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Senate may toughen laws on pot users

United Press International

WASHINGTON — A Senate mmittee may take a tougher tance on criminal penalties for arijuana use now that scientific perts say heavy pot smoking can fect the brain, lungs, heart and reoductive system Sen. Charles Mathias, R-Md.,

id the two days of hearings on edical effects of the drug, which nded Thursday, will help the udiciary Committee decide whether it needs to take another

the criminal code reform bill it ap-

proved last year. The legislation would reduce the penalty for possession of up to five ounces under federal jurisdiction from a one-year prison term and a \$5,000 fine to only a \$500 fine and

no prison term. "Because of the existence of new scientific knowledge, we're holding these hearings so that we can review that very question," Mathias said in

an interview. Asked if the question of "deook at the marijuana provision in criminalizing" marijuana use was

being put on the back burner, Mathias replied, "It's on the front burner; the question is whether we

ought to keep it there. Opponents of removing strong criminal penalties were bolstered by testimony from Mitchell Rosenthal, head of the Phoenix House Foundation, the nation's largest residential program for drug abusers.

He said he has changed his position from accepting decriminaliza-tion to opposing it after seeing its effects in New York, where he said nearly one-third of all seventh and States. He also said there are more eighth graders have puffed pot.

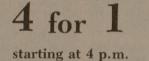
'If current trends continue - if the number of regular users and daily users continues to increase ---then our nation is well on its way to acquiring an unmanageable number of emotionally or intellectually handicapped individuals," Rosent-

William Pollin, director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, said there are about 15 million regular marijuana users in the United

cancer-causing agents in marijuana than in tobacco.

One of several parents scheduled to testify was Joe Hamilton — husband of actress Carol Burnett who has had four of his 11 children addicted to drugs.

Two panels of scientists testified Wednesday that marijuana use can affect the human reproductive sys-tem, although more research is needed to pinpoint the possible



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U.S. Olympic boss rejects Carter boycott

United Press International

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. The executive director of the ited States Olympic Committee aid Thursday the Carter adminisation has no authority to order an imerican boycott of the American Dympics and that he hoped to be ble to tell that to the president

F. Don Miller, who heads the uge U.S. Olympic operation, said wen though members of the adminstration had indicated the United states might pull out of the Olymics this summer, none of those offials had contacted him.

In addition, Miller left open the ossibility the U.S.O.C. might igore any order by the president that his country not participate in the nmer Games

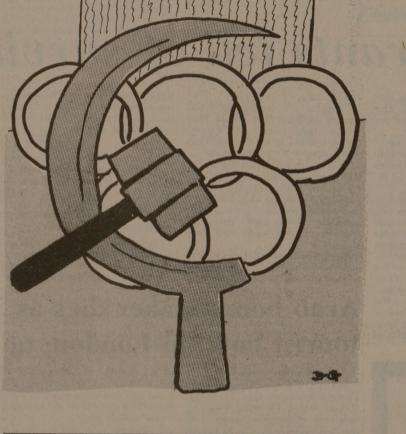
"It seems they have done their inicating through the media,' uid Miller. "Every day I read some-ung new and it is like a bubble in a aterbed. You push it down here nd it jumps up somewhere else." Secretary of State Cyrus Vance id Tuesday that if the Soviet nion had not pulled its troops out Afghanistan by mid-February the United States would not take part in the Olympics. On Wednesday press scretary Jody Powell said Carter stared Vance's view.

The international Olympic charr states that a nation's Olympic verning body, in this case the U.S.O.C., and not the political leader of a country makes decisions mcerning a nation's participation n the games

When asked whether he felt Carer was "butting in" on U.S.O.C. msiness, Miller replied:

Does he resent the president's ac-

"Let's say I regret it," said Miller. 'm not angry but this raises a queson in my mind of the lack of underanding about a worldwide movenent that stands for international mity, peace and promoting good ill in the use of the world."



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