

Leary - Kennedy Clash on LSD

by Don McNeill



MACROBIOTIC RAID

On June 1, the Federal Food and Drug Administration, raided the Osawa Foundation, Inc., 327 Second Avenue and seized all foodstuffs and books that were on the premises. The raid was touched off by what the FDA claimed as "misbranded" food stuffs allegedly used in "Zen macrobiotic" diets.

Miss Irma Paule, director of the foundation, was ordered by the FDA not to touch anything or sell anything. "They even refused to let me take my 5 lbs. of rice which I live off of or take tea from my teapot," claimed Miss Paule.

The FDA catalogued all foodstuffs and books. Some of the books which were indiscriminately seized were the I Ching, Lao Tzu, Horror, the Nobel Prize winning book "Man the Unknown" by Dr. Alexis Carrel and "The Spiral" a small magazine which Miss Paule publishes. The book which the FDA was most interested in was "Zen Macrobiotics" by George Ohsawa, which as Miss Paule stated "was one of 300 books he wrote and classified under the Philosophy of Medicine and one of many books we sell."

Miss Paule seems to think that the raid has to do with Beth and Charles Simon who often visited her establishment to sit in on her weekly lectures. One of the Simons recently died of malnutrition due to a Zen macrobiotic diet.

"It was a well known fact that the Simons were heavy drug users. They misused the principles of Zen macrobiotics."

"We do not tell a person what to eat. We teach a principle which is derived from the most traditional oriental philosophy; the principle of non-violence, of understanding, the polarity which is life itself. There is a beat to life which must be observed for better living. Nutrition is only one part of living."

Miss Paule was recently advised by a lawyer that if she did not contest the raid and seizure on her property the FDA would burn the books along with the foodstuffs.

She is now in the process of trying to raise money for legal expenses.

Kennedy: "You're suggesting that anyone who is going to administer LSD ought to be carefully trained?"

Leary: "Absolutely."

Kennedy: "And there shouldn't be indiscriminate use of LSD?"

Leary: "No sir, there shouldn't."

Kennedy: "And that's why you want to give college courses in LSD?"

Leary: "Yes sir."

Kennedy: "And what's going to happen to the boy who doesn't get to college?"

Leary: "Well, we'll have special training institutes for him."

Kennedy: "So we're going to train high school students. Are we going to have high school courses as well?"

Leary: "I would let research answer the question at what age the nervous system is ready to use these instruments."

"I'm facing, as I urge all of us to do, to face the reality of the situation that millions of Americans are using these drugs indiscriminately in their own pursuits. Now I'm not in favor of this..."

Kennedy: "That's sufficient..."

Leary: "...but I'm not in favor of laws putting university students..."

Kennedy: "Well, you're not in favor of this, you're not in favor of it. Let's go that far."

Leary: "But I feel that there should be no Law against possession of any substance the main function of which is to alter consciousness."

Kennedy: "Well, you're not in favor of indiscriminate possession of this drug."

Leary: "No sir, but I'm against Laws putting people in prison."

Kennedy: "Well, that's a decision... that's a matter for legislators to decide."

The testimony moved to the question of the safety of LSD. Dr. Leary felt that "the commercial activities involving manufacture, sale and distribution of these substances definitely should be controlled because you don't know about quality, you don't know about safety..."

Kennedy: "Now just a minute. You said that you don't know about quality. What is it about the quality that you're frightened about?"

CHORUS: (leary) "We don't want amateur or black market distribution... the amphetamines... the barbituates... because you don't know what you're getting." (Kennedy) "Why not, why not, why not... why not, why don't you want it... on LSD why don't you want the indiscriminate manufacture and distribution. Is it because it's dangerous? Are you interested only in the consumer, like truth in packaging or there's too many strawberries or not enough strawberries. Or is it something more dangerous?"

Leary: "No sir, LSD is not a dangerous drug. I have said that of all the forms of energy available to the modern American, LSD is the least dangerous that I can see."

Kennedy: "Well, even excepting that, Churchill said that democracy was the worst form of government except for all the others tried. I mean, just excepting that it's the least dangerous, it's still dangerous, is it not?"

Leary: "Any form of energy is dangerous if misused or used unwisely, yes?"

The United States Senate recently turned on to Timothy Leary. The guides for the session were Senators Thomas J. Dodd (D. Conn.) and Edward M. Kennedy (D. Mass.).

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