

The Truth from a Nobel Laureate, a Governor, Judges,
a Police Chief, Prosecutors, Doctors, Authors, Politicians,
Attorneys, Former Prisoners, Patients and Providers ...

DRUG TRUTH

ABRAHAMSON
To ZEESE

The Truth, the whole Truth and nothing but the Truth

Scientific, medical and legal experts from around the world
reveal the true facts about drugs, corruption, profiling,
narco-terrorists, and their impact on our society

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DRUG TRUTH

ABRAHAMSON To ZEESE

is a selection of quotes extracted from an ongoing series of online visits to the *New York Times Drug Policy Forum* and from the *DrugSense* chatroom. Full copies of each guests or panels visits are made available onsite at both locations. To access the *New York Times Drug Policy Forum* you must first register at www.nytimes.com. To visit the *DrugSense* chatroom, simply go to www.drugsense.org/chat. Complete instructions for registering at the Times and for using the forum and chatroom are at www.cultural-baggage.com/instruct.htm.

It is our intent, that through reading this booklet, you will better understand the mechanism of greed, which is the drug war. Through this understanding, we also hope you will see how your efforts are needed to redesign our policy in a way to better serve mankind. Truth is the only mechanism that fully supports liberty and justice.

Share this booklet with your neighbors, friends, co-workers and family. With issues ranging from hemp fuel to corporate/terrorist interaction, from medical marijuana to prison abuse, this booklet runs the gamut at exposing the harsh and draconian measures inflicted on the world by the “drug warriors” like Bush, Ashcroft, Souder and Barr.

The International experts, whose words are quoted herein, should serve as examples for your own efforts in ending this seemingly eternal war of prohibition. We implore you to blaze new trails for the sake of humanity; it is exhilarating, demanding and important. If we don’t force these laws to change, they will never change. Stand up, speak up and engage every person you see. Make a difference and the madness will go away.

Each expert’s name is accompanied by their web address and the date of their visit. On the back pages of this booklet is an index, a list of great websites to visit, and instructions on how to write your congressman or the editor of your local paper and links to help you become a better drug law reformer.

Abrahamson, Daniel

Director, Legal Affairs, Drug Policy Alliance

Website: www.drugpolicy.org

09/01

I think the War on Drugs in the next big international issue that will shame the US gov't. It was inspiring to hear the heads of the NAACP, the Congressional Black Caucus, the Black Radical Congress, and others, listing the War on Drugs as an evil that needs to be changed.

I do not doubt that drug smuggling will increasingly be put in the category of terrorism — particularly with respect to Latin America. I think, in the end, the tactic will backfire, because as history shows, we almost never get the kingpins but only the small fry. And it will be hard to call the little guys 'terrorists'. I think the gov't will try to lump reformers into the category of terrorists. But this is bound to fail, if only for the simple reason that the majority of citizens, according to polling, want drug reform and do not consider themselves or their family members who have been busted for drugs as terrorists.

I do think that racial profiling is a form of gov't terrorism, in that it deprives persons of civil and human rights and begins from a premise that the victims are something less than full human beings worthy of dignity. Also, both terrorism and racial profiling desensitize the public and lead to other civil rights violations.

Beal, Dana

Leader of the International Million Marijuana Marches

Website: www.cures-not-wars.org

1/02

There are more than 140 marches now. Because of the 4 mos. of *High Times* ads, I need real, up to date phone numbers or emails.

We could easily reach 200 to 250 cities this year by May 4th. People just have to recognize the opportunity to make a global impact and get it together ASAP.

This whole questioning of what mass movements can do is basically what the doubting Thomas's said in Britain. But by growing the mass movement, in 3 years we changed the balance.

Remember, stopping all cannabis arrests, our first demand, is far short of legalization. It just FEELS like it.

As for the Rockefeller Drug laws, the one thing that changes the calculus for everyone is real, effective, fast-acting treatment on demand. Then there's NO reason to lock people up.

I don't see how anyone could dismiss the impact of an event in 200 cities worldwide. Look at Britain. The cutting edge issue is now market separation, in Stockport, with European M.P.'s coming in to be arrested in protest of the continued detention of Colin Davies, the medical marijuana patient who gave the Queen the cannabis bouquet.

Boje, Renee

A refugee from America's pot laws now living in Canada

Website: www.reneeboje.com

7/01

The universe has granted me an incredible opportunity to set an international marijuana precedent between Canada and the US! If I win this will change the relationship between Canada and the US when it comes to victims of the War on Drugs!

Tons of Americans who are interested in fleeing from persecution and oppression due to the US Drug War have been contacting me since I have been fighting this case. I always advise that they lie low and see what happens with my case. That way, if I lose, they will have an opportunity to give this a try in another country or just keep on hiding out. Many Americans are living here by doing just that.

I think that the War on Drugs has many similarities to the Holocaust and Apartheid! It is definitely a War on the American people. Denying sick and dying people access to a medicine that can help to heal them is simply evil! It shows how desperate the US Government really is. Denying medicine to the seriously ill is the real crime!

Callahan, Nora

Director of The November Coalition

Website: www.november.org

2/02

How can a society control the sale of ‘weeds’ and bathtub gin of the new millennium (meth) — when it’s worth more than gold? Our family has been devastated by the effects of imprisonment, not to mention the injustice that pervades the criminal justice system these days. We need campaign finance reform that would address the corruption of our law making process. Laws should be for the benefit of society — not ‘corporations’.

Who is in prison? Mostly blacks, then brown, then white. Do black and brown people use drugs in greater proportions than whites? No. Gee, then why are they filling the prisons?

Law enforcement targets them. And the sick, and the ‘counter culture’. We can discuss ending prohibition now, and people move along. I know many mj activists that are our strongest speakers to the general injustice of the war on drugs, and who call for (and work by teaching others) the end of prohibition.

Yes, we need to begin to prepare for an onslaught of drug war prisoners. The ‘20 year’ bunch is going to start being released in a couple of years. Mandatory sentencing began in 1986. These people have lost all ... few have any support left on the outside. How will they manage?

There are enough folks without their minds made up at all ... those are the folks that we work hardest to reach and educate.

This will be perhaps a very long fight for justice. But, we have to hope, or people won’t work. We spread hope, build hope. Restore a sense of self-respect. The laws are more the culprit than those we love.

Christ, Peter

Retired Police Captain, Chief Spokesperson for ReconsiDer Inc.

Website: www.reconsider.org

10/01

I think that we have to have one voice on the terrorism thing and that is: drugs don’t support terrorism — prohibition does.

The first step in true ‘Harm Reduction’ is legalization. Stopping the drug war and diverting those assists to anti terrorism work sounds like a good swap.

I would guess that the amount of corruption in police work is equal to that of any other profession. It is my view that power intoxicates and immunity corrupts. Cops generally enjoy both. Yes they do have the best dope.

We did not end alcohol prohibition because we thought booze was OK we ended it to defund the mob and it worked. Ah, what is the glue? In my view it continues because we as human beings have a hard, very hard time admitting we are wrong. We have invested so much of our money and effort into this it is tough to stop.

Conrad, Chris

Author, Activist

Website: www.chrisconrad.com

12/01

If the economy tanks, then we have a very powerful basis to pull the plug on DW enforcement.

Zero tolerance is not a baseline; it's a moralistic dictate and unreasonable restriction.

How come they can lie about marijuana but we can't tell the truth about hemp?

There is merit to working together, but it's also important to seize the moment as individuals.

I see us as patriots rather than celebrities, and most of us are 'flying under the radar' by organizing around the issue without crossing the line into civil disobedience.

The thing is that you can never tell when things are going to go over the top and escalate to quick change. Look at the fall of the Berlin Wall. Look at the collapse of the Taliban. There is a philosophical link between the Taliban and Ashcroft's Drug War, and that is the doctrine of moralistic prohibition. The way to attack Ashcroft there is to use the Bible, like Matt 12, Mark 3, Luke 13, John 9 to show him as being anti-Christ.

Cowan, Richard

Commentator, Reporter, Coordinator

Website: MarijuanaNews.com

2/02

I want to launch a new organization, InterNorml, to help coordinate cannabis related events around the world and to encourage greater international cooperation in the movement. I am talking with a number of distinguished people around the world about serving on the Board, etc.

The Canadian government's medical cannabis program is a joke, but there is considerable support for the Compassion clubs, especially in BC. And there are no possession arrests in Vancouver.

The prospects in Canada are very encouraging, but there is a major prohibitionist counterattack going on and I am afraid that my friends here have not realized the gravity of the situation yet. However, the Canadian Supreme Court will probably throw out the possession laws next year. That will leave the supply in the black market and the prohibitionists are trying to get higher penalties for growing. They will probably strike out, because the Canadian criminal justice system is not geared for DEALand style overkill. Also many of the major papers are for legalization.

Cannabis is collapsing in the UK because they have a genuine crisis in law enforcement. That means that we are not counting on just good will and basic decency. And there are some great activists over there. Colin Davies is amazingly

brave, and I was very impressed with the situation in Scotland. Chris Davies, who was here on the forum the other day, is the rare politician who really seems to get it. And he has the courage of his convictions. And then there is Nol van Schaik! What a great guy. He is doing an incredible job of stirring things up in England.

When the UK goes, that is basically the ball game. DEAland cannot really pressure the Brits. First, they are too big and second, Bush owes Blair for his support in the terror war, so there is not much that DEAland can do about it.

I think that the drug war has become so big and the prosecutors so politically powerful that it does not need any corporate help. Of course, the pharmaceutical industry and many others benefit from it, but now it is just about raw power. And in the case of George W. Bush, a desperate need to cover up Mena, Ark.

Davies, Chris

Member of the European Parliament

Website: www.chrisdaviesmep.org.uk

2/02

Governments across Europe are looking afresh at their drug laws, and increasingly the experience of The Netherlands — where cannabis possession is legal and its supply through ‘coffee shops’ is tolerated — is being held up as the one to follow. Although The Netherlands (population 15m) has 800 ‘coffee shops’ cannabis use is low, and use of hard drugs is not only relatively low but falling. Governments are also experimenting with the supply of heroin through doctors to addicts, destroying the market for criminal suppliers and relieving the rest of the community from the criminal activities of those seeking money to feed their habit.

A Cannabis Conference held in Liverpool yesterday heard evidence both from The Netherlands and from researchers into the latest medical evidence regarding the effects of cannabis use — which to say the least is minimal.

The Lambeth Division of the Metropolitan (London) Police has been running a trial during which cannabis users have not been arrested and police resources have instead been switched to other drug enforcement issues. This is expected to be broadened across London shortly.

The Home Secretary has announced his intention to reclassify cannabis so that it will still be illegal to possess it but it will no longer be an arrestable offence.

The Conference yesterday was reminded that recent Home Office figures say that 99% of all drug-related crime stems from heroin and crack users, but 70% of drug-related police time is devoted to cannabis. This is a crazy misuse of resources — let alone the other issues involved.

If you want to talk about hypocrisy then I think the best example in the UK is the fact that tobacco use is legal, but kills 120,000 people per year, while use of cannabis is illegal — yet there is no record of anyone ever having died as a direct effect of its use.

It is very important that a coalition ‘against this madness’ starts to be built up between the US and the Europeans. There are international treaties, which require all nations to maintain the current repressive policy — this is the other reason why The Netherlands cannot simply legalise cannabis outright. To change these will require people — and particularly law enforcement officers and politicians and newspaper editors — on both sides of the Atlantic to speak out in favour of change.

Fitts, Catherine Austin

Author of Narco Dollars for Dummies

Website: www.solari.com

2/02

For a man to be free, he must control more data and knowledge about himself than those who wish to control him.

DynCorp is a private company. DynCorp's auditors are Arthur Anderson. The Chair of DynCorp's Compensation Committee is Pug Winokur. Pug Winokur is also the Chair of the Finance Committee at Enron. They manage computer systems for the Department of Justice. They are the knowledge manager for the DOJ Asset Forfeiture Fund. They are the knowledge manager and systems manager for the HUD Office of Inspector General — that is the Operation Safe Home-Weed and Seed WOD Nightmare. They were one of the contractors to pick up the PROMIS system after DOJ stole it from Inslaw. Now ... if Tony Soprano ran Enron... we would see clearly what is going on. The business model, whether Bush or Soprano is pretty much the same.

Through the Enron-DynCorp connection we can understand WOD and where it fits in. DynCorp runs information systems for DOJ, SEC and FBI. The Chair of DynCorp's Compensation Committee and lead investor is Pug Winokur. OK, now who is investigating civil and criminal allegations against Enron and their auditors, both who have admitted to shredding documents. DOJ, FBI, and SEC are all investigating Enron. So DynCorp owned and controlled by Pug and his partners is running the computer systems for the DOJ, FBI and SEC who are investigating Pug and his pals.

DynCorp is a knowledge manager, my assessment is that the knowledge that they collect and manage, make the War on Drugs captive of a bigger goal ... the concentration and control of cash flow. Remember, the war on drugs has been a very successful policy. It works. It accomplishes the goals. The tactics one uses to end a highly successful policy are different than the ones used to end a failed policy. The war on drugs has not failed. It has succeeded wildly.

Foster, Will

A free man who was once sentenced to 93 years in prison for gardening

Website: <http://www.hr95.org/Foster,W.html>

1/02

Prison is prison. It's not a nice place to spend your time. Being older helped. The individuals I felt sorry for was the 19 to 25 year olds. They are left with two options in prison: 1) to be a punk; or 2) to be a killer. So it is not what I would want to see a marijuana user to experience.

I see we are still going to be drug free in America. I have been hearing this line for 20 years and drugs are still here as they always will be.

Friedman, Milton

World Famous Economist and Nobel Laureate

Website: <http://www-hoover.stanford.edu/bios/friedman.html>

1/02

I regard drug prohibition as thoroughly immoral. If it is ok for the govt. to tell me what I may put in my mouth, why not what I may put in my head.

Two groups stand to profit most from the continuation of the WOD: law enforcement and the drug cartels.

Without exception, the countries in which ordinary people have both most individual freedom and are most prosperous are countries that rely predominantly

on capitalism to organize economic activity. Big Pharma is in effect in collusion with the FDA. In general, monopoly can only persist when it gets the support of government.

I do not believe that anyone falls through the cracks with legalization, in the sense that any current consumers of drugs are made worse off.

The drug war is not the result of a deliberate plot by evil people. It is the unintended result of good people trying to do good. And of course, others take advantage of those efforts for their own purpose. The real problem is the tyranny of the status quo. However it developed, the drug war now creates vested interests in its perpetuation. If we are to reverse things, we must appeal to the officials and citizens, who have no vested interest and are open to persuasion.

Gieringer, Dale

President of California NORML

Website: www.canorml.org

2/02

The first drug law in the U.S was San Francisco's opium den ordinance of 1875. It was a purely popular measure aimed at suppressing the spread of a Chinese vice to the white community. But the national movement for drug prohibition, which took shape after 1900, was directed from the top down by Progressive era reformers — state pharmacy and medical board bureaucrats — with little public discussion or input.

I see a tidal wave of public opinion coming down and forcing a change in Washington before too long — maybe just a year or two, or certainly by the end of the decade.

I see the feds' raids on the cannabis clubs as the last gasp of a bankrupt system. We face a tough struggle in the courts, but I do expect us to break federal law sometime in the next 2-3 years — somehow. I get the impression that Asa Hutchinson may eventually back off, especially if the California state medical marijuana research program reports favorable results, as seems likely later this year.

It's hard to say what you can do for drug reform without knowing your own talents and situation. However, I would encourage everyone to write (not e-mail) their Congressman to support Rep. Barney Frank's States' Right to Medical Marijuana bill HR 2592 and Rep. Maxine Water's bill to abolish mandatory minimum sentences HR 1978.

Giordano, Al

Publisher of www.narconews.com

Website: www.narconews.com

8/01

I wonder what folks North of the Border think about the quality of information you are getting from the U.S. media about what goes on down here in the South.

At Narco News we fight daily against the idea that journalism is an ivory tower or a club that only a select few can belong to. Every human being can be a journalist. And every journalist ought to be a human being. Sadly, that's not the present reality. But if it were, I don't think we'd have drug wars.

Mexico is the speed bump on the road to global drug-policy tyranny. It's a very interesting and fluid situation. Torture is still a terrible reality of the drug war. And drug laws encourage it. Because by banning plants that grow freely on the earth, that plant can be placed in anyone's hands by dishonest police (this happens in the U.S. on a daily basis, too), and torture is typically used to extract confessions.

We, on the outside, have to push, push, push and then push some more upon the people on the inside. I'm tempted to quote another folk song, *It Isn't Nice*, by Malvina Reynolds. The press is not moved when you kiss its ring. It is moved when you expose it. "But if that's freedom's price, we don't mind ..."

Gray, James

Superior Court Judge

Author of Why Our Drug Laws Have Failed and What We Can Do About It

Website: www.judgejimgray.com

1/02

Because of the obscene profits to be made by dealing in even small amounts of drugs, there will always be people who will take risks of even large terms of imprisonment (we see it everyday) and even execution in order to make that money. So the plain is that, as long as there is large money in these drugs, they will be present in our communities.

It is hard for me to be unduly hard upon marijuana users since I do drink alcohol, and believe that alcohol is potentially far more harmful to the user than marijuana, and the actions of people who have used alcohol are potentially far, far more harmful to other people.

The drug prohibitionists must have marijuana illegal, because without that, the raw numbers of the users of all other illegal drugs combined do not come even close to justifying the prison/industrial complex that has been spawned to 'combat' this drug menace. In my view that is why the politicians and drug warriors have been so extreme and heartless in the medical marijuana issue. They simply cannot allow any hole in the dike, because people then might begin to question the entire program.

I have been astonished that the Black and Hispanic churches have been virtually invisible for so long on this issue. Without a doubt, it is these minorities that have been incarcerated much more than others, but the voices of their religious leaders have not been heard. Where better to discuss the stark immorality of our present system than in these churches?

Marijuana being a Schedule I drug is completely unsupportable from any medical or rational standard. However, the scheduling of all of these drugs is statutorily vested with the President. By the stroke of a pen, he could change marijuana to a Schedule II drug, which, like cocaine and morphine, could then be prescribed by a medical doctor.

If I were 'King of California' I would do everything I could to bring these sometimes-dangerous drugs back under the law. Today, we have no laws at all with regard to the sale, quality, underage use or labeling of any of these drugs, except those enforced by the drug lords. That is really stupid. In fact, I have seen as a judge so often how harmful these drugs can be, that I want to bring them back under the laws! (Of course, they then could also be taxed as well as strictly regulated.) Naturally, there are always going to be problems and abuses, and deaths. But, since these drugs will always be with us — that is to say, there is no such thing as both a free society and a drug-free society — the goal of our system should be to reduce crime, death, disease and misery. Think of it this way: if we cannot even keep these drugs out of our prisons, how do we reasonably expect to keep them off the streets of our cities and towns?

Gray, Mike

Producer, Documentarian and Screenwriter

Website: <http://www.drugsense.org/crazy.htm>

9/01

I think the worst thing about the drug war is the fact that it is pouring — according to the UN — \$400 billion tax-free dollars a year into the hands of the worst people on the planet. They have mutual interests that do not bode well for the rest of civilization. Smuggling, for example, is a craft that is useful to weapons dealers but it has been perfected by drug merchants. If the drug war was ended tomorrow the \$400 billion in illegal cash would vanish overnight. What's more you could free up \$50 billion in enforcement money and all the DEA black bag experts to fight terrorism.

Hollywood actors are more skittish than politicians because their reputation is all they've got. There are dozens of writers, directors, and actors who will come out of the closet once they see it's safe, but we've got to lead the way. But at the moment they're terrified of showing up on the 6 o'clock news as 'another Hollywood druggo' arguing for legalization.

No question that Ashcroft and others in the administration will use (terror) to expand police authority as far as they possibly can. Try to imagine what it's like for the poor sonsabitches on the other side, constantly forced to create new lies that our net army quickly shoves back down their throats.

Greer, Mark

Executive Director, Drugsense and Mapinc

Website: www.drugsense.org/mg

9/01

I think we are making tremendous strides and as for MAP you haven't seen anything yet. Some of the announcements coming down the pike over the next few months will revolutionize reform activism (again:). One example is a full-blown contacts database that will enable any activist to find any influential contact info you can imagine and that's just for starters.

Well it will come as no surprise to anyone that I am a BIG believer in letters to the editor. This has been the most effective activity any reformer can engage in as far as return for time invested IMO.

I think we are already transferring our web power to the mainstream. The very fact that MAP makes the leap from the web to published LTEs, for example, indicates our ability to influence millions on limited resources. I envision expanding this capability into influencing the broadcast media (radio TV and more) in the near future. The fact that we own the web is only an early indicator that we will soon own the world :)

The thing about the FBI is that if they break into your home and find some kitchen knives and a Playboy you were found in possession of a 'large weapons stash' and 'collection of pornography.' Sorry to sound a bit cynical. It's not been a good couple of days having seen the Rainbow Ranch fiasco coupled with the Penthouse reminder of Peter McWilliams murder.

Simply contacting local stations and providing a bio and expressing willingness to appear can get some action if you persist. Calling in to radio shows and TV (like C-Span's Washington Journal) is another worthwhile activity. I really like anything that lets one person to help educate thousands for free.

Most politicians are on the take from liquor and drug companies and won't willingly give up the bucks. My philosophy in a nutshell is influence/educate the

media, the media will influence/educate the public and the public will drag the politicians kicking and screaming into reform. The time will come to go after the politicians but I consider it relatively ineffective as a current strategy.

I do think that the CSA (controlled substances act) will probably be the path of least resistance once public opinion reaches critical mass.

Grinspoon, Lester, Ph.D

Harvard Professor and Psychiatrist

Website: <http://www.marijuana-uses.com>

12/01

I think the new administration hopes to make our job more difficult, but the times are against them. As more and more people discover how useful cannabis is as a medicine, they also have the opportunity to become acquainted with its remarkable safety and to some extent; it's other than medical utilities. As this knowledge grows, more and more people will be outraged by the prohibition and understand the necessity to regulate it in roughly the same way as alcohol is.

This may reflect a split in the administration but on the other hand, it may simply be a way of saying that if cannabis is to be used as a medicine it must first 'pharmaceuticalized' i.e., turned into pills and liquids which can be sold by pharmaceutical houses by pharmacies through prescription. This is a reflection of the government's concern that cannabis as a medicine and cannabis as a prohibited psychoactive drug must be carefully separated.

Doctors as a whole tend to be conservative. They also tend to shy away from controversy and many of them are aware of just how ignorant they are about cannabis as a medicine. They are accustomed to learning about new drugs from drug companies' detail men and women 'salespeople', medical journals and other promotional devices, some of them quite seductive. There is no equivalent proselytizing of doctors where cannabis is concerned.

The outlawing of hemp is a measure of the abysmal ignorance of the United States government where the plant cannabis sativa is concerned. I think what is going on in England and many of the European countries, in Canada, Australia and New Zealand is evidence that the United States DEA led hegemony in drugs is falling apart. When people who use cannabis are open about their use it will reduce the fear and mythology.

I think that health professionals are being very slowly educated about cannabis as a medicine. The education is not reaching them through the traditional drug company and medical journal routes, but rather through patients successful use of cannabis as a medicine (that) make their doctors a party to this success.

Hempcar Crew: Scott Furr and Grayson Sigler

Website: www.hempcar.org

10/01

We're a little tired and burnt out from the road and we're also extremely glad to have accomplished a 12,300 mile total for our trip. We were invited to the New Mexico state fair in Albuquerque and an issue arose where the state police wanted to sample the fuel. Which they did and found minimal THC in the fuel and told us, "Have a nice day, enjoy the fair." In actuality what happened, some of the fair officials were unhappy with a NORML sponsorship on the car that reads, 'Stop arresting responsible marijuana users.' They tried to have us removed from the state fair. This test was there only legal recourse. It was ironic that the governor of New Mexico was the keynote speaker of the 4.20 NORML conference.

We manufactured most of HempCar.org's fuel from the hemp oil they purchased. Someone asked about costs per gallon. It's a little unfair to give you today's costs on a crop that is prohibited, thereby making oil supplies not only scarce but expensive. If you were to ask what the cost of hemp biodiesel would be if industrial hemp were legal, it would be comparative to or lower in cost than biodiesel manufactured from soybeans or other fresh oils. The reason is that hemp has so many more co-products, such as fiber and cellulose, whereas soy has essentially only the feed meal and the oil. In dollars, farmers could produce a gallon of biodiesel in general for \$1.00 a gallon, pre-road tax.

Hempseed Oil for fuel is not the most desirable way of making fuel from hemp, however it is the easiest way of making fuel from hemp. The most efficient and desirable way of making fuel from hemp is to turn the stalks into methanol. At last estimate, if we grew hemp on 6% of the U.S. landmass we could produce enough methanol to power the United States per annum.

Imler, Scott

Director, Los Angeles Cannabis Resource Co-op

Website: <http://www.lacbc.org/welcome.html>

11/01

It is with deep sadness that I announce the suspension of all cultivation and disbursement activities by the LACRC until such time as the legal issues surrounding last week's raid by federal agents can be resolved.

The impact here in Los Angeles County has been devastating already as patients deplete personal supplies and begin to search for new sources. Already members are reporting difficulty eating, sleeping, and keeping their meds down and weight up. Many have come and left in tears over the past week unsure what they'll do next. We're doing our best to network some regional and neighborhood support groups, but the task is daunting without membership lists and other club resources seized in the raid.

As much as the Board and Staff would like to continue to provide services, and even if we could afford to, we are not prepared to distribute non-Co-Op products that we cannot vouch for the safety of. Not only is it a disservice to our members, it is contrary to the understanding we have with doctors, law enforcement, and public officials who have worked with us and supported us.

Nor will we allow the government to make liars out of us, by sneaking around in the shadows doing one thing while pretending that we aren't. We've come too far for that.

We always believed that if we did a good job, told the truth, and acted responsibly that the federal government might do the same. While we were wrong about the government, and our good-faith efforts to be forthcoming are now being used to mount a criminal case against us, we have no regrets about the transparency and integrity of our program or the painstaking efforts undertaken to insure them.

After five years of safe and reliable access to medical marijuana, the closure of the LACRC CoOp Dispensary is, as Sheriff's Captain Lynda Castro said, "A difficult pill to swallow." But if anyone has experience swallowing difficult pills and surviving, and coming back stronger than ever, the members of the LACRC do. Please know that we will do everything legally and politically possible to resolve this crisis.

No one can understand why, in times like these, America is attacking its own — the weakest and most vulnerable at that. It takes a wicked cynicism and heartlessness to do this kind of thing. It doesn't make me hopeful for our country.

