

become the choice of the marijuana abuser, and Colombia is now the major supplier of marijuana to the U.S. Most of this illegal substance enters through Florida. Efforts to decriminalize marijuana in small quantities for personal use have led to increased demand for marijuana and higher profits for smugglers. In the past few years cocaine has become popular with certain population groups in the U.S. Major shipping patterns have been established from Peru and Bolivia to Colombia and on to the U.S.

18. It is obvious that the tremendous narcotics trade is adversely affecting the climate for legitimate business.... There is an enormous flow of cash into the Miami Federal Reserve District, probably as a result of narcotics trafficking. A chart comparing Miami to districts of the same size such as Cincinnati, Dallas, Houston and St. Louis showed that the proportion of payments to receipts in Miami is much higher than normal....

Conclusions

9. The Federal Government must react to the situation in south Florida in the manner it would if a natural disaster or other grave emergency had struck the area.

DEA campaigns against leniency towards pot

Peter B. Bensinger, administrator of the U.S. Department of Justice's Drug Enforcement Administration, is rallying the nation's law enforcement community to continue their traditional opposition to relaxed enforcement or scrapping of the United States's laws prohibiting the use of marijuana. In speeches to the Federal Bureau of Investigation Academy at Quantico, Va. on Sept. 22, and to the Annual Conference of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, held in New York Oct. 10, Bensinger focused on the growing threat to American youth posed by the illegal traffic in marijuana, which Bensinger estimated at \$15 billion a year.

Even as the DEA adopts an increasingly tough antimarijuana line — including a soon-to-be issued report which demonstrates the high levels of cumulative damage done to marijuana smokers by "moderate" (five cigarettes per week) use — the "pot lobby" is mounting a more and more aggressive drive for marijuana "decriminalization."

On Sept. 9, Keith Stroup, national director of NORML (National Organization for the reform of

Pot condemned as glaucoma remedy

Dr. John Bellows, Director of the International Glaucoma Congress, condemned the state of Illinois's legalization of marijuana use in the treatment of glaucoma as a dangerous and cruel hoax in a letter to the Chicago Tribune Sept. 29. The text of his letter appears below:

Gov. (James) Thompson signed a bill on Sept. 9 legalizing the use of marijuana for humane medical treatment of cancer and glaucoma. As an ophthalmologist, I am concerned that this legalization may give rise to unforeseen difficulties for the uninformed glaucoma patient.

The legalization of marijuana for the treatment of glaucoma suggests that it is a valuable therapeutic agent. Though in some patients marijuana may reduce the increased intraocular pressure caused by glaucoma, conventional remedies are far more effective. Marijuana decreases intraocular pressure for only two hours, whereas conventional drugs are effective for eight, 12, or even 24 hours. The short-term effectiveness of marijuana lessens its usefulness considerably; for example, the intraocular pressure would be uncontrolled during sleep. Since glaucoma requires lifelong treatment, the exclusive use of marijuana would require that the patient smoke "pot" for his entire life.

Marijuana is also known to

produce transitory side effects, including nystagmoid movements, impaired focusing, double vision, transitory loss of vision, corneal anesthesia, conjunctival infection, decreased tearing, and constriction of the pupils. In addition, marijuana may alter perceptions of reality, reduce alertness, and impair short-term memory.

The prevention of glaucoma blindness requires the patient's lifelong compliance in using conventional medication and periodic examinations by a skilled ophthalmologist to determine whether the disease is under control.

Marijuana Laws) and an avowed drug user, told an audience in Des Moines, Iowa that NORML has targeted a dozen states, including Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Michigan, and the District of Columbia, for decriminalization legislation. Stroup specified that decriminalization of marijuana for "medicinal purposes, like the treatment of terminal cancer patients," would be considered a "win" for the pot lobby. The week of Stroup's speech Illinois Governor James Thompson signed into law just such a bill — long backed by Illinois's Zionist Lobby Sen. Charles Percy, like Thompson a liberal Republican.

Bensinger's speech, excerpts of which are reprinted here, was the subject of a strong anti-decriminalization editorial in the *Seattle Times* of Sept. 23, and has been covered far more extensively to date by West Coast papers, including the *Seattle Times* and *Post-Intelligencer*, than on the East Coast.

