

## Kuchel Plans Move Against Dope Traffic With Joint Commission

A call for a double-pronged campaign to end the narcotics problem—by cutting off supplies through measures including stronger international cooperation and by a combination of steps to dry up the market—will be made in the Senate by U. S. Senator Thomas H. Kuchel of California.

In a speech prepared for delivery today acknowledging the drug situation in California is "grave", Senator Kuchel advanced the idea of creating a Joint United States-Mexican Commission to Combat Narcotics and revealed he has been informed the United States is preparing to supply Mexico with tools to stamp out drug sources.

ADVOCATING a variety of action to deal with the "ugly, deplorable situation" he said occurs in a number of States, Kuchel emphasized the scope of the problem in California by pointing out there were 17,630 narcotics arrests in the year ended June 30, the estimated cost in 1959 was \$65,900,000, and officials estimate there are 7411 addicts.

"Drug addiction is vicious. It harms the individual and the society. It must be stamped out. And there is a Federal responsibility to actively campaign to do so," the California Senator said. "Opium, morphine, heroin, and the other addicting drugs are not produced in the United States. They are grown in other countries. They cross our borders illegally. Eliminating this foreign drug traffic must be done by the Federal Government".

KUCHEL PAID particular attention to the importance of shutting off supplies from Mexico, and urged that marijuana be regarded as an addicting drug.

While Mexican authorities have given "wonderful cooperation" in efforts to solve the problem, Kuchel said he has proposed to the State Department

additional means of stepping up the fight against foreign supply sources below the border. Besides suggesting a joint U. S.-Mexican Commission he said he has requested Secretary Dean Rusk to look into the possibility of a formal treaty with Mexico to strengthen present efforts.

"I HAVE been in contact with the Treasury Department and have been assured that steps are presently being taken to supply the Mexican government with certain equipment to help them fight narcotics growing and smuggling," the Republican Whip said.

"While no agreement has yet been reached, I am sure that an accord will come shortly. I shall certainly do everything within my power to see that the Mexicans get the helicopters, flame-throwers, small arms, and other equipment necessary to do the job. I also hope to meet with a high official of the Mexican government in the very near future to discuss other ways in which our nations can more effectively fight this common problem."

THE DOMESTIC illicit drug market must be wiped out, the Californian declared, by more vigorous law enforcement, treatment of addicts, and education to prevent individuals from becoming victims of the drug habit.

He told of a general feeling in California that the Treasury's Bureau of Narcotics and Customs Bureau need more manpower, which also has been urged by the Senate Juvenile Delinquency Subcommittee, and expressed hope that expansion of Federal Courts in California—as provided in amendments he proposed and the Senate added to the pending judgeship bill—will be approved by Congress to permit better handling of narcotics cases. Kuchel also disclosed he has asked Secretary of the Treasury Dillon about the adequacy of the department's law enforcement force in California.

AS ADDITIONAL measures the California Senator proposed the organization of a "central file on narcotics addicts and peddlers", the recording of statistics and information on traffic in and use of marijuana, and the production of films for school and television to point out dangers in narcotics use. He said the adequacy of Federal data on the traffic has been challenged because of reporting methods used in gathering information about addiction and peddling.

Early Congressional action also was advocated on three measures of which Kuchel is a co-sponsor recently introduced in the Senate.

While other steps may be desirable, Kuchel asked support for bills permitting hospitalization of addicts by Federal judges and construction of treatment institutions and follow-up centers. He also advocated a White House Conference on Narcotics proposed in a resolution submitted last week in the Senate.

## Thomas Bill To Protect State Record

A bill by Assemblyman Vincent Thomas to protect records important to California's early history, has been approved by the Assembly Governmental Efficiency and Economic Committee.

The measure, AB 1920, would authorize the Secretary of State to buy and operate laminating equipment to halt further deterioration to such records.

The sum of \$20,000 would be appropriated for the work. The bill was sent to the Ways and Means Committee for consideration, since an appropriation is involved.

Another Thomas measure, AB 1313, allowing commercial fishermen two months longer to catch sardines, has been approved by the Assembly. The bill would extend the season from Oct. 1 to March 1.

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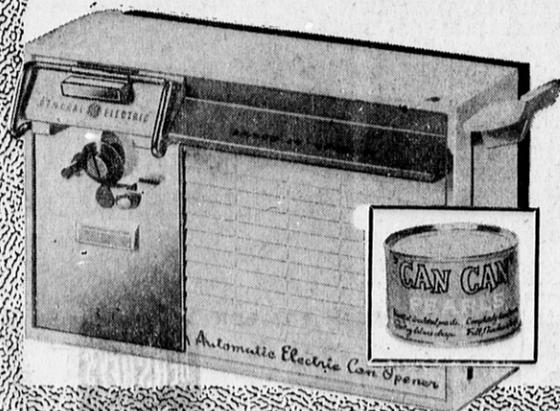
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