

DRUG THEMES

I. METHADONE

- A. Allows for Normalcy
 - 1. Once on maintenance level, no psychic vacillations.
 - 2. Stability allows for employment and hopefully preservation of family units.
 - 3. Reduces crime rate of those in program by 83%.
- B. Efficacy has been proven since February, 1965 -- Dole, Nyswander, Bernstein Methadone Maintenance Treatment.
 - 1. Reduction in arrests from 120 arrests per 100 person years (three years prior to admission to methadone program) to 4.5 arrests per 100 person years (for four years following admission to methadone program).
- C. Methadone is not simply a legalized addiction.
 - 1. Britain's program is a failure for even though sterile, one-time needles are available by the gross, they are re-used by addicts with resulting hepatitis and bacterial endocarditis (heart infection).
 - 2. Britain's heroin addict population has decreased of late from approximately 2,500 to 700 with the remainder being on m methadone.
 - 3. Addicts are not compulsive criminals except to support their habits; methadone is a humane alternative for the addict as well as society.
- D. Efforts are being made to curtail illicit supplies and accidental deaths.
 - 1. Color photo identification cards are issued to each patient.
 - 2. Locked boxes are being ordered so that patients who have carry-home privileges will have a secure means of keeping the methadone.
- E. Studies are on-going to determine what, if any, short-term adverse effects occur from methadone.
 - 1. Eli Lilly is analyzing records of 2,000 methadone patients. Results due in January.
- F. Even if certain short and/or long term adverse consequences (even accidental deaths) occur from methadone, one must weigh those consequences against the known consequences of heroin addiction, namely crime, overdose deaths, infection and degradation.

- G. District of Columbia Narcotic Treatment Agency Facts
 - 1. Total patients
 - 2. Percentage of D. C. addicts
 - 3. Arrest rate (Oct., 1970) -- 5.7% (comparable population -- 27.8%)
 - 4. Employment rate (Oct., 1970) -- 78%
 - 5. Funding FY 71

II. DRUG FACTS

- A. In New York City, drug related deaths (overdose, toxic reaction, allergic reaction) are the primary cause of death for males ages 15 to 25.
- B. A New York Times editorial reported on October 24, 1970, that drug abuse deaths thus far in 1970 reached 935 in New York City but the figure probably exceeded 1,000 because of reporting lags.