Also included below are excerpts of Bensinger's remarks at the Annual Conference of the International Association of Chiefs of Police. In response to questions from the floor, Bensinger strongly praised the antidrug efforts of Mexican President Lopez Portillo and Colombian President Turbay Ayala. Queried by an NSIPS reporter on the link between international drug trafficking and international

banking networks controlling the funds from drugs, Bensinger noted that the key banks involved are based in the Cayman Islands, Bahamas, and Switzerland — publicly confirming the analysis of drug-banking networks carried in *EIR*.

Mexico, Colombia praised for antidrug efforts

In response to a question on international cooperation in fighting drugs at the IACP annual conference Oct. 10, DEA head Peter Bensinger stated:

The Mexican opium eradication program has been highly successful and has had a marked effect on the US heroin picture . . . I'm also impressed with (Colombian President) Turbay's efforts to stop marijuana smuggling. The Guajira peninsula is a smugglers' paradise; ships and planes can move there easily. However, Turbay has initiated a containment and eradication program and already the first major Colombian naval seizure has occurred, and a number of airstrips have been closed. I recently had a meeting where Turbay told me, "These are your citizens using drugs and your country is the major market. How can we (Colombia) prevent the drug running if your laws are not enforced and your penalties are low?" . . . The current laws are not a sufficient deterrent, are insufficient to discourage marijuana runners from buying and dealing tonnage quantities. The federal laws should be changed. The average sentence for large scale running is three years with most getting out after more than a year.

Bourne opposes anticocaine fight

Cashiered former White House drug czar, Peter Bourne, whose ouster in August preceded the current toughening of drug law enforcement, reappeared in the news Oct. 10, as a national wire from New York reported the following:

Dr. Peter Bourne, President Carter's onetime chief advisor on drug abuse, says it is useless to try to end cocaine use, and the government should not impose stricter laws.

During a two-part, taped interview on the Dick Cavett Show to be aired over Public Broadcasting Service stations Oct. 24 and Oct. 25, Bourne said: It is unrealistic to think that we're going to wipe it (cocaine use) out.

I don't think we need a massive law enforcement crackdown. We can't enforce the (drug) laws that we have on the books now.

I think at the same time legalizing it or even decriminalizing it would compound the problem. We would have more people using it. We would have more problems. I think at the moment we have kind of a standoff. And my personal belief is that the current standoff isn't too bad from a policy standpoint, he said.

The British-born doctor said he never used the powdery drug himself....

Threat to nation's youth

Speaking to newly-graduated FBI special agents Sept. 22, Bensinger stressed the threat posed by marijuana to users' health, and to the nation's youth.

Should we be concerned with marijuana? I think we should. I think there is a myth that marijuana is harmless. I think there is a myth that marijuana is like smoking a cigarette or like drinking alcohol. There are some similarities, but very few, and many very important differences.

Marijuana is comprised of up to 50 different chemical ingredients including THC. Alcohol is made of ethyl alcohol, one chemical ingredient. THC accumulates in the blood supply system and an individual smoking several joints of marijuana will find traces of THC in his or her blood as long as 30 days after use. The effect is cumulative and therefore much more unpredictable. . . .

An individual smoking five joints of marijuana per week will have a greater number of carcinogens in his lung tissue than an individual smoking a pack a day of regular cigarettes. . . .

Pulmonary pathology for marijuana smoking is more severe than that for normal cigarette use. Doctors in several parts of the world have found that chromosomal abnormalities as well as possible brain damage are linked to the use of marijuana, and the Director of the United Nations Laboratory in Geneva, Dr. O.J. Braenden, has expressed his own personal concern to me in this regard.

The net effect of using marijuana on the smoker is that it slows one's reflexes, because it affects the central nervous system . . . Teachers in the schools have found an alarming increase in lack of initiative and responsiveness in their classroom when there is use of marijuana by students.

What are we to do? Some will answer, of course, that the way to solve the problem is by legalizing the crime. Not mentioned, however, is that legalizing marijuana use would break the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, which the United States has signed with 108 countries and which commits this country to restrict and control the use of marijuana and a variety of other narcotic and dangerous drugs. But even if we were to abrogate this treaty around the world, would it make any sense? Well, marijuana would continue to pose a major health hazard, only in much greater scope. Would it really achieve the end result of taking the criminal organizations — organized crime — out of the market? It would do no such thing. . . .

Now the major market for marijuana is not adult smokers, but children — adolescents who do not know any better and whose parents are unwilling and-or afraid to talk to them about the problem. As a result organized crime would move in and simply take over the majority of that market — which would be a black market, illegal, 10-to-18 year-old targeted bootleg operation. This is what is happening today. Marijuana distributