

March 13, 1980

LB 696

SENATOR NICHOL: That will be fine. The total effect of these amendments is to concentrate on increasing the penalty for drug dealing and to make a distinction between marijuana in its natural state and marijuana in its very concentrated form. I move for the adoption of this committee amendment.

SENATOR CLARK: Do you have an amendment to the amendment, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator DeCamp moves to amend Request #2142 which is designated as Judiciary Committee amendment number four by, on page 9, line 3, striking "six" and inserting "ten".

SENATOR CLARK: Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DE CAMP: Mr. President, I think Senator Nichol has given all the arguments I could give for it. If you will go back in his testimony, he said they received information from the DEA, Drug Enforcement Administration, that American or native marijuana could or would be in many cases confused with hashish if you remain at 6% whereas 10% to 12% would be the more proper figure so all I am doing is moving it to 10%.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Wesely, do you want to talk on the amendment to the amendment?

SENATOR WESELY: Yes. Mr. President, I have a question of Senator Nichol. Senator DeCamp just mentioned a DEA official had said that 10 to 12% would be...is that correct, 10 to 12% would be a better line in which to distinguish between marijuana and hashish? Was that in testimony? Is that correct or what is the situation?

SENATOR NICHOL: I don't know exactly where he said it but I would agree with him and just to, if I may, use a second of your time, there are other marijuana plants grown and since we are in the business of making hybrids of them, where they can grow them with a higher percentage of narcotic in them than which has been recently used and which we call a native plant.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Senator Nichol. With that information, I would support the DeCamp amendment and I think that by keeping it at 6% as the amendment would now have it, you may have a situation that could be confusing and I think a 10% level would be much more clear and much better at distinguishing between what we are

8338