the RCMP exonerates the number one suspect.

A certain quantity of chemical products used to manufacture LSD, which would have netted sixty million dollars on the black market; a technician of the CBC in Toronto poisons himself with cyanide while being questioned by the police.

The first concrete fact rests in the revelations made this morning by a Scotland Yard spokesman, who stated that this famous British police department has broken up a vast international drug ring which literally flooded with LSD the west Coast of Canada and the United States...

The ring, by selling this product on the black market, would have made \$60 million...if Scotland Yard had not intervened...

...But a Yard spokesman had just said yesterday morning again, that documents and letters found in the home of Kussner, in Toronto, had made it possible to arrest two men in London, then to dismantle the ring. The Yard spokesman had then revealed that documents had been seized with the LSD, indicating that the drug was sent to Canada for refining...in a laboratory of the Canadian Department of National Defence, before being put on the market in Vancouver and the United States.

[Mr. Rondeau.]

Mr. Speaker, following that report, nobody here, not even a committee of the house, succeeded in getting to the bottom of the charges made by a very important Scotland Yard detective.

Everybody knows that the problem of drugs in Canada is getting worse and worse. As a matter of fact, a Montreal school now buys for \$5,000 worth of barbiturates or drugs of all kinds every week.

The situation is getting more and more serious. Our young people show an ever stronger tendency to use the most harmful drugs. They go from marijuana to hashish, methadrin, LSD and, finally, heroin. The situation keeps deteriorating, and exemplary convictions only will put an end to that mad craze.

Since the beginning of 1968, only 200 pounds of marijuana which sells retail for \$1,600 a pound have been seized.

At the present time, Montreal is flooded with barbiturates. Hashish has become popular and for the first time heroin has appeared on the market.

According to certain newspapers, 1,000 barbiturate addicts would be waiting for admission at the Joliette hospital.

Some time ago, Detective Sergeant Jacques Durocher gave examples of trips and the noxious effects caused by the use of this drug in our society, particularly among the young people on whom depends the future of Canada. These are his words:

—Under the influence of LSD, they think they are traffic lights; they plunge amidst the stream of cars at peak hours trying to stop them. In certain cases they have caused crashes in which people were injured;

He further states:

A youth thought he was the Iron Man. Totally gone on a "trip", he lay down on a bed and plunged a kitchen knife into his heart. He was 17.

● (5:20 p.m.)

In my constituency, a young 19 year-old man attending a technical school in the Eastern Townships took his life 12 hours after having taken a dose of barbiturate.

I could give hundreds of such cases.

I could even mention the case of a 27 year-old intern, who went into the operating room chuck-full of LSD 25. In his "hallucinatory" state, he forgot three surgical instruments in the abdomen of the "female patient", and while at it, removed the ovaries, the gall-bladder, the pancreas, and threw everything through the window.