

**DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION  
HISTORICAL INTERVIEWS  
JAMES McGIVENCY, TAPE NO. 162**

**JM = Jim McGiveney, retired chief, DEA Public Affairs**

**MS = Sean Fearn, DEA Museum Director**

04:07:21;21 JM: Thank you Sean, for the introduction. I don't know if it's good to be introduced as "living history" or not, though. It's...

04:07:29;18 MS: (Unint.)

04:07:30;29 JM: That's true, that's true. If I was dead... Well, tell me after the presentation - you might think that is history. The subject this morning is illegal drugs in America and what we're going to try to do is cover in a very, very short period of time - like an hour or less - about 400 years of history.

04:07:45;29 So we're going to move pretty quickly. If you do have questions, raise your hand, jump right in. Don't worry about if you have comments - raise your hand, jump right in. We'll try to keep the flow going.

04:07:59;04 Some of the things that you're going to see here this

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morning, you've already seen - if you've been in the museum - some things you may not have. And we're probably going to try to discuss a little bit that is not covered actually in a museum. It's kind of interesting to see where we came from because that tells us where we're going. And basically the drug problem in this country, quite honestly, is a constant re-run.

04:08:25;02 Americans don't remember their history - they don't look back. And because of it, we suffer some of the same mistakes over and over and over again, and some of them are going to become quite obvious to you as we go through the presentation.

04:08:42;05 The presentation this morning is Illegal Drugs in America - a very short history because we only have about an hour. To understand illegal drugs in America, I think you need to understand drug addiction; and it's quite straight-forward as it says on the screen.

04:08:57;29 It's the compulsive use of a drug - the loss of control - and the continued use in spite of the adverse consequences.

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Any questions on that? I think that's a pretty good definition of what drug addiction is.

04:09:13;20 And it doesn't have to be... we're talking about tobacco, we're talking about alcohol, we're talking about illegal drugs; we're talking about some legal drugs - oxycontin, for example. To understand drug, drug control and the history of drugs in the United States, you have to understand this particular flower - poppa - it's the poppy, all right.

04:09:35;13 It's that beautiful red flowers that comes in various and sundry colors. That is where opium comes from and as you will learn as you go on, opium, morphine and heroin all come from that little plant.

04:09:48;05 Now if you look at the lower right - excuse me, lower left corner for you - right next to the girl's shoulder, you can see the pedals have fallen off the plant. There's a round green pod on the top of it - can everybody see that?

04:10:02;17 What is done there - and you can't probably make it out -

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but what she is doing, she's actually coming along and insizing (ph.), she's cutting - slicing - that pod. And when she does that, a milky white substance comes out of it.

04:10:13;23      Now you've all broken weeds. You know that milky, white substance that comes out of a weed when you break it? It's basically the same thing. That is raw opium. They will later come along after it's dried and it turns sort of a brown color - they'll come along and they'll scrape it.

04:10:31;28      Now you can imagine how much scraping they have to do to get a quantity of opium - of raw opium. Raw opium, basically, ten pounds of raw opium, is what you need to make one pound of morphine base, which is the pre-cursor for morphine and for heroin.

04:10:48;07      So you got to scrape a lot of flowers - you got to cut a lot of flowers - and you can come by and they can cut them once or twice. The interesting things about cutting the flowers is that each area of the world that actually grows opium or produces opium in a large scale, they cut it a

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little differently.

04:11:04;26      They may cut it around the top, they may cut it to score it up and down the sides; but each of them is a little differently. If you see the pod, you can almost tell where it comes from... or it came from.

04:11:14;13      This is a huge industry in many parts of the world. In many part of the world, it's the only way these farmers can feed themselves. They're being paid five, ten, fifteen, twenty times the amount they would for the equivalent amount of wheat or for corn. So when you're poor, you've got nothing else to do and you've got to feed a family. This is a good way out for a lot of these people.

04:11:36;13      And they don't think of the morality of it, because to them, it's not an issue - this is just a product that they're growing. Opium's been around forever. We can go back to the Egyptians, we can go back through the Greeks, the Romans.

04:11:51;22      It's in medical texts in China in the 8th century, in use

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in the 15th century in Persia, India. Throughout history, it's a wonderful, wonderful drug - it's a painkiller. It's a painkiller. It alleviates a tremendous amount of suffering.

04:12:10;11 Normally, when it was used in those periods of time, it was taken as a raw... it's a gummy substance and it was mixed into wine; and the wine, of course, was drug. And it was used as an analgesic - it was used to... it was very effective for diarrhea, for dysentery because it actually binds you up.

04:12:33;18 And those were tremendous problems back in those days - cholera, typhoid are dysentery diarrhea based. It will kill you very quickly. So opium was a tremendous, tremendous drug at the time.

04:12:49;03 Later on what we saw, in about the 16th century, they actually refined the opium and they would put it in a spirit of alcohol - of pure alcohol - and that resulted in the drug that's called laudanum.

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04:13:01;06      And laudanum itself was historically very favored especially in the west - England and subsequently in the United States. If you go back into the diaries, especially women at the time, you see reference to laudanum. They used to drink it like Coke - they'd drink it like pot.

04:13:21;22      But it was something that you would find in every home, it was something you would find in every medicine kit, you would find it on ship-board because it was an all around good medicine to have available for you.

04:13:37;12      Where we see a difference - where we see the change - in drug-use, until then opium was used primarily for medicinal purposes. Where we see the changes beginning in the late 1600s, early 1700s, in China where people are beginning to use opium to smoke it. And they're smoking opium for what reason? Can anybody tell me - what's the big change? Why are they smoking opium?

04:14:02;04      It gets in your system faster, but they're smoking it for pleasure and not using it for medicinal purposes. They're smoking it for pleasure. And when it begins in China, it

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begins with the upper classes - very similar to the way cocaine in the United States.

04:14:19;21 It was an upper class drug. You had to be wealthy to get opium. Now, the problem became an issue in China because if you recall your history, that was the time of the great explorers. You had the great nations of the world.

04:14:34;14 You had England, you had the United States - after a little bit later. What were they reaching out to do: they were trying to establish trade. That's what made a nation great, that's what provided you wealth.

04:14:45;20 Great Britain, by the early 1700s, had already conquered India - colonized India. India had a huge, huge opium growing and production capability. There were hundreds of thousands of what they call hack cars (ph.) - already undergrowth of opium. So the British were very interested, as all countries were, in establishing trade with China. Why? There's three billion Chinese.

04:15:18;17 If you can sell them each a Snickers bar, you can be a very



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wealthy person, right? It's a great market. What happened though was there were more goods coming out of China into Great Britain than there were more going in, so there was a huge trade imbalance.

04:15:34;04 The British said, "What can we do - what sells?" Opium sells. They started bringing opium by the shipload into China. Well, Chinese authorities got a little upset about this because what they saw now was the use of opium was dropping on the socio and economic levels.

04:15:50;27 It was going from the rich - and very rich - into the military and then worked its way down into the common people. So in 1729, the problem was so bad, the Emperor of China banned opium smoking.

04:16:03;21 Look at the trade in opium between 1820 and 1840 - 270 tons to 2500 tons - and that was recorded, that's not what went in the back door. So what this did is it established a tradition of corruption. British sea captains would come in, they would bribe the custom officials, the opium would get into the interior, and smoking became a huge, huge

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problem.

04:16:30;26 Three million Chinese addicts by the 1830s - by the 1830s.

So it was a huge issue for the Chinese and it really stayed that way until after World War II. It also caused war. The Chinese were very upset that their people were being subjugated by an addicting substance.

04:16:52;23 So they did everything they could including banning smoking opium. The British said, "Hey, you can't do that." and they enforced it with their gun boats. There were two opium wars and these were the first drug wars except they were wars to sell drugs.

04:17:08;13 The first opium war was in 1839-1842. As a result, the Chinese not only allowed opium to be brought into the country, but they ceded Hong Kong to the British. Now, that was just given back to China in within, what, the last five or ten years? So you had some very long-reaching consequences.

04:17:26;17 A second opium war in 1856 through '60, forced the Chinese

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to legalize the import of opium and that just opened up the flood gates. So now we have a huge... we have an even bigger opium addiction problem in China and people are profiting from it - huge, tremendous profits are involved in the sale of it.

04:17:54;04 We start seeing it in the west in the early 1800s. The first record of it is a book by Thomas DeQuincy (ph.) called, "Confessions of an Opium Eater" where he describes and discusses using opium for pleasure - for pleasure purposes and nothing else.

04:18:09;20 At the time, we're beginning to see opium imports rising in the United States. We go from eight tons in 1840 to 62 tons in 1858. A couple of reasons for that: one, the population is growing, they're bringing it in for pharmaceutical purposes; but, two, Chinese laborers begin to arrive in the United States - why?

04:18:32;17 FS: (Unint.).

04:18:33;04 JM: Railroads and the Gold Rush. What do immigrants bring

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with them when they come to a country: they bring their customs and they bring their traditions - good, bad and indifferent. Many of the Chinese laborers brought opium smoking with them. When you're working on a railroad six hours... or six days, seven days a week, 12/14/16 hour days, you take whatever little pleasure you can - they brought that with them.

04:18:58;09      That slowly made it's way into American culture. At first, it came into what they called "the sporting classes". Can you tell me what the sporting classes were? Anybody? Stephanie, can you tell me what the sporting classes were?

04:19:15;27      The sporting classes are what we would call today, but back then, it was the "theater people" - that we would call them "pimps and ho's", okay? But back then it was theater people and pimps and ho's.

04:19:28;17      Race track touts, the edges of society - that's where smoking opium was found. This is a picture from San Francisco, and in the early 1800s, probably from about 1850 to 1860 in New York, San Francisco, Chicago - all your

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major cities had row upon row upon row of opium dens - smoking opium dens.

04:19:51;11 And you go in. This is a very nice smoking opium den - it's probably a posed picture. Most of them were very dark, very smelly because people would go in there and spend two or three or four days - it's a binge drug - and filled with smoke.

04:20:08;10 But there were hundreds upon thousands of them in the cities across the country. People in the cities began to worry about it and they eventually began to pass laws - individual cities began to pass laws - San Francisco being the first in about 1874 to ban opium smoking.

04:20:28;11 Now, how do you smoke opium, why do you smoke opium? You smoke opium very simply, but you need a few things though - it's very, very... it's a drug that's encumbered by equipment - it's encumbered by equipment.

04:20:42;21 You obviously have an opium smoking pipe, but opium... you don't take opium and stuff it in a pipe and light it up.

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You take one of those little rods down there, the little steel - almost looks like knitting needles.

04:20:56;09      You take the raw opium, which is a gooey, gummy substance, and you twirl a little ball on the end of it. You heat that ball over that lamp - that's an oil lamp - and then you take the pipe, put it in your mouth and you put the heated ball over the bowl of the pipe and you draw in.

04:21:15;15      Now they have a pillow - that little block thing there - is called an opium pillow and you can see a couple of versions of it in the museum. People would lay down on their side and they would smoke; and someone, usually, they had a helper who would do the lighting and they would smoke and it would bring them into a stupor.

04:21:34;04      And they spent so much time on their sides, they'd develop a condition called "the hip", okay, which is where your term "hip" comes from. It was "hip" or you were a "hipster", "hipster" - that's where it came from, from opium users.

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- 04:21:50;29      Now these people would go in, and like many drugs, they'd go in and start smoking opium on Monday and they might not come out until Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday. They didn't eat, their personal hygiene was less than great.
- 04:22:02;26      So what you saw was a real underclass of people and it had a tremendous effect because they were constantly chasing that higher high which is what most drug users do. Hey, that first one, you're always trying to get better than that first really great high and it's very, very addicting.
- 04:22:19;22      That particular quote there is from Stephen Crane (ph.) who wrote "Red Badge of Courage". Opium still had tremendous use in the medical field at that time. Morphine, which is a derivative of opium, was first discovered in 1806.
- 04:22:39;24      Morphine is water-soluble. You can use it as a water base and you can get it into your body, it works faster than opium. It's also about ten times as powerful as opium. When it was first discovered, it was touted as a cure for opium addiction.

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04:23:03;22      Either tremendous scientific mistake or great advertising - we're not sure. Opium imports again here: you tie the discovery of morphine with one event, which changes the whole picture of things.

04:23:19;16      The hypodermic syringe which is invented in the mid-1860s, what does that allow a doctor to do? Boom - we're not smoking it anymore, we're not eating it, it doesn't have to go through many systems - it's going right into your bloodstream - IV injection. It changes everything. We can now take that morphine and we can use it and we can get instant relief from tremendous pain - what's going on in 1860s in this country.

04:23:51;20      Civil War. Amputations in the Civil War were a daily occurrence. I mean, if you had a hangnail, you were taking a risk that your hand was going to get cut off - that's the way they treated it.

04:24:06;12      Tremendous pain involved both before, during and after the operation. Combine the hypodermic syringe with the use of



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morphine, the very powerful, analgesic effects you have with morphine and you've got a great tool for doctors and you've got a great pain reliever.

04:24:22;06      What you also have is thousands, if not hundreds of thousands, of addicted soldiers. Morphinism - the addiction to morphine - soon became known as "the soldier's disease" and it stayed with us for 30 or 40 years afterwards.

04:24:40;16      It's also mixed in any number of other potions, but primarily it's being used pharmaceutically - we're not going over into the edge where people are starting to use morphine for pleasure. Cocaine comes around about the same time - it's been around for hundreds of thousands of years.

04:24:57;12      The Indians chewed the leaf, combined it with a little ash, which sets off the stimulation. It's not the cocaine hydrochloride that we've all seen - the white powder - and it's not really addicting.

04:25:11;08      It's isolated in 1884, commercialized in 1860. Again, the

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confluence of events. Just read the ad: "Cocaine will make the coward brave, the silent eloquent and free victims of alcohol and opium from their bondage." That's an ad from Park Davis, the Pharmaceutical Company.

04:25:33;22 It was a wonder drug at the time and it was used at two things: one, it's a great topical anesthetic. It's still used today for eye surgery and sinus surgery. If you go in for eye or sinus surgery, you are probably going to get some type of a cocaine solution either used as a topical on your eye or packed into your sinuses.

04:25:54;21 That is why cocaine is a Schedule 2 drug versus a Schedule 1 drug. Schedule 1 has no medicinal purposes in the United States, Schedule 2 does; so cocaine is a Schedule 2 drug - it lessens the penalties and a few other things. But cocaine is put out all over the country and it's readily available to anyone who's got the money to buy it.

04:26:18;04 This is another ad. It's put into wine. Vin Mariani (ph.) was a wine... I love this ad. "Even the mummies walk after they drink Vin Mariani wine." and it's in our old favorite

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Coca-Cola. It was the basis for the Coca-Cola formula back then.

04:26:34;02 That changed prior to 1914, but it was pervasive. We had presidents endorsing it, we had... popes would endorse it. So it was pervasive throughout society - not only here in the United States, but also in Europe.

04:26:52;25 On the street, in your pharmacies, it was Dr. Bernie's or any number of other preparations and it was kataro (ph.) powder. And that is if you have sinus troubles, if you have hay fever, if you have the common cold, if your throat's a little choked up, you could take this cocaine and it would clear you right up.

04:27:13;19 Well, yeah, it's a topical anesthetic. If you read the directions for this - and you can go into the museum, there's a little... Moscoe's (ph.) was the brand on it - it came in a little tin about this big.

04:27:25;01 Basically, it would've told you is take a line in the morning - snort a little bit in the morning - and then

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snort it as often as you felt your throat getting sore. So these people were doing 5, 10, 15 lines of coke a day - and we wonder why we have a huge coke problem in this country.

04:27:40;25 We're also beginning to see cocaine used intravenously - why not? Wham, bam, thank you, ma'am - faster, higher, harder high. There's pictures of immigrants in the Bowery at this time sitting on the curb in front of the drug store shooting up.

04:28:02;16 You could also buy this at Sears. You could buy morphine at Sears and you could buy the syringes at Sears all in a little kit. And if you go into the museum, you can see the kit because we actually have a kit from Sears in that time period. It was pervasive throughout our society - it was tremendous, tremendous problem.

04:28:24;15 And then a little bit later on in the 1800s, we have our old friend: heroin. Heroin is a derivative of morphine, it's a play on the German word "heroish" which means: hero, great, strong, wonderful. Well, it is, it is great - it's great, strong and it's wonderful in the right way.

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- 04:28:43;15      It was touted as a cure for morphine - tuberculosis was a huge problem back then - it's a cough suppressant. It was initially a cough suppressant. When it was put out, it was a non-addictive substance.
- 04:29:05;21      Unfortunately, the public learned a little bit different and it was soon known as "happy dust", but you could... again, remember, you could go in to your local pharmacy, your local drug store - any place that would carry it. If they had 7-11, 7-11 would carry heroin.
- 04:29:17;28      It would carry heroin, it would carry morphine - you could go in and you could buy it. Readily available to anyone of any age who could reach up and put their dollar on the counter. Again, tie this with the use of the hypodermic syringe and you have a built-in problem. The victims, by this time, were middle class white women.
- 04:29:44;20      The largest portion of people who were addicted in American society at this time - and we're talking like one of every two or one of every 300 - were American middle class women.

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Why? Can somebody tell me?

04:29:59;04

FS: Doctors gave it to them to, you know...

04:30:02;11

JM: You're cheating - you're from the museum, but thank you for the help.

04:30:06;13

FS: They can feel better (unint.).

04:30:08;00

JM: Yeah, it was handed out like candy and women were given morphine or morphine-based, opiate-based, solutions more than men were. Why, because they suffered childbirth - it was a great tool for childbirth.

04:30:22;29

They were also given it for everything from PMS, menstrual cramps, coughs - anything that was an issue; an ache or a pain, here you go. Take this. It was the mother's little helper of the 1860s, 1870s - give her opium-based.

04:30:42;10

And laudanum was big - laudanum was huge. So most of the people who were addicted, were middle class women. There was such a problem in this country that there were ads in

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every paper that you went to for cures; whether it be alcohol, whether it be cocaine, opium or morphine - any drug habit there were cures.

04:31:06;17 One particular - most of them were all frauds - one particular cure was very, very popular and it's interesting the way they did it. If you wanted to take part in this cure, they sent you a huge questionnaire - eight or ten page questionnaire - and you filled it out.

04:31:18;26 And it provided them, in minute detail, details of your drug use: what did you use - what type - by brand. Well, they would take a look at it and go, "Okay, well, here, we're going to manufacture your cure."

04:31:33;12 And what they did was their cure was opium, cocaine and alcohol mixed in, in certain dosage units; so you were in effect cured because you weren't going through withdrawal until you quit using their medicine and then you had the same problem all over again.

04:31:48;11 So these ads were probably as common as ads for wireless

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telephone service is today. That's how common it was and what a problem it was. Stop and think today if we saw this kind of ad, you know, five or ten different ads per page for drug cures. It's really a commentary on what was going on in society of that period of time.

04:32:19;09 Patten medicines were another cause. Patten medicines - we've all seen the westerns where the guy on the back of the covered wagon says, "Hey, this stuff will cure everything: polio, snake bite, dandruff - anything you want."

04:32:31;19 Patten medicines were quite simply medicines - over the counter medicines - as everything was over the counter. They were primarily alcohol, opium, possibly cocaine, perhaps marijuana and other drugs mixed in; and they were touted as cures for any and all diseases and aches and pains. This particular patent medicine was called, Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup. What does that ad depict to you?

04:33:01;12 MS: (Unint.).



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04:33:02;03 JM: Silent children - and that's probably one of the reasons that we did it. Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup - I mean, they promoted it as a family, friendly, safe drug for kids. Use it for teething, use it for coughing, use it for children's diarrhea - it's a safe, friendly way to keep your kids feeling better.

04:33:25;10 Well, it's opium and alcohol and a few other wonderful things. And what was happening was, this was the time of the Industrial Revolution - it had a tremendous immigration of people.

04:33:36;10 Most of them working in sweatshops where they'd go 10/12/14 hours a day. Well, then, like now, you needed two incomes so mom working and dad was working. There were kids. There were kids. The tenements and the ghettos were full of kids.

04:33:54;13 So we had childcare. One lady would take eight or ten of these kids. Well, you've got ten kids - various ages, various states of health or ill health - so she'd be dosing them up. There's a little, you know... Mrs. Winslow, she's

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got ten stoned kids, your day's a lot easier.

04:34:13;14 Well, mom comes home, picks up the kid, brings her back to the one-bedroom tenement with 12 people in it, the kid's finally coming out of his drug induced stupor and he's a little cranky - so what does she do? Well, he's teething - we'll give him a little bit more of this stuff.

04:34:29;07 So the kids are whacked. We start to see children dying because parents don't know what's in this stuff. We start to seeing kids dying and there's death certificates that attribute the death of the child directly to an overdose of Mrs. Winslow's or various and sundry other preparations like that.

04:34:49;11 Well, you have to remember, at this time, drugs are not controlled in this country: the manufacturer's not controlled, the advocacy of drugs is not controlled - you can make a claim on anything and you don't have to back it up.

04:35:01;25 People are becoming aware because of the ads in the paper

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because of what they see on a daily basis in their communities that there's a huge drug problem; so there's a pressure for reform. This is an actual cover from a Collier's (ph.) Magazine back at about that time.

04:35:15;24      You can't quite make it out, but there's money, there's opium pods and there's the patent medicines. You also had a tremendous evangelical and temperance movement going on in this society at the same time from alcohol and drugs.

04:35:29;26      You've got states passing... cities passing drug laws on a local level because they're usually the first to recognize an issue and the medical consensus is one of every 300 Americans is an addict of some type or another. It has a tremendous effect on society.

04:35:46;03      One of the big things, though, is the muck breaking of the (unint.) - yellow journalism. Colliers was out doing exposes on various industries. The meat-packing industry was exposed, tenements - living conditions - that were being exposed and patent medicines soon became the target - a well deserved target.

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- 04:36:08;20      And that all resulted in - as we see in many cases - pressure for a reform and a change in the laws. It resulted in a couple of laws: the Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906, the Opium Exclusion Act and the Harrison Narcotics Act.
- 04:36:24;16      We still live with the Pure Food and Drug Act every day and this affects you every day. The Pure Food and Drug Act requires labeling. You have to know what's in that medicine.
- 04:36:38;22      It also requires purity levels. There are certain standards set and it requires that if you're making a claim on a medicine, that it's safe and that you can prove - scientifically prove - the effectiveness of it.
- 04:36:56;01      How does that influence what's going on in today's American society? There's two issues that are going on that go directly to this: the legalization of marijuana. There are no scientifically proven studies - scientifically based studies - that prove marijuana works.

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04:37:15;27        So what we're talking about is anecdotal evidence. We got rid of anecdotal evidence on drugs in 1906. And we're also talking about the movement recently to import drugs from other countries; in particular, Canada.

04:37:31;28        How do you know what you're getting? Canada's not a big issue because they're getting all their drugs from us and just selling them back. Now when you start getting India and Pakistan and a few other countries involved in this, it might get a little iffy. There's a huge, huge trade in counterfeit substances. The other law that had a tremendous effect on what was going on was the Opium Exclusion Act.

04:37:51;17        Basically, it says: hey, the only way you can bring opium into this country is for medical use and we're going to track it. You got to declare it at Customs - we're going to track it. That pretty much shut down the raw opium and the smoking opium trade.

04:38:04;16        And then last, but not least, the Foundation for Federal

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Drug Law Enforcement is the Harrison Narcotics Act. It's a federal law. It regulated manufacture and distribution of drugs, primarily narcotics, which was a pretty broad-based opiate, opium, heroin, morphine and cocaine.

04:38:22;25      And notice there's no marijuana in there. There's also no amphetamine - met amphetamine. They weren't around yet. But the Harrison Narcotics Act required - and this is based on some treaties - that the United States establish a federal drug law enforcement opponent.

04:38:44;24      And as a result of the Harrison Narcotics Act, drug law enforcement went to the Internal Revenue Service. Can anybody tell me why it was IRS? Somebody know - (unint.) museum.

04:38:58;10      MS: (Unint.)

04:38:59;09      JM: Imported. Was a tax-based law. Any time that drugs were sold, when they were brought into the country, they had to have a little tax stamp on them. And you can go in some of the old pharmacies and you can still see the tax

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stamp very much like the tax stamp that you see on a bottle of whiskey.

04:39:16;29 That was the way they could register and they could keep the chain... of custody of the chain of manufacturing, distribution and importation - they could track it. It was the first time they could do that in the history of this country.

04:39:31;19 Federal Drug Law Enforcement stayed in the Internal Revenue Division in various sundries and formats. At first, we were in the Miscellaneous Division. The Miscellaneous Division of IRS was in charge of playing cards, fill cheese, adulterated butter, margarine, and, oh, by the way, narcotics. Later on, it actually went into the Bureau of Prohibition; so The Untouchables - Elliott Ness, those folks - also worked in drug law enforcement.

04:39:59;10 But finally, in 1930, Harry Anslinger (ph.) who was the John Edgar Hoover of Federal Drug Law Enforcement was appointed to the head of the Federal Bureau of Narcotics or FBN, which is the original single-mission, drug law

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enforcement agency of this country.

04:40:19;04      The FBN, at that period of time - the 1930s - their primary targets was organized crime: Legs Diamond, Lucky Luciano, Arnold Rothstein. Do you remember seeing the movie "The Godfather"? Arnold Rothstein was the old, grizzled guy that was always advising Al Pacino and eventually tried to kill him.

04:40:42;29      Arnold Rothstein was a money-maker or a money-man and a tremendous organizer. Luciano was credited for as being - I don't want to use the word "godfather" - but he's the "godfather", the originator of the American mafia system.

04:40:56;22      They were heavily involved in drug trafficking, primarily morphine. Why - because they could get it very easily in Europe and ship it over here. It was pure, they could cut it, they could sell it and they had a pretty good market for it.

04:41:08;20      World War II pretty much shut off the illicit trade in illegal drugs. I mean, you weren't going anywhere - the



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security was too high, shipping was too difficult,  
smuggling just became a very, very difficult thing.

04:41:23;26      The 1940's, there was little or no smuggling. We begin to see it again in the 1950's. Oh, yeah, let me mention: marijuana - 1937 - marijuana had been around for 1,000 years; 1937, the Dust Bowl, still in the midst of the Depression.

04:41:46;23      The moved outlaw marijuana came primarily from the governors of the southwest. They were seeing a great influx, I mean, everybody was... the whole world was suffering the Depression.

04:41:57;14      Seeing a big influx of Mexican migrants; and, they, again, brought their customs with them. They didn't like it and they pushed very hard to get marijuana outlawed. It still stayed in the underground, it was big in the 20s and 30s for the jazz musicians. There were quote, unquote "tea rooms", vamp songs - a vamp song was a song about marijuana.

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04:42:22;22        There's a lot of music out there going way back to that time. You know, we have a tendency to think that this is a modern issue - it's not. There were drug related lyrics in music back in the 20s and 30s.

04:42:33;24        Cab Callaway does a song called "The Reefer Man". I think there's two or three of you and you'd probably recognize the man, Cab Calloway. For those babies here, he was a band leader in the 30s and 40s. It's promoted again in the 50s by beatniks (ph.) - Jack Carowack (ph.), "On the Road". Was it "On the Road Again"?

04:42:55;23        FS: (Unint.).

04:42:59;06        JM: This was the book, not the song. And the Beats and the Hipsters - it was a way to protest - and we saw that movement pick up. But before that happened, we had the fabulous 50s.

04:43:10;07        Organized crime is now entrenched in drug trafficking. We've got the French Connection, the French course skins (ph.) with the Italian... or the traditional American mafia

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here in this country. They control it. They control drugs.

04:43:27;14 We have the McClellan (ph.) Hearings - those are also portrayed in the Godfather - that's when they bring him in and he denies all knowledge. The McClellin Hearings were kind of funny because for years and years and years - and really up until Bobby Kennedy was the Attorney General - the FBI denied that there was such a thing as organized crime.

04:43:47;13 Which I think... well, I found kind of funny in doing research for the museum. Back in the 1930s, we had what we called The Mafia Book and there's a copy of it in there and it was a listing of each of the mafia families broken down by name and by rank.

04:44:00;07 From the Capos (ph.), from the Consiglieris (ph.), right down the list - it was all there. The McClellan Hearings were held in the 50s and when they wanted to know who was who in the drug trade - they came to the FBI. And you can actually see on the wall there's a reproduction of one of

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the actual charts that was used during the hearings. I had an old FBI agent call me and say, "Hey would you be interested in having these delivered?"

04:44:25;13      And they delivered the original five from the five families of New York that we have in the archives now. Heroin is coming in - not by the ounce but by hundreds of pounds by this time.

04:44:40;04      It seems small by our standards today, but by their standards, that was a lot of dope. We also had, in the 50s, new drugs. What did we have? We've got amphetamines. World War II developed... there was a tremendous development in the drug arena in World War II.

04:44:56;04      We've got amphetamines, we have benzo diazapines (ph.) with Librium and valium, we have barbiturates. And those are filtering their way into society for use and abuse. FBN does not have a mandate to cover those drugs: narcotics, cocaine, marijuana.

04:45:16;29      Everything else is the Food and Drug... well, actually, the

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Department of Agriculture., The Food and Drug Administration, BDAC - Bureau of Drug Abuse and Control. Well, what happens, and we see it in the 50s and 60s, is people are tripping over each other because drug sales and drug use; it's poly-sales (ph.) - poly-drug use.

04:45:35;28      If you go to someone, he is more likely... he's not going to send you down the street to go to a marijuana store, he's going to say, "I'll take care of it for you." If he's selling coke, you can probably get marijuana from him, you can probably get heroin from him.

04:45:49;06      So what we have is we have a series of undercover agents tripping over each other. I'm an FBN agent going in to buy heroin and the guy says, "Oh, by the way, I've got this great LSD." "Oh, hey, wait a minute - excuse me - I've gotta go get somebody else to buy that."

04:46:02;21      So we've got people tripping over each other. But you've got two classes of drugs; and you've got to remember: drug use is still confined to the margins of society in this point and time.

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04:46:15;16      It's still a very, very small, almost infinitesimal (ph.) percentage of people in this country are involved in drugs. What we see as to the 50s come along and then we see the 60s, heroin gets back in such a big way and especially in the black community. We've gone full circle now. We've gone from white, middle class women... Now heroin is available and very, very popular in the black community - in the ghetto. This is a quote from Manchild (ph.) in the Promise Land: "It seemed to be everywhere."

04:46:47;26      "Every time I went uptown, somebody else was hooked. Somebody else was strung out." A lot of people think that it was the influence of a couple of things: one, jazz was huge. We have the hipsters, we've got the beat generation, we've got jazz going on and everybody wants to be like Charlie Bird.

04:47:04;04      Charlie Bird's a stone - the sax player is a stone junkie. So in the jazz community, it's popular. In Lexington, Kentucky, which was the federal dry out facility for heroin addicts, had the best jazz bands in history in the 50s and

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60s because all the jazz players were down in Lexington for treatment.

04:47:29;09 By 1960: again, like I said, less than one percent of adolescents had ever tried a drug - less than two percent of the entire population. That's going to change rapidly, okay, we are in a new era in the age of Aquarius.

04:47:46;16 This is Timothy Leary - anybody remember that name? "Turn on, tune in, drop out. Do your own thing." We've got the Vietnam War going on, we've got the Baby Boom generation growing up and saying, "Hey, mommy and daddy suck."

04:48:02;28 They live in the suburbs and they live in these little square boxes - we don't want to be like that. We don't want to be what they are. Now, we call them the greatest generation; but then, we didn't want to.

04:48:14;21 Those people who had suffered through the depression and through World War II were rather magnanimous with their children. They spoiled the hell out of the baby-boomers. Let them do damn well whatever they pleased.

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04:48:25;18       What did it result in? It resulted in a sea change. As I said before, prior to this, drug use was confined to the margins of society. The 60s middle class embraced drug use wholeheartedly - put its arms around it and hugged it and took it into its bosom.

04:48:46;00       You had smoke-ins, marijuana - everybody was smoking dope. These pictures... there's a great picture in the museum of a guy selling bongos, roach-clips, pipes - all of the paraphernalia you want at a roadside stand at 15th and K. The middle class embraced. Not only did they embrace drug use, they embraced drug smuggling, they embraced drug trafficking, they brought that good ole' American know-how to drug smuggling.

04:49:15;03       We went from smuggling a little bit of grass in your shoe, maybe a little bit of coke in your sock to boatloads. Those are bails of marijuana on a ship in the mid-70s that were seized off the coast of this country.

04:49:27;18       Those are two DEA agents, by the way. They're a lot older



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now and they don't have hair and they're fatter. I won't tell you who they are, okay. So now we've got a serious issue: drug law arrests... I mean, drugs are accepted, hey, do your own thing.

04:49:41;20      Look at the difference in drug law arrests in a short period of time: 1960 to 1969. Those are just federal drug law arrests. Look at the difference. Society is awash in not only drugs but the acceptance of drugs. We've got a whole new mind-set about drugs.

04:50:01;14      As a result, we have the first modern war on drugs declared by President Nixon. They attack what they think is the biggest problem: heroin. They go after The French Connection, Nixon convinces Turkey to quit growing opium, which shuts down the source of supply.

04:50:18;07      Methadone is introduced as a substitute - as a cure - for heroin; and to stop the bickering between the FBN and the tripping over each other with BDAC, the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs is formed.

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04:50:37;08      Most people who are with the agency now don't even remember BNDD. Sometimes people refer to us as the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs, but we won't go into that at this point in time.

04:50:51;00      That was going to cure the turf battles. In 1970, we've got the Controlled Substances Act - that takes it out of a tax-based system and it puts it under the justice system. And in 1973, DEA is formed - why? Somebody tell me?

04:51:09;29      DEA is going to solidify the federal government's focus and mission towards solving the drug problem. It's going to take Customs and 16 or 18 other agencies, blend them all into one organization and we're going to solve the problem.

04:51:25;07      How many agencies do we have in the federal government today that have some type of drug law enforcement requirement? Can somebody tell me? We're up into the 50s now. You see what I mean about making the same mistakes over and over again?

04:51:42;22      So, we've got DEA, we're in the 70's - we're having a great

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time. Cocaine is starting to rear its ugly head, but we're not paying any attention to it because we're looking at heroin and the government white paper says, "Heroin and barbiturates are the biggest problems."

04:51:59;28      So cocaine, hey don't worry about it - it's kiddie dope. It's kiddie dope - not a big deal. We let it run rampant. I mean, I can remember working in Atlanta and the SACKS (ph.) saying, "Hey, you can't spend money on coke."

04:52:18;20      I mean, there's coke all over the place - truckloads of coke. You got to buy heroin. No, there's no heroin to buy in Atlanta. There was coke, but the mandate was heroin; so you couldn't spend the money. And what happened there? That gave the cartels the time and the opportunity to establish themselves.

04:52:40;29      Most of these guys started out as small-time crooks. Pablo Escobar used to steal gravestones and shave them and then re-imprint them - that's how he made is money. He stole cars. This guy was the terror of the world for many years.

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04:52:57;28       The Cali Cartel - they were a little smarter, a little more lower key. But the 1970s, they started out smuggling marijuana, they realized that: hey, we've gotta smuggle a whole bunch of marijuana to make some money.

04:53:11;09       But I could put a lot more cocaine which sells for a lot more money in the same airplane and double or triple or quadruple my pockets, and then we get Mexican organized crime involved in it.

04:53:20;23       So now these people have had ten years or so to get their basis going. By the 1980s, we have international organized crime that truly reaches into every community in the country.

04:53:35;24       For the first time in our history, we have organized crime that is based outside of the country, controlling what's going on criminally in the United States. They are so powerful, they change the constitution of Colombia and when that doesn't work, they attack the government.

04:53:53;25       Pablo Escobar mounted an attack against the government:

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blowing up government buildings, murdering judges, actually attacking the Colombian Supreme Court - holding it hostage and eventually killing it.

04:54:08;29      They tied themselves with para-military organizations and what we now call terrorists. Why did they do that? They had huge tracks of land, they had production facilities - they needed somebody to guarantee safety; so they began to tie themselves with these organizations.

04:54:27;17      Again, we know this is going on - we're asleep at the switch, though. And then we have crack. What's crack? Crack is free-base, crack is cocaine that you can smoke. Why do we want to smoke it? It's faster.

04:54:48;22      Bypasses the stomach, goes right into the bloodstream: wham, bam, right to your brain. Hugely powerful, hugely stimulating, hugely addictive. Changes many urban communities from peaceful, every day communities into war zones.

04:55:09;09      We see open-air drug markets throughout the United States.

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We see turf battles - people being shot, murdered, killed on street corners. We have people having their children sleep in bathtubs because the gun fights that are going on in their neighborhood at night, bullets piercing their doors, their walls.

04:55:26;11 We've got a serious issue here - what the heck is going on?

Well, you've got to remember: let's go back to the 60s - turn on, tune in, drop out. Baby boomers are getting a little older - they've got kids.

04:55:39;22 I can't have my kids doing this. People are upset. People are very, very upset. We start to see the beginnings of a prevention movement: Nancy Reagan is probably the most recognizable person who was involved in it, but communities begin to organize.

04:55:55;07 The DARE program starts in 1983, Nancy Reagan had her "Just Say No". There's hundreds of community coalitions that are formed. And we're beginning to turn the tide because what are we telling ourselves: hey, we can't lock everybody up - we need to educate people on what this is really all about.

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04:56:13;22       Nineteen, seventy-nine, we had about 26 million people who were regular users of one type or another drug - regular user at least once in the past month. By 1988, we have 15.2 million - it's even lower now, down to about 13 million.

04:56:30;08       A lot of it is strong enforcement, but a lot of it is prevention and education. So we're beginning to see a change. If we took the same rate and reduced cancer by 50 percent, there'd be people getting Nobel prizes, but we need to continue.

04:56:49;19       But then we start seeing the psycho again. What happens: the 90s come along. The 90s are here - we're smart, economy's booming. Heroin comes back - why does heroin come back to this country in such a very strong, strong fashion?

04:57:06;24       The Colombian cartels made a business decision. The United States is glutted with cocaine - either powder or crack. How can we make some more money? What's the other product

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that we can do? What makes me even more money for less product? Heroin.

04:57:25;03      They made a business decision: they started growing the opium poppy, they brought back some old French Connection chemists, taught them how to do it because it's very labor intensive and they started marketing it.

04:57:36;25      And what they did was they undercut the whole market. They sold cheaper, they sold higher levels of purity. There was and there is. When I came on in 1970, if you saw heroin that was three percent that was pure dope and that was great - that was P-dope.

04:57:52;12      That was when you were close to somebody. These guys were putting out 98/99 percent. The competition: the Italians, the Cubans, the Chinese, could not keep up with them because they were putting out pure, un-adulterated heroin.

04:58:07;16      You could shoot it, you could smoke it or you could snort it. Now what did that do for them? That opened up their market. There's not a lot of people who want to take a



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needle and put it in their arm, but they'll smoke a little, they'll snort a little; so it's much more attractive. I am not a junkie if I'm snorting, I'm not a junkie if I'm smoking.

04:58:30;09 Well you're not sticking a needle in your arm today, but in about two or three weeks, you're going to be especially at that level of purity. So you had...it was readily available; you had low-cost, high purity, very easily administered to any number of ways and it was glamorized.

04:58:43;21 We had heroin chic. We had models that they'd make up to look like junkies. Heroin use had begun to begun glamorous again in some circles, so it boomed. Then we also brought into the chemical side of things: we've got met amphetamine.

04:59:03;16 We all know what the scope of the met amphetamine problem was. In the 70s and 80s, met amphetamine was very regionalized. And when I was in Indiana, you could... if you were in Indianapolis, you'd put an ounce of met amphetamine on the table and an ounce of coke on the table

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- the coke would be gone, the meth would be there - nobody would touch it.

04:59:20;29      You go to southern Indiana, it'd be just the opposite - they used the meth versus the coke. But now it's readily available: we've got the Internet, we've got Beavis and Butthead can go to the Internet, get the formula and make it in their closet.

04:59:35;17      We've got Mexican organized crime gets involved in methamphetamine trafficking. They're not making two/three/four ounces, they're making 50/60/80 pounds at a time and distributing it through their other drug organizations.

04:59:48;18      We have synthetics like catamine (ph.), we've got LSD, we've got GHB - date-rape drugs - and we have MDMA - Ecstasy - which is probably the most predominant problem we have in this field right now - MDMA.

05:00:02;14      MDMA, five to seven years ago, was a college-age drug - early 20s up to 30. Now it's down to as low as 12-year-olds. We're seeing more and more MDMA, more and more

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Ecstasy - people think it's harmless. The medical reviews are out.

05:00:18;20 All this time, as I mentioned, we had the Colombian cartels who tied themselves with people like the FARC. We have organizations in El Salvador, we have organizations in Guatemala, we have organizations all over the world. Afghanistan is torn asunder, Afghanistan's a huge, huge opium growing area.

05:00:41;04 The Taliban - religious Islamic fundamentalists - take over Afghanistan and they encourage opium growing. They control it, they tax it. It's how they fund a lot of their activities and how they fund their fight with the then legitimate government.

05:00:57;18 That flag up there on the note, were seized by DEA folks in Afghanistan - that's a flag allowing the bearer who's carrying white powder: it says, "Allow the bearer who's carrying this white powder to pass - he has paid the tax."  
And the white powder is heroin - selling it openly.

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05:01:15;29       Once they establish power and they consolidate it, they go:  
"Oh, we're taking too much heat from the world." "You can't  
grow opium anymore." Well, they've been stockpiling it for  
fives years before they make this decision. What has that  
done? It's made their product worth even more.

05:01:34;16       Those monies, in particular with the Taliban and with the  
drug traffickers, fund people like Osama Bin Laden - this  
is a group of FARC revolutionaries - all funded with drug  
money.

05:01:48;00       They started out asking as security, as protection, and  
they got involved into the trafficking of it - there's your  
result. There's your result. One of the things that we as  
Americans have to realize and we don't - and we've done a  
very poor job of (unint.).

05:02:02;18       Every time that you spend a dollar or five dollars or ten  
dollars on a bag of weed or a bag of coke - whatever it is  
- some of that money is eventually going to find its way  
back into some type of terror organization.

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05:02:14;07       It's either going to kill a cop, kill a judge, bribe a judge or result in something like 9/11. It's going to fund the weapons of destruction, it's going to fund the explosives. Sooner or later, it's going to come back to you.

05:02:27;24       Where are we at today? The magnitude of the problem: nine million regular users of marijuana every day - sixty-five percent of the working population. Heroin - give or take - 1.5 million regular users; and cocaine, 2.5 million regular users. This affects you daily. You're paying for it in the sense that you're paying taxes to help fund emergency rooms.

05:02:56;14       You're paying taxes that are funding your police officers and your fire people. When drug testing - mandatory drug testing - is established in industry, insurance rates/ accident rates go down 60 percent for mandatory drug testing in a manufacturing situation.

05:03:19;05       It reduces accidents, absences 60 some percent - so that is how pervasive it still is in this country. What have we

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learned since then? That you can't lock everybody up - it doesn't work.

05:03:32;19 You gotta lock people up - there are people out there that need to go to jail. There really are people out there that need to go to jail. We can't lock everybody up, so we've got to do a couple of things: we've got to try prevention, we've got to educate the kids, we've got to have treatment.

05:03:47;17 But we really got back to the family - parents are very, very important in this whole situation. Parents are critical to this whole equation. Family is critical to the equation. Look at the chart: how much have you learned at home about drug risks.

05:04:04;16 Nothing, forty-five percent... That's a screwed up chart. Forty-five percent of the kids who have never talked to their parents about marijuana have used it. It goes down. Thirty-three percent if you talked to them a little and 29 percent if you've talked to them a lot.

05:04:19;01 And it goes across the board. If you talk to your kids, if

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you involve yourselves in your kids lives, you're going to have an effect. Who are your heroes - relatives and friends. This is a study taken by Partnership for a Drug Free America.

05:04:31;06 Who are your heroes? We're not talking Kobe Bryant here, we're not talking Darryl Strawberries - we're talking about relatives and friends. That's who they look up to. Who do you look up to?

05:04:41;17 Ladies stand up, take a bow - for those of you who are moms. Mom. Who influences your life the most - parents. If anybody in here has got teenagers, we've all see the eye-roll, "Oh, man. You're such a geek." And you would think that you don't have an effect on them, but you really do. So it's important to involve yourself in your kid's life.

05:05:04;16 Some of the ads that Partnership's putting out now with where are you going, what are you doing are very, very pertinent. And this is from Joe Califano: "A child who reaches age 21 without smoking or using alcohol or using

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drugs is virtually certain to never do so."

05:05:22;07 It's a pretty strong statement, don't you think? A pretty strong statement. We guarantee a generation that is drug free, we're probably going to see several subsequent generations.

05:05:33;07 Anybody have any questions? I know we ran through that very, very quickly and I apologize if I moved a little too fast, but any questions? Comments? Thank you. And now you can all go to lunch.

05:05:50;24 MS: Before you do that, let me just say: thank you, Jim, for the time that you spent today with us - I appreciate it.

**END OF TAPE**