

Hippie-Types Claim Drugs From Mafia

By WALLACE WOOD
Sentinel Staff Writer

The Mafia and organized crime, not hippies, are supplying the "hard" drugs and narcotics to Santa Cruz County youth.

That charge was made by a group of persons Tuesday who put themselves under the "hippie" label and complained of unjust persecution of their culture and its members.

It was made Tuesday before county supervisors during a hearing on the problem of eradicating the county of an "undesirable transient element."

To many persons the term "transient" was taken to mean hippies, especially those causing problems in San Lorenzo Valley.

Supervisors, on a 4 to 1 vote, decided to hire a "systems analyst" for \$500 to help them define the undesirable transient problem and its ramifications before trying to take any action.

San Lorenzo-Scotts Valley Supervisor George Cress voted against it. "We know our problem," he growled in a unusual display of temper. "We want these people to live legally and live morally. We are trying to get these people back on the right track, to have them show respect and show love for their fellow man."

Cress said he already has set up a committee of top county officials, law enforcement officers and citizens to deal with the problem. He said his committee "has a program" and "has accomplished a great deal already." Cress said he wants no "press notoriety" and feels press coverage will do more harm than good.

Cress, as well as Aptos Supervisor Ralph Sanson, warned of possible vigilante action by local residents to drive persons they do not like out of the area

unless official action is taken.

A group of about seven persons dressed in the hippie style made hissing noises and sounds of "No, no," at Cress' remarks. Three of their number spoke to the board, and two of them repeated the charge that the Mafia living within Santa Cruz County itself is the chief supplier of hard drugs to hippies and to youth.

They asked that one of their representatives be appointed to the county committee studying the problem, to avoid a "one-sided view" of the situation. However, supervisors took no action on the suggestion.

"The traffic in drugs by transients is nothing compared to the traffic by organized crime in the county," William Sheldon told supervisors. He charged that officials are being "bought off" so they will take no action against the Mafia and organized crime.

Later, members of the group were asked if they had proof that the Mafia is active in the county or had personal contact with the crime ring. Several refused to reply, saying they feared a "contract" would be let for their lives by the Mafia. One said he knew of a case where a Mafia representative had sold drugs. Another claimed that a friend's life was endangered after she had "crossed" the organized crime syndicate. However, they offered no specifics, and said they believed the press was unfairly attacking them.

In reply to the Mafia charges, Supervisor John R. McCallie said the board "should be interested in a report from the district attorney on the status of organized crime" in the county. However, no action was taken.

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Hippie-Types Charge Mafia Supplies Drugs

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en to ask for such a report.

Supervisors seemed to reach no real agreement on the approach to the "undesirable transient" problem, which prompted Sanson to remark, "This is why we want to have a systems analyst, a person trained in systematic thinking." He said such a person could point out problems and areas of concern that local officials might not consider.

In reply to Cress' remark that his committee is already on the job, Chairman Dan Forbus declared, "I went to one of your committee meetings. There was about \$1000 in high-paid people sitting around, talking about what they could do, and what they couldn't do. You've gone about as far as you can go. You're at your limit."

Friend Stone, Scotts Valley city administrator, told supervisors that "you're four years

too late" in attacking the transient problem. He said that many officials "had their heads buried in the sand like a bunch of ostriches."

Stone said the fact that many has a beard "and doesn't wear a Sunday suit" doesn't mean he does not pay his own way in the community. In fact, he may feel he is hassled for what some other long-haired person does."

The important thing, according to Stone, is uniform enforcement of laws already on the books. He urged supervisors to provide the district attorney's office and county judges with a large enough staff to do a proper job prosecuting illegal actions.

Supervisor John R. McCallie called it "a problem in common decency," and said someone must take steps to show transients that "what was tolerated in the past won't be tolerated in the future."

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