I'd like people to know that we tried our best to do a good job, tell the truth and be responsible. Despite the fact that the government didn't reciprocate, we have no regrets about our program and our efforts. We remain grateful that we all found each other in the midst of this storm and we are proud of what we accomplished together as a community. We are extremely appreciative of the support of our local officials and law enforcement. They believe in us when few others did. It made us to believe in ourselves. And that, not even the feds can take away.

James, Jodi

Activist

Email: jjames3@cfl.rr.com

6/01

One thing that I think is turning the drug war around is the influence of other sovereign nations. As the States are pressured by more nations saying they don't want 'our War', the tide is bound to change.

Usually the resistance we see the most is the puffed up kind. The good old boy who says you can't do that here (whatever that may be and here is). The Know Your Rights Series is so important because you can non-aggressively assert your rights and keep control over the situation with law enforcement. Here in our community now we have the passive support of our law enforcement. The State law enforcement's are another story entirely.

I subscribe to the 99-monkey theory, when the last monkey got educated, the whole consciousness changed. Someone told me recently that with one percent of our population in prison, our 99th monkey is in jail. Isn't drug policy reform really just about finding a better way to treat people?

We all know the steps to take, LTE, lobbying legislature, getting more people to talk about the subject. I like wearing a controversial anti-drug war T-shirt out in public, a simple form of direct action and people talk to me and get educated. The key is everyone finding a place they can be affective and making a stand. Ending the war is about getting enough people educated and associated.

Johnson, Gary

Governor of New Mexico

Website: <http://www.governor.state.nm.us>

12/01

Regarding medical marijuana, citizens have voted in favor of this whenever given the chance. It has support nationwide. It's a shame that the government has decided to crack down on cannabis clubs in California.

Clearly many other parts of the world are way ahead of us regarding drug reform. It's a shame that the media reports he said / she said, rather than the facts surrounding drug prohibition and legalization. The feedback I have gotten has been overwhelmingly positive among citizens. I believe citizens are way ahead of the politicians on this one.

Regarding methadone, I absolutely favor physicians being able to use this for heroin-addicted patients. I also think the heroin maintenance strategy implemented in Zurich, Switzerland would be valuable in the United States.

Plan Colombia seems to be a continuation of our pissing in the wind strategy.

Our drug interdiction forces are only apprehending a small percentage of the drugs that cross the border. Drug dealers recognize the formula. X amount of drugs get caught for Y amount of drugs sent. I don't believe any of those caught smuggling drugs are drug pushers in any sense of the word. They are simply mules and many end up in our U.S. jails.

Drug strategies ought to revolve around reducing death, disease and crime. We should also look to spend more of our resources on education and treatment for those that want it. Those billions spent in Colombia could be redirected towards these strategies. I believe we should start with legalizing marijuana and adopt harm reduction strategies for other drugs. We need to fundamentally recognize that drug problems are health problems, and not criminal justice problems.

It is my understanding that New York's unwillingness to enforce alcohol prohibition laws brought about the end to alcohol prohibition.

If Bush is going to be successful, he'll need to be like Nixon was with China. Nixon with China hopefully will be Bush with drugs.

Fundamentally, do you belong in jail for smoking marijuana in the confines of your own home doing no harm to anyone, arguably, other than yourself? The new line of distinction ought to be drug use and putting yourself in a position to do harm to others, as in getting in a car, similar to alcohol.

The ultimate irony may be that the drug trade is financing a modern day Al Capone, Osama bin Laden.

I believe that by starting with the legalization of marijuana, we will reduce overall substance abuse. Any 'gateway' aspect of marijuana gets eliminated with legalization.

This is a democracy. We do elect these people. I would hope you would work within the system to change the system.

Jones, Jeff

Director of Oakland Cannabis Buyers Co-op

Website: <http://www.rxcbc.org>

9/01

The medical cannabis movement is fighting an up hill battle to reverse the Nixon's Administration stance on this plant. They decided to bury the 1972 Shaffer Commission report that stated it should be rescheduled.

There has not been a lot of in depth research on different strains of cannabis exact effects on patients. Some groups have done patient surveys to show the results of using different kinds of cannabis affects their conditions different. Which leads me to believe there is strong evidence to show this plant is therapeutic and is clearly wrongly scheduled.

I believe bad laws are changed and updated when they are fully enforced. So Bush may do us a favor by not fully understanding the current status of support for safe medical access. Which is what the OCBC represents.

Just look at the Jamaica and Europe as they start to loosen their grip on control of cannabis. The Federal Government to me is the screaming kid who is fighting to keep his toy from all the others to play with and seems not to notice that everyone else can now see just how mean spirited they are. I feel our involvement in South America has to do with resources not just drugs that's the cause to allow us to insert our army. We import more Oil from the South than we do from the Middle East.

I know one thing for sure no matter how hard the federals try they will not stop patients from using this plant as a medicine. Seems governments for hundreds of years have been dealing with this very same problem and none of them has solved it.

On face, it seems the federal law is clear that all of this is illegal. But it wasn't until Tim Leary challenged the 1937 Marijuana Tax Act in 1969 all the way to the US Supreme Court that the law was struck down by the High Court saying it overstepped the constitutional rights of Americans.

Medical cannabis does work and United States patients deserve better from their government than the second-class citizen treatment that is currently being offered.

Kubby, Steve & Michelle

Prop. 215 Leaders, now living in Canada

Website: <http://www.kubby.com>

7/01

The law that my wife and I helped pass was easy enough for the voters of California and the jurors of Placer County to understand. Only narcotics officers, prosecutors, and others who benefit from the drug war have difficulty understanding a law that grants new rights. I find it amazing how difficult it is for people to understand something when their careers depend upon them NOT understanding it.

There are so many different illnesses cannabis can be used for. I'm sure many of you have a 'favorite' strain. Steve's fav was destroyed in the raid. Steve needs something that will keep him mentally engaged and alert all day long. We are currently on a hunt for the most 'uplifting' strain we can find for Steve.

Is the hidden agenda of the Drug War the elimination of all civil rights? No, the goal is money, money, money. For example, each drug probation case earns a county \$20,000 a year, paid by the feds. In addition, each probationer can expect to pay about \$10,000 in fines, penalties and fees. Furthermore, district attorneys qualify for special grants, based upon drug convictions. It all adds up to a bloated budget with shiny new SUVs for the police and \$50,000 a year starting salaries for prosecutors. Don't forget the \$100,000 a year retirement for top county officials as well.

Under the War on Drugs, the Bill of Rights has been amended by lawmakers, district attorneys, judges and law enforcement to suspend certain criminal rights and provide additional police powers to your government in order to fight the scourge of drugs. While your government regrets this inconvenience, these modifications of the Bill of Rights are necessary to protect American pharmaceutical interests, provide additional revenue streams for government and continue the current construction boom in prisons. This war is no more about marijuana than the Boston Tea Party was about tea.

Lake, Richard

Internet Activist for Druggense and Mapinc

Website: www.mapinc.org

2/02

Of course the www helps in the 'dispelling the myths of the drug warriors'. That is what websites like www.druglibrary.org and www.drugwarfacts.org are all about. On the other hand it is so easy to throw up a website these days. While we expect propaganda from the DEA and drugfreeamerica type websites, I see a lot of smaller sites out there that sound like they are on our side that contain stuff that really needs some fact checking. So the web is a mixed blessing, but a blessing in any case.

The first great Prohibition ended when the public realized that instead of protecting society, and our children, from the deadly drug alcohol, it simply created an illegal market, organized crime, and criminals who found kids valuable not just as customers but as active participants in their enterprises.

So now we have another great Prohibition. Kids are the street merchants, with plenty of money to be made. The criminal justice industry is a growth industry,

with about half of all prisoners being drug war criminals while we let loose violent criminals to make room for them. Property is confiscated, with no person convicted of any crime in the majority of forfeiture cases. The military is assisting police, and just killed an American high school student in Texas.

The Prohibitionist solution did not work for alcohol, it will not work for tobacco, and it has not worked for drugs. Carefully regulated markets work best to control our legal recreational drugs. Tightly regulated markets can do a far better job of protecting our kids from all drugs.

Lee, Kay

Prison Activist and Leader of Journey for Justice Marches

Website: www.journeyforjustice.org

11/01

The primary problems prisoners in Florida face are medical care, safety and hopelessness.

The budget cuts Michael Moore has instituted has reduced an already impossibly overwhelmed medical staff; it has removed typewriters so prisoners' access to the courts is threatened, the cuts have resulted in menus that feed inmates on .40 per meal, and Michael keeps ordering his staff to "Do More With Less!"

There's only so far you can go in cutting basic life needs before it is cruel and unusual punishment. Of course you know, the drug war's mass incarceration and resulting profitable prison system has caused these problems.

My suggestion is to be seen! Get out there to vigils ... be at the rallies ... meet each other ... buy a billboard ...

Prisons should be healing places if society really wants to be safer. That back door is opening to let out people in worse shape than when they came in the front!

It's totally dangerous to all of us! Especially with millions of people going through that revolving door.

The most remarkable visible medical evidence that marijuana is medicine I ever came across was when I was hosted by Jacki Rickert in Wisconsin. Jacki has Ehlers Danlos Syndrome, among other things. This disease causes loose joints ... the ball falls out of the socket. Every bone in the body is subject to displacement. When her arm went out you could see the caved in shoulder and the ball bulging out halfway down her arm. While I was there, we'd both share medicine, put on gentle music and low lights. I would hold her arm while we shut our eyes, and she would tell me where to move. The muscles would relax and the arm would move right into place.

The abuses will have to end and history will have to be recorded that these terrible things were done to so many people using a beneficial plant!

Here's the way I see it ... This is a David and Goliath battle here. The powerful against the people. But Truth has a power all its own and people know it when they hear enough of it. So, we do everything we can think of to do. It's like kicking Goliath in the knees until he falls.

I believe Bush's compassion stops at the powerful and elite. We are producers and consumers and that's the only use we are in the eyes of people like Bush. Right after the election the year marijuana ballots won in several states, I heard a legislator on television say, "Do we really want the people deciding what the law should be?" Compassionate conservatism ... what a conflict in terms. True Compassion is not conservative, but expansive as humanity.

McCormick, Ann

Mother of famous marijuana prisoner Todd

Website: www.compassionatemoms.org

8/01

Last summer Todd requested to be put back on Marinol. They did a drug test and found traces of cannibanooids in his urine. He was placed in solitary during August and September and then had his visiting privileges suspended for 1 year. He never got the marinol. It was a no-brainer that he would test positive for cannibanooids. He had been taking Marinol the entire time he was on bail.

Good Christians? HA! The Radical Right Wingnuts hijacked Christianity. There is a quote of Ghandi's that says it all, "I like your Christ. I do not like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ."

When you look at the direction our nation is going, and how obediently the 'masses' are being led to slaughter, you can see how things unfolded in Germany in the 20s and 30s. Crimes are being created where no criminal act exists, just as it was done by the Nazis in the 30s when they were targeting the Jews. Just like the Crown imposed laws on the Irish peasants that were selective of Irish and Catholic cultural ways, or the young US government against the native people.

They are creating a generation of people who assume that it is okay to have your privacy invaded. It is acceptable. People who will never know another way. They will never know what 'freedom' feels like. You don't miss what you've never known. They will accept this restrictive, intrusive government as 'just the way it is' — THAT is sad.

Think about how many industries rely on the drug war, how much income to federal, state and local governments come from the drug war, how many jobs are created? Look at the private sector. Which industries would find hemp to be a major source of competition? Food, Fiber, Fuel — and there is the biggie.. Petrochemicals — OIL. What would a clean, safe, non-toxic, environmentally friendly alternative do to oil interests?

My government is holding my first-born hostage — for GARDENING.

McNamara, Dr. Joseph

Former Police Chief of Kansas City and San Jose California

Website: <http://www.druglibrary.org/schaffer/DEBATE/mcn/mcntoc.htm>

11/01

We need to convince the politicians that no one should be jailed because they have a certain chemical in their blood. Making criminals of drug users demonizes and dehumanizes them and creates crime, racism, corruption and violence and does not stop drug use. Up until 1914, Americans right to life liberty and the pursuit of happiness included the right to ingest whatever chemical substances you wished. Unfortunately, under the primary lobbying of religious groups The Harrison Act was passed on December 17, 1914 starting the Prohibition of drugs and causing the huge global black market, corruption, violence and in my opinion increased drug use. We allowed religious people to get their idea of sin put into the penal code. Ever since then the users of certain drugs have been demonized and dehumanized.

40 years of predatory drug crimes by cops, including murders, armed robberies of drug dealers, stealing drugs, selling drugs, perjured testimony, framing suspects guilty or innocent all in the name of the drug war. Instead of taking bribes from gangsters this small percentage of cops are gangsters and do enormous damage to the communities.

It is impossible to give a precise estimate of how many gangster cops there are because we have roughly 17,000-19,000 police agencies. However, modestly paid cops have been convicted across the country for stealing \$millions. They are not a few rotten apples. They often are the most decorated cops and their crimes go undetected for years. In fact, police departments that report all kinds of crimes for the annual FBI report do NOT have a category for crimes by cops so we have no baseline. Obviously, drug dealers (and other poor minorities who may be innocent) hesitate to drop into the local police station to report being robbed by a cop because they may be opening themselves to a mandatory life sentence.

I ran four seminars here at the Hoover Institution for cops across the country and had leading experts critical of the drug war speak. I wanted to know what cops thought after the conferences but knew that if I asked about legalization or decriminalization they would give a reflex no. My colleague Nobel laureate Milton Friedman who spoke in favor of legalization at all of the conferences suggested that I ask but use different words. I did and the cops unanimously favored more treatment and prevention over more arrests and prisons.

The disproportionate stopping, arresting, and incarceration of people of color is a national disgrace that cannot stand the light of day.

There is a law affecting drugs that is much older and more powerful than any of the foolish laws passed by congress — the law of supply and demand.

Many of the gangster cops rationalize their crimes by saying that their bosses encourage them to break the law to make drug arrests so why shouldn't they do it to profit themselves especially since no matter what they do drug use goes on.

Nadelmann, Ethan

Founder of Drug Policy Alliance (formerly Lindesmith-DPF)

Website: www.drugpolicy.org

11/01

911 obviously threw us all for a loop — and perhaps esp in NYC, where our offices are a few miles from the WTC site.

Ever since it's hard to get the media to focus on much else. Folks want to know about every drug-terrorism connection. Our challenge is to provide not just info but also an analytical framework for understanding those links — which is always tough for most media to grasp.

It was Nancy Reagan who some years referred to drug users as accomplices to terrorists — and it's sad to see Hastert et. al. trying to do the same today. How to respond? I think the answer is always to respond in whatever way will best communicate the points we are trying to make. I think it helps to point out that prohibition is funding the terrorists just as alcohol prohibition funded Al Capone and others of his ilk. trying to eliminate drug consumption is not the key to de-funding the terrorists and other undesirable groups. Better to re-think drug prohibition itself, and to get behind strategies like expanded access to quality treatment — esp quality methadone maintenance, and also heroin maintenance — which can begin process of both drying up the black market, and curtailing the reach and negative consequences of prohibition.

Our common religious faiths typically emphasize the preservation of life as the ultimate of God's commandments. If Souder agrees, then the question is which policies best achieve that end. The answer, as we know, are policies that do not demonize people on the basis of which substances they put into their bodies — and policies that treat drug abuse as a proper subject of medical assistance, not incarceration.

One way to pose it is to ask: what would Jesus have said and done. The same Jesus who cared for the lepers would be the one to say that the perceived lepers of contemporary society are the drug users — esp the drug addicts — and that our moral obligation is to help, not hurt and demonize. Maybe one day Souder et. al., will understand that basic religious notion — and perhaps grasp that his own fears and prejudices ultimately undermine his own ability to serve God’s will according to his (Souder’s) own religious principles.

Others are struggling right now with how to make the most of this latest misstep — given that 70% plus of Americans say mj should be legal for med purposes, given that candidate bush explicitly said that med mj should be a state’s issue, not a fed one, given that both local and state authorities have stood behind the med MJ clubs.

The key is to be strategic and sensible about it — never underestimating or dismissing the problems of misuse of marijuana, but stating clearly that there is no possible defense — on economic, moral or policy grounds — for the continuing criminalization of mj markets and mj use by adults.

I increasingly think that the economic recession and budget issues present our most significant opportunities now — and that those opportunities may be more significant than any we’ve had in a very long time.

We can no longer afford to lock up non-violent drug offenders, many of whom were and could be paying taxes instead. Treatment produces a far better return for dollar invested than does prison. Legalizing mj would result in a net benefit to U.S. taxpayers of at least \$10 billion annually and perhaps up to \$20 billion — in reduced expenditures on enforcing mj prohibition and new tax revenues to be earned. We have more and more info that shows ordinary Americans receptive to the argument that we should ‘tax, control, regulate and educate’ when it comes to mj.

Few people can really remember when marijuana was legal. Most people have become so accustomed to its being illegal that they have a hard time envisioning what ‘legalization’ would look like.

What we need to do — apart from stressing the economic advantages of mj legalization, and encouraging more open and honest discussion of mj use by and among Americans of all sorts — is expose the fanaticism of those who view and oppose marijuana in this fundamentalist sort of way.

O’Connell, Dr. Thomas J.

Thoracic Surgeon

Website: <http://www.mapinc.org>

11/01

I don’t put much past our federal government when it comes to the war on drugs ... and I think many of their same people will have roles in the ‘war’ against terror.

Without cannabis prohibition, the criminal justice system couldn’t command its present budget

I think it’s impossible to overestimate the damage the wod has done to American science; but it would be impossible for dedicated warriors and many in the general public to comprehend that criticism. It’s what we mean by ‘cognitive dissonance.’ It’s the situation that obtains when someone is so partisan that they seem simply unable to comprehend arguments against their position. Therefore they either ignore those arguments; or, if forced to deal with them, they distort them into a form they can ‘refute.’ Cognitive dissonance is a hallmark of prohibitionists.

As for the general issue of ‘federal doctors’ and the degree to which physicians are compromised by the wog; that’s an enormous problem. If physicians and academics weren’t so frightened of the feds, the drug war couldn’t last a week. Today’s doctors are thoroughly cowed and also caught up in their increasingly difficult job of surviving. Besides, they have received precious little accurate info about ‘drugs’ in medical school and are motivated to cherish the monopoly they have received for prescribing legal pharmaceuticals.

The warriors themselves are bleating about two new products: meth and MDMA (and other club drugs). Doesn’t sound like either a successful policy or an industry in decline; no matter what Asa claims.

It would help if we had a charismatic leader to articulate a single clear message (like End the Drug War!). I’m not sure which is the chicken and which is the egg, but I think we need both a person and a clear message for political success.

I want to stress that the average doctor doesn’t know much about cannabis. If he’s not a smoker himself, he probably shares the general public’s misapprehensions. The drug war has gradually grown to become MUCH larger on the world stage than purely American Prohibition ever was, so the calamity that shakes people up enough to see its flaws may have to be of truly colossal proportions.

Oscapella, Eugene

Canadian Barrister, Canadian Foundation for Drug Policy

Website: www.cfdp.ca

1/02

I sometimes look at drug courts as a last-ditch attempt by the criminal justice system to keep its claws embedded in drug policy. People without dependency problems should not be subject to any sort of treatment programs such as those envisaged by drug courts. I am not a big fan of drug courts in general, since a question remains in my mind — why do we need to use the courts to force people into treatment?

At the Canadian Foundation for Drug Policy, as with many of the other organizations in the United States, Canada and elsewhere, we have been seeking to do a more thorough form of public education so that the public will not tolerate the empty sloganeering that so much dominated the discussion of drug policy and that to a certain extent continues to be very evident.

Racism has long been an element of the war on drugs in many countries. The origins of many of our drug laws were racist in many cases. In Canada, our first opium law — in 1908 — was essentially directed at Asian immigrants. Our first federal cannabis law — in 1923 — was based on the hysterical and racist ranting of a Canadian magistrate. And, of course, even if our drug laws were not racist in their origins, one can strongly argue that they are racist in their application.

The Supreme Court of Canada will hear an appeal, likely within the next few months, challenging the constitutionality of Canada’s cannabis laws. Therefore, even if our government is totally intransigent, there is some hope springing from within the legal system itself.

We need different regulatory regimes to address the different concerns we may have with each particular type of drug. That is obviously a far more complex task than simply prohibiting many drugs across the board, but it must be done. In every case, however, given the extraordinary harms caused by prohibition, abandoning prohibition for adults must be at the foundation of all these measures.

Paltrow, Lynn

Director, National Advocates for Pregnant Women

Website: <http://www.advocatesforpregnantwomen.org>

11/01

The National Advocates for Pregnant Women (NAPW) is a non-profit organization dedicated to securing the human and civil rights, health and welfare of pregnant and parenting women, and furthering the interests of their families. NAPW seeks to ensure that women do not lose their constitutional and human rights as a result of pregnancy, that addiction and other health and welfare problems they face during pregnancy are addressed as health issues, not as crimes; that families are not needlessly separated, based on medical misinformation; and that pregnant and parenting women have access to a full range of reproductive health services, as well as non-punitive drug treatment services.

I believe there is the most evidence of harm for alcohol and cigarettes — but the potentially harmful effects of these drugs — like all drugs are mediated by such things as nutrition, prior health conditions, prenatal care and other factors. One of the most significant factors in pregnancy outcome appears to be poverty.

I have however heard an increasing number of women say that marijuana use helped them get through severe morning sickness.

Our efforts to document arrests of pregnant women seem to indicate that women who use cocaine are most likely to be arrested. We don't always know how the woman's drug use came to police attention, but it does appear that in most cases it involves health care workers who violate a variety of ethical and legal prohibitions against disclosing highly sensitive patient health information.

In fact no state legislature has passed a law to make it a crime to be pregnant and engage or not engage in any behavior. One state though, by judicial fiat, reinterpreted the state's child abuse law, holding that a child includes a viable fetus. As a result the statute now effectively reads that any harm or risk of harm to a viable fetus would constitute child abuse. This would have to include alcohol and cigarettes. In fact a state agency published a brochure stating: "Not only is it dangerous for pregnant women to smoke, drink, use other drugs or engage in other activities that risk harming their babies, but it's also a crime in South Carolina." The Attorney General, Charles Condon insists however — in certain contexts only, that the decision only applies to illegal drugs.

Certainly our current drug policy is irrational. In South Carolina a pregnant woman suffered a stillbirth and also had a positive drug test for cocaine. She was charged and convicted of homicide by child abuse and sentenced to 12 years in jail. In fact there was absolutely no evidence that cocaine caused the stillbirth — rather the state found witnesses to say that since they couldn't determine any reason for the stillbirth — it must have been cocaine.

Few people realize that: for women in the US, achieving the status of full citizen is an unfinished project. Although many gains have been made — the constitution's protection do not fully extend to women who are pregnant.

Robison, Al

Founder and Executive Director of Drug Policy Forum of Texas

Website: www.dpft.org

8/01

We lack a clear and consistently applied rule in the scheduling of (drugs), but I don't know what to do about it beyond what we're trying to do, which is educate voters and their representatives about the incredible amount of harm our current policy is causing. Prohibition always requires demonization because the dishonesty that's required to catch perpetrators of victimless crimes goes against everything most of us were taught starting from when we were little kids (honesty is the best policy, etc.), so you have to show that the people who are guilty of committing these crimes are bad people who deserve whatever it is we're trying to do to them. Often the easiest way to do that is associate the crime with unpopular people, which for most of our history meant minorities. Nixon also used the Vietnam War protesters (the hippies) for that purpose when he went about demonizing marijuana even more than it had already been demonized by associating its use with Mexicans.

I hope we don't have to wait until a bunch of older people actually die. In fact I sometimes think of retired people as the equivalent of the Republican women who finally got upset enough to end alcohol prohibition. They're similar in that they're intelligent and well-educated people who have more time than younger people who are often caught up in the rat race of getting ahead career-wise.

Religious leaders are another category we have to do a better job of reaching. I really think it's based more on fear, especially the fear that their kids might get hooked on one of these terrible drugs. We need to end prohibition and replace it with an effective regulatory system that would at the very least make dangerous addicting drugs harder for kids to get.

Tea and coffee, the most common sources of the most widely used drug, caffeine, could pretty well be sold the way they are, along with coca tea, in my opinion.

But I would regulate cannabis a lot more like we currently do with alcohol and tobacco, and restrict its sale to minors. It'd be fine with me if parents wanted to teach their kids how to use these drugs wisely, but I don't like the idea of people actually making money by selling them to underage kids.

The hard drugs are tougher to deal with, no doubt about it, but the Europeans are doing a lot better job with them than we are, so we should learn from them (as Mike Gray pointed out in *Drug Crazy*, when he came to the part about how we're going to get out of the mess we've got ourselves into.)

I think the press also has a lot to answer for. They've done a truly horrible job of educating the public, and I guess I'm referring to the media in general here, including especially TV. But even there I think things are slowly but surely starting to get better instead of worse.

I certainly agree that this is one reform we could do without, although I guess I might see it differently if the alternative was 20 years in the slammer. I'm sure they will realize sooner or later that most drug users don't need treatment. I think Portugal has handled this quite well. I think they require your own physician's okay before they send you to treatment. Otherwise as I understand it you can go home.

That should be our long-term goal, to make it a universally recognized right to have sovereignty over what you put into your own mind and body. Somebody said it's the money, stupid, and that's probably a fairly good way to summarize the situation.

Schaffer, Cliff

Founder of Schaffer Drug Library

Website: <http://mir.drugtext.org/druglibrary/schaffer>

2/02

How would I describe the original intent and implementation of drug laws in the US? In three words, racism, ignorance, and nonsense.

I think there are a number of ways in which the Internet (is helping to end the drug war). First and foremost, it has allowed a comparatively small group of reformers work together nationally and internationally on a daily basis. Consider, for example, what life would be like if all the various orgs had to stay in touch with snail mail. Conversations, planning, strategy, and other similar things just wouldn't happen. We probably wouldn't even know about people like MEP Davies, let alone communicate with him.

A second factor has been the ability to publish the research in its full depth. This factor alone makes the end of the drug war pretty much inevitable. It allows reformers in even the most remote places to be better educated than almost any of the reformers prior to 1990 or so.

A third factor has been the presence of the media on the net. A key part of the Internet strategy early on was the realization that the media would be on the net in large numbers even before the general public made it to the Internet. Being on the Internet means they have e-mail addresses, and e-mail addresses mean that they can be contacted at no cost other than the labor to type the message. That (and item 2 above) is hugely important in being able to combat the over-funded Federal Government juggernaut.

In the short-term future, it is hard to tell what will happen as a result. After all, the Government has unlimited funds to put up a fight, and we are in the middle of a war on terrorism which threw a bunch of things into a cocked hat. But, long term, truth is inevitable and the current policy is doomed because of it.

St. Maurice, Marc Boris

President, Marijuana Party of Canada

Website: <http://www.marijuanaparty.org>

12/01

I think (and I have said it before) that Hemp and medical marijuana are small battles. That was about recreational use. Medical marijuana brings the issue to those who usually would not pay attention to pot.

Other issues (I often refer to gay rights as the best example) saw some of the most significant gains from Supreme Court rulings. Abortion in Canada is another great example. I think the Supreme Court will be very balanced in Canada. Remember, Gerald LeDain, from the LeDain commission, sat as a Supreme Court judge. And with the situation here (on the street-public opinion) it will be hard for them to come down on the marijuana constituency.

The presence of the Marijuana Party on the scene has made it virtually impossible to not take a side in the debate. That was our point, and I am glad to say we succeeded. The next step, on a National level is to get all Canadians aware and informed that this case is coming up. Generating public support will make it even harder to rule unfavorably.

I dare say the US courts would NEVER agree to hear what was heard in the Canadian courts. As far as the US is concerned, Canada should be kind and humble. We are a diplomatic example of how cannabis can be better dealt with.

Sterling, Eric*President of the Criminal Justice Policy Foundation*Website: <http://www.cjpf.org>

11/01

#1: Should we lobby Congress to change Federal law to make cannabis possession a civil offense?

First, be clear about the case. Does this change in law free precious criminal justice resources that must be used to investigate potential and actual terrorists, and other more serious crimes and criminals? Is it simply a matter of saying that we must set priorities? In FY 2000 there were only 205 Federal marijuana possession convictions out of about 24,000 Federal drug cases. It is, compared to other drug offenses, a very low priority. But this is more than the total number of Federal convictions for murder, manslaughter, kidnapping and hostage taking in FY 2000. It is equal to all the Federal environmental and wildlife convictions, and five times the number of anti-trust convictions.

We must also convince the public that such a change will not make it easier for kids to use drugs in general and cannabis in particular.

#2: Were you surprised by the October 25, 2001 DEA raid on the Los Angeles Cannabis Resource Center in West Hollywood, California?

I was not surprised, but at the same time I was shocked, that with the critical situation then facing every Federal law enforcement agency — maximum efforts to protect our border, to find terrorists in our midst, and to find out who is sending anthrax through the mails — the DEA and Justice Department could be so politically tin-eared to engage in such a low priority raid.

The claim by the new DEA Administrator that he has no choice but to enforce the law reveals that he has not read and does not understand the Controlled Substances Act. Throughout the Act, the DEA is given authority and discretion to waive the rules or exempt drugs from various controls.

The drug policy reform community, however, has not yet mounted a nationwide, coordinated response of protest of this raid to the President and the Attorney General. They should be saying, “You don’t have the first clue to find the anthrax-spreading killers, and you are raiding clubs distributing marijuana to sick people pursuant to the law of the largest state. Are you guys nuts?!?”

We call our law the ‘Controlled Substances Act.’ This is an oxymoron. The most out of control substances in our society are the controlled substances.

Stroup, Keith*President of National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws*Website: www.norml.org

2/02

I think what is happening in Canada and in England is the most significant progress we have seen in my lifetime, and it will clearly have a positive impact in this country. Our government seems to be able to ignore and misrepresent what happens in Holland and in many other parts of the world, but we can’t simply make things up about Canada and England and expect to get by with it. Our common culture and language, and with Canada our common border, make these pending changes terribly important for us in the US.

Frankly, so long as the Republican party continue to control the House, the Frank medical use bill will continue to be ignored by the appropriate committee chair and subcommittee chair, either of whom could schedule a public hearing on the bill and at least permit us to make our best case. But the Republican leadership has for several years confused the question of the medical use of marijuana with the war on drugs, and have made the anti-medical use position an integral part of their anti-drug war.

Until we change the climate that causes folks to fear to express their own political preferences, for fear of being hurt personally and professionally, we cannot expect to fully exercise our full political potential. In a manner, we need, as a culture, to come out of the closet, and to demonstrate that the vast majority of marijuana smokers are good, decent Americans who are good neighbors and good citizens.

The two things each American can do to change public policy is to contact you elected officials (and do it more than once, at all levels from the city council, to the state legislature, to Congress) so they know their constituents want a change in marijuana policy, and to donate a few bucks each year to any of several good public interest groups working to end the drug war.

We need more citizen activists, more Americans willing to come out of the closet and override the negative stereotype that lingers with many people.

Tree, Sanho

Director, Drug Policy Project at the Institute for Policy Studies

Website: www.csdp.org/edcs

8/01

I know that oil companies have been lobbying hard on the Andean drug war aid package. They want to fight the rebels in Colombia who have been attacking their infrastructure — especially the vulnerable pipelines. Which brings up the question, ‘Is US aid really about counter narcotics?’ During the Clinton impeachment hearings, Democrats would say, “If they say it’s not about sex, then it’s about sex.” The opposite is true here. If they say it’s about drugs, it’s not about drugs! This counter narcotics aid package makes absolutely no sense.

Until we admit the international drug economy is driven by three problems we refuse to seriously address (namely: poverty in drug producing countries, demand in rich countries, and the ‘value added’ to these relatively worthless crops by our prohibition policies), we will never get a handle on this problem. As long as the US maintains its demand for cocaine, drug lords will find new ways to smuggle their product. And, as long as there is crushing poverty in Latin America, there will be a steady supply of poor peasants willing to grow the coca and poppy. Our policy of interdiction and eradication artificially escalates the value of these illicit crops and entices more impoverished peasant farmers into the drug economy. With more than 1.2 billion people living on less than \$1 per day and illicit crops that can grow in most climates, we will never police our way out of this problem. The region’s conflicts are driven by social, political, and economic forces. Guns and helicopters cannot solve the problems of poverty in the Andes or addiction in the US. The region is in desperate need of a mini-Marshall Plan, but our response has been to send them Desert Storm.

I think the ‘collateral damage’ from the drug war is a crucial point to include. As Kevin Zeese likes to say, the drug war is two degrees of separation from every major social problem confronting us today. I think when those ‘untouched’ by the drug war realize how deep the impact goes, they will start to get involved.

I think the Canadian MMJ rules are part of a global response to a failed drug war. Other governments are realizing that simply escalating a failed paradigm isn't going to produce a different result. I think the most exciting reforms are taking place internationally and at the state level in the US. Look internationally and reform locally!

The situation facing small farmers is one of long-standing neglect and marginalization by the Colombian government. Vast sections of the countryside historically have been abandoned by the state. The lack of roads and other infrastructure have made it difficult and sometimes impossible to survive as a small farmer. Since there are no viable means by which to get legal crops to market, farmers in the region have been left with little of survival for decades.

DynCorp supplies private international police officer in the Balkans — who have been accused of sexual slavery and trafficking of women. Our legislators haven't learned squat. The preconditions such as poverty, alienation and despair have changed little, but our response to the problem has become overwhelmingly punitive.

Turmel, John

Canadian Medical Marijuana Activist

Website: <http://www.medpot.net>

10/01

My marijuana poem *Ode To Laughing Grass*

Throughout all history, hemp's been a plant of great repute,
 Four months to grow a mini-tree of twenty foot from shoot,
 More oxygen converted from dioxide-carbon smog's,
 Four times more wood than forestry can chop trees into logs.
 A hardy plant, insecticides and fertilizers, not,
 It grows so tall the shade kills weeds for fertile garden plot.
 With petro-fuels with sulfur being burned into the air,
 A fuel of biomass would help environmental care.
 Hemp fuel, hemp paints, hemp varnishes, hemp fibers, cloth and rope,
 Hemp fertilizer, oil and plastics, medicines of hope.
 There's never been recorded death from using hemp, they say,
 It's sedative that fits receptors in our DNA.
 While alcohol debases, vibes of negative grow strong,
 The laughing grass makes calm and jolly, wishing no one wrong.
 It's source of protein primary for man and beast alike,
 The best plant used for finger in environmental dike.
 The industry of dirty petro-chemicals may fear,
 It's nature's agri-chemicals we'll substitute, it's clear.
 For crops of untold uses, which can soon be realized,
 Our greatest source of bio-mass must first be legalized.
 The chance that we may yet evade environmental doom,
 With planet's fastest-growing vegetable, no need for gloom.
 The Abolitionists charge that "On lies are based these laws."
 Abolishing hemp prohibition is our second cause.

True, world industries rule national governments. And though I fight for an end to marijuana prohibition, I know that it would be that much easier to accomplish if the threatened industries like petroleum didn't go broke when legalization occurs.

If I were in the U.S., I would try to organize to influence the United Nations. NGOs. Win there and your president won't be able to get in your way. And it will help if you've got that Canuck storming the UN with the new death of prohibition in Canada as the reason to push worldwide. I guess my advice would be to continue all efforts at all levels but try to focus on supra national. Get all the marijuana organizations in the world into one international group able to apply pressure everywhere.

Van Schaik, Nol

Owner of 3 cannabis shops in Amsterdam and partner with Colin Davies of the UK's Dutch Experience cannabis shop

Website: <http://www.wwwshop.nl>

1/02

It seems that the GMP officers are still on random arrest mode, they do as they please, and only arrest cannabis people when it suits them. The Lambeth experiment should indeed give way for the rest of the country, but equal rights are hard to get in the UK, as I keep on finding out.

So far, about 40 arrests around the DE ... all pleading not guilty, which means it will cost 40 x 10.000 GBP to get them all through court. (400,000 GBP = \$600,000 USD)

The matter became European, as soon as an Italian MEP, Marco Capatto, handed himself in for possession, in our support ... It should be international, marihuana grows without frontiers ... I think if this works in the UK, it will have a major impact on both Canada and Australia, both under English rules and reign of the Queen. I do not know how long the US authorities can keep up their shield of lying and denying about cannabis, I can only hope it will make the generals of the War on Drugs think again. Sure, our prohibitionists are probably all major shareholders in the Pharma-industry, like everywhere else.

Money should not be able to keep marihuana unavailable, they know that as well as we do.

We need to show we are not a minority. European politicians are using cannabis legalisation in their election programs, to get the smokers to vote for them ... That means we are now considered a political force over here, even Jaques Chirac, the biggest prohib of the EU, is going to try and get re-elected, with cannabis legalisation in his program!!

Switzerland will start to give permits for so-called 'Dopeshops' soon, probably this year. We are not bothered by your WoD directly, every country makes up the balance now, Holland proved to be right, so they will follow the main guidelines too. That goes against treaties with the US, but people seem to come before laws in Europe. Yes, full prohibition keeps all drugs in the same scene, separation of soft and hard drugs, with a possibility to monitor the situation, will prevent the stepping stone theory effectively.

It was the common sense of our police and authorities; they noticed that pot smokers do not cause any trouble to society. Now, they are happy and proud they tolerated it, and try to tell our neighboring countries about it ... It was a combined effort, the power and the people; the struggle was short and worthwhile, as it will be from now in the whole of Europe. I hope your government will wake up, and smell the coffee shops, one day!

Zeese, Kevin*President of Common Sense for Drug Policy*Website: www.csdp.org

2/02

We, as the most powerful economic and military power in the world, are trying to hold back reform in all corners of the world. Yet, progress continues to be made because the whole world looks at the mess we have created for ourselves and says — not in our country. We can't stop the tide and as it continues it will overtake us. Many of the most successful policies in the US started abroad.

The reality is many reforms instituted outside of the US could be very effective here — we are not that different from people outside of the US — our human bodies all work the same, we have the same DNA and we react to drugs very similarly. You cannot stop progress and the truth will finally be seen.

If you live in California you should never vote to convict a marijuana offender. Since you are not allowed to be told whether someone is a medical user or provider you must assume that all marijuana offenders are medical. Just say NOT GUILTY.

There is a role for rallies and protests. It should not be our preeminent strategy but it's important to publicly show our displeasure with the war on drugs.

Regarding what can be done to bring us closer to marijuana legalization:

1. Realize you have more power than you think. One person can make a big difference and a few people — well organized — can bring about significant change.
2. I'd recommend outreach to non-drug policy reformers. The marijuana war, and the drug war generally, affects every major social issue we face — health care, adolescent development, racism, militarism abroad, environmental degradation, etc. — so you can make a list of organizations (religious groups are important) to reach out to. Listen to their areas of concern and explain to them how the drug war affects them.
3. Go to <http://www.drugsense.org> and sign up for their weekly focus alerts. In a few minutes each week you can help influence the media.
4. Go to <http://www.CSDP.org> and look for the section on getting active. We will let you know what groups are working on the issues you care about so you can work with them.
5. Go to <http://www.drugwarfacts.org>. You can be an expert on drug policy with this booklet. Use it to write letters to the editor, call radio shows, contact the media and write your legislators.
6. Do good work like helping to stop the spread of HIV. Needle exchange programs exist in over 120 cities. Find yours and volunteer.

The medical marijuana issue shows how extreme drug warriors are. They do not pursue research that shows marijuana can save lives, reduce pain and help the seriously ill; the feds try to undermine votes that protect the seriously ill. They claim the drug war is to protect health and then they undermine the doctor-patient relationship and deny access to medicines that are inexpensive and helpful.

The medical marijuana issue, while a narrow issue, demonstrates the drug war is a fraud led by extremists — very un-American.

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This booklet is a tool. We have the people and the tools available to end drug prohibition today. However, it will require many US citizens daring to stand and speak up. Please use the information contained herein to make a difference.

Register to vote, make sure your friends are registered too. Find out who on your ballot is for reform and who is against and use your vote to end the drug war. Buddy up on Election Day, spend the time in line together and make a difference.

Write to the President, your congressmen, your governor, mayor and other elected officials. Perhaps more importantly, write to the editors of the local papers. Instructions on how to write better letters is available at www.mapinc.org. Help on where and how to contact your elected officials is available at <http://www.user1.netcarrier.com/~aahpat/qes.htm>.

News from Central and South America: www.narconews.com
International News: www.marijuananeews.com
Drug War News: www.mapinc.org
Weekly updates: www.drugsense.org
Drug War Facts: www.drugwarfacts.org

Natl. Org. for Reform of Marijuana Laws: www.norml.org
Drug Policy Alliance: www.drugpolicy.org

Multi-disciplinary Assoc. for Psychedelic Studies: www.maps.org

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE DECLARATION OF EVIDENT TRUTH:

Inside the back cover is a copy of *The Declaration of Evident Truth*. Please sign it, cut and fold in half, seal with tape, and send to: President George W. Bush, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20500. Or, sign it online at <http://www.petitiononline.com/cannabis/> Many hundreds of people have physically signed the *Declaration* and many more have signed it online.

Publishers Note: We prepared this booklet so YOU can make a difference. Dare to stand tall, share the Truth with your family, friends and associates. Please help to end this war on our own people. Thank you.

— Dean Becker, www.cultural-baggage.com

Declaration of Evident Truth

This third millennium offers a fresh perspective on life, the future, liberty and truth.

On this day, I pledge to uphold all valid and reasonable laws of the United States government, the individual States thereof and all laws of the city and county where I may live; except for those laws which have been shown by modern science, logic and understanding to be unfounded, based on lies and which were designed to vilify and persecute a segment of our society for the benefit of another, prohibitionist segment. This prohibition now extends to the use of certain drugs. These prohibitions specifically deny the use of the cannabis plant, for which I now make an exception to my allegiance to these aforementioned laws.

Modern science and common sense have shown that the laws against cannabis use are based not on fact but rather are quite simply tools of oppression. The oppression is becoming more obvious as each day passes. Governments of Mexico, Central and South America, Canada, Switzerland, Holland, Germany, Italy, Belgium, Australia, New Zealand and other countries have seen the folly that is a result of the failed U.S. policy on cannabis that now approaches a century of abuse. Many of these countries have changed or are changing their laws in regard to cannabis possession; only their fear of losing U.S. preferential treatment or the breaking of international treaties forced on them by the U.S. government prevents the complete reversal of their cannabis laws.

For some, the use of cannabis can be a moment of enlightenment, an epiphany or a moment of communion with their creator. It is a fundamental right of each U.S. citizen to be allowed this moment of peace and serenity without the threat of government interference. It is therefore necessary this day that I deny the government authority that would prevent use of a sacrament, the cannabis plant.

For many, the use of cannabis is necessary for life, pain prevention or maintenance of other disabilities. Knowing that the real truth about cannabis is aligned with benefit and relief rather than the supposed government truth that speaks of death and destruction; I must again deny the government authority that would prevent the use of cannabis for relief of pain or for other medical reasons.

For all people, certainly for U.S. citizens, there are certain inalienable rights and among them is the pursuit of happiness. Again, because the government laws against cannabis have minimal basis in reality and because they are designed to prevent access to a certain level of contentment that may at times be available through the use of cannabis, I must once again deny my allegiance to the government authority that would unduly prevent the pursuit of a level of happiness as guaranteed in the Declaration of Independence.

Because the government has made no use of accurate, modern data about cannabis and has thus far failed in any reasonable effort to ameliorate this situation, I can make available to their agents more than 10,000 pages of professional documentation prepared by scientists, doctors, governmental bodies and other researchers from around the world that fully support each word of my aforementioned denial of government authority. I am prepared to show the courts and any inquisitive governmental agency how each of these documents and these truths I speak of relate to my life and to the lives of every American citizen.

As of this date, I pledge to support a drug policy that is based on fact and not based on outdated government fiction. I pledge to support a harm reduction policy in regards to drug use. Among those policies I will support is the treatment of severe drug addiction as a health issue and not one of the criminal justice system. Further, I pledge to work towards an education policy that provides factual, truthful information about drugs to all children. Insofar as cannabis is concerned, I am 100% certain that the laws of man are wrong, bigoted and a violation of civil rights.

I submit my protest against government injustice in regards to overall drug policy, especially the incarceration of non-violent drug offenders. Further, I completely repudiate man's laws concerning cannabis. Still further, I state that my belief and actions henceforth in regards to use of the cannabis plant will follow only the laws of God, common sense, truth and reality.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Please
Attach
Proper
Postage

President George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington DC 20500

Please fold on solid line

Please cut on dotted line

Please use clear tape to shut