

# State Needs Action, Not Probes To Stem Dope Traffic—McKesson

The narcotics problem in Los Angeles has been investigated to the point of absurdity and now demands legislative action instead of further probes, District Attorney William B. McKesson angrily declared this week.

"If these state assembly committees want any graphic evidence as to how serious this situation is, let them watch one miserable addict going through the withdrawal symptoms," McKesson said.

McKesson's statements were in reference to a State Assembly Committee which held hearings in Los Angeles last week.

"I HAVE already written this committee asking it to expedite anti-pornographic measures written by my office and buried in committee for more than two years," District Attorney McKesson continued.

Our narcotics problem, like our pornography problem, has already been investigated by committees to a point where people are tired of the stalling. There should have been some action months ago."

Law enforcement agencies in Los Angeles County make three-fourths of all the arrests made for narcotics violations in California, McKesson said. Effective federal and state aid including legislation is needed now to stop this thing once and for all, he said.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY McKesson cited two examples of where unrealistic court decisions have made enforcement of anti-narcotics laws ridiculous.

"Suppose we get a complaint that an individual has been seen parked in a car and has a paper bag full of marijuana on the front seat. Officers find the car, open the bag and find it is indeed full of marijuana. Can we successfully prosecute this case? Not on your life, because the courts have held the act of the officers in merely opening that bag to look at its contents performed an illegal search. There's a law the legislative committee could rewrite."

McKesson SAID the economic impact of narcotics addiction is far higher than the average person realizes.

"It costs at least \$10 a day to feed a mild drug habit," he said.

"Drug addicts in this area—and police estimate there are at least 10,000 of them—are spending a minimum of \$100,000 every day—in excess of \$36 million a year."

The gnawing compulsion an addict has to feed his habit results in more crime, McKesson said.

"THE AVERAGE addict cannot keep a job so he has to steal to raise money. This accounts for many holdups. In thefts of property, an addict

ADDITIONAL corrective legislation covering informants would also prove helpful, McKesson said.

"Suppose we have an undercover operator who contacts a dope peddler through an informant. Later, the agent makes several narcotics buys from the pusher even though the informant is not present at these later meetings. Can we successfully prosecute on the basis of the direct buys made by the agent without the informant being present? The court says no unless we reveal the name of our informant. Does this make sense? Of course not!"

# Knights of Columbus Hear Report on State Meetings

Resolutions "condemning and deploring" recent act of anti-Semitism, offering "prayerful good wishes" for the success of the Paris Summit Conference, and asking that the Federal Aid to Education bill now in Congress to be extended to include aid to private schools, were adopted last week end by a state convention of the Knights of Columbus at Anaheim.

Howard Hood, grand knight, and Edwin C. Olsen, delegates to the convention, reported to the Los Crusados council Monday night that the State Council has instructed all subordinate councils throughout the state to support community efforts to eliminate "the vicious anti-Semitism acts of recent months." The convention asked that a copy of the resolution be directed to the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

DELEGATES TO the convention petitioned the Congress of the United States to consider "... that 15 per cent of the students attending schools in this nation are pupils in private institutions." The resolution contends that these students are as much entitled to Federal aid as those attending public schools, and that educational aid bills be extended to



HOWARD HOOD Convention Report

include the private schools. The State Council passed the resolution offering prayerful good wishes to President Eisenhower on the success of the Paris meetings at an awards luncheon Saturday.

THE LOS CRUSADOS council was well represented at the convention by council members James McDonald, Lou Fucci, Vincent Wiegel, John McVey, Joseph Platt, George Schneider, Dick Burch, and Emmett Turley.

In other reports at the



LAURENCE SARGENT To Head Committee

meeting, Hood announced the appointment of Laurence Sargent of Torrance to the chairmanship of the fraternal committee.

SARGENT IS director of the Nativity Church Men's Choir, and a Fourth Degree member of the Knights of Columbus. He also holds the office of advocate in the council.

The Los Crusados council will participate in a quarterly Communion and Mass at St. Laurence church in Hollywood Riviera at 8 a.m., Sunday, May 29th. Breakfast will follow for the members and their families in the council chambers, 214 Avenue I, Redondo Beach.

## Prayer Subject for Rev. Schatz Sunday

"What Prayer is Not," will be the sermon theme of the Rev. William K. Schatz at the Seaside Community E & R Church Sunday at the 10:45 a.m. worship services. Church school convenes at 9:20 a.m.

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