

# Doctor Attacks Proposal For Relaxing 'Pot' Laws

Dr. Frank B. Minyard, president of the Bethlehem House of Bread and leader of the methadone program to fight drug addiction, today charged Municipal Court Judge Andrew Bucaro with flagrant irresponsibility in issuing statements for the relaxing of narcotics laws for the possession of marijuana.

Dr. Minyard said Judge Bucaro, using the respectability of his high office, could endanger our youth who might be influenced by the laxity of the change in marijuana laws as urged by the judge.

"The good work being done by those genuinely interested in helping rehabilitate drug addicts and stopping lawlessness in the streets could be seriously impaired if Judge Bucaro continues to stand up for weaker laws governing use of marijuana," said Dr. Minyard.

"THE CURTAILMENT of the usage of marijuana is the basic issue in stopping all drug addiction problems," said the doctor.

"The widespread usage of marijuana by our young people today is of epidemic proportions, and the community leaders interested in this serious problem are standing against its usage to prevent further moral decay of young people," asserted the doctor.



DR. FRANK B. MINYARD

"In many instances, the young people least capable of coping with the mind altering effects of marijuana are the ones most likely to be adversely affected by its use," he said.

Marijuana is not physically addictive, said Dr. Minyard, and thus is not a narcotic. It is, however, psychologically addictive, he asserts, and dangerous.

**EARLIER THIS WEEK** Judge Bucaro criticized the severe penalties for possession of marijuana. For a boy or girl to be sent to prison for a decade as a result of a youthful "lark" with marijuana is unjust, said the judge.

"Throw the book at the pusher," stressed Bucaro, "but too many innocent kids unknowingly find themselves at parties where marijuana is used."

The weed is not harmless, asserted the judge, but the penalties should be reduced from felony status to that of a misdemeanor.