Mom and Dad; I love you, group."

Not long ago, Florida Democrat Claude Pepper took his subcommittee on crime on a tour of the Seed and labeled it "one of the most imaginative, innovative, and dynamic programs" he had seen. Many in the drug abuse field in Florida, however, do not share Pepper's enthusiasm. As the Seed has expanded, opposition to the program and its flamboyant director has grown and become more bitter.

Members of the Dade County Health Planning Council's drug abuse task force who wanted to see the Seed denied a license express deep-seated philosophical objections to Barker's program. Opposition was also expressed by Dr. Ben Shepphard, the "grandfather" of Florida's drug rehabilitation programs, and formerly a consulting physician at the Seed. He now believes the program is dangerous because it relies on "brainwashing," and should be closed. In his view, half of the applicants accepted by the Seed would not be admitted by legitimate treatment centers. According to a state drug abuse office survey 17 percent of the Seedlings have never used drugs of any kind, and were admitted for resolution of "attitudinal" problems—relationship difficulties, school adaptation problems, and a life style objectionable to parents. At least one professional in the White House's Special Action Office for Drug Abuse Prevention is concerned, as is Shepphard, about what he terms the "hypocrisy" of using funds aimed at helping drug abusers to straighten out young people who give their parents problems. Unlike other programs, the Seed accepts young adults brought to it involuntarily by their parents. According to the Seed's own statistics, about two-thirds of the clients come in through private referrals; about half of the clients have never been arrested. "Parents bring their kids to Barker," commented Steve Greenberg, a young lawyer involved in a voluntary service that helps troubled adolescents, "because they want a simple solution. They can't communicate with their kids, and blame it on drugs, lack of law and order, permissiveness—any easy answer."

Shepphard and other professionals fear that confrontation therapy and "peer pressure group interaction" as practiced by the Seed may have long-term ill effects on clients. Peer pressure, in which a participant's psychological defenses are broken down and dependency upon the support of the group is established, is widely and successfully used by many drug programs. In those centers, however, it is usually accomplished in small groups of 10 to 15 persons under the supervision of trained personnel. The Seed uses groups of 300 to 500, without professional leadership. Many question whether this kind of peer pressure can accelerate, emphasize, or mask a severe emotional disturbance, and whether the transfer of the source of decision-making from the individual to the peer group is desirable.

Some fear that those whom Barker calls "successes" may, in fact, have more serious problems than they did as drug experimenters. Helene Kloth, a guidance counselor at a Dade County high school, gave the following account of the "clockwork orange" behavior of Seedlings who return to school: "When they return, they are 'straight,' namely, quiet, well-dressed, short hair, and not under the influence of drugs compared to their previous appearance of stoned most of the time. However, they seem to be living in a robot-like atmosphere, they won't speak to anyone outside of their own group. They sit in class together and the classes become divided into Seedlings opposing non-Seedlings . . . and the classes and the student body are as though divided into two camps. Seedlings seem to have an informing system on each other and on others. . . . They run in to use the telephone daily, to report against each other to the Seed, and it seems that an accused Seedling has no chance to defend himself because if enough persons accuse him of something, he is presumed guilty. . . . I used to think it was the saving program, I used to take kids there. . . . I am not sure whether the method in which they do return home and the difficulties they have in school is an improvement over their previous condition of being on drugs."

Dr. Jeffrey Elenewski, a task force member and clinical psychologist who interviews and evaluates young drug abusers in the court system, claims that he hears every day of incidents in which children have been "mistreated, threatened, and have suffered ill consequences pursuant to their involvement in the Seed program." Elenewski estimates that he has seen about 200 former Seed clients in the last 3 years, adolescents for whom the Seed has been psychologically destructive. "I see Barker's failures," says Elenewski, "the children who have attempted suicide after running from the Seed, those who are overwhelmed by feelings of worthlessness, hopelessness, and despair."

Barker's original center began in an old circus tent. At first, he had 80 clients. But since that modest beginning, he has moved to his present more expansive quarters—a 23-acre estate in a Fort Lauderdale suburb where, according to one Seed supporter, a $1 million building program is under way.

As it stands today, Seed headquarters is not unlike a fortress. A high fence surrounds the dowdy buildings. Outside, young male Seedlings stand guard, checking the identifications and purposes of all those who wish to be admitted to the grounds.

Within this sanctuary, Barker himself is as protective of the Seed's image and reputation as the Seedlings are of physical plant. During an interview with this reporter, Barker showed two

Abelson Awarded Kalinga Prize

Philip H. Abelson, editor of *Science* and president of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, is a winner of UNESCO's Kalinga Prize for the Popularization of Science for 1972. He shares the award with Nigel Calder, British science writer and editor.

Abelson, 60, obtained his doctorate in physics from the University of California at Berkeley in 1939. He has been associated almost continuously with the Carnegie Institution since then, doing research on chemistry, geophysics, and biophysics. During World War II he worked at the Naval Research Laboratory on the separation of uranium isotopes.

Abelson was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1959 and became editor of *Science* in 1962.

The Kalinga Prize, established in 1951, is awarded yearly to someone considered to have made international contributions to the interpretation of science. It is accompanied by £1000 and a month-long trip to India.—C.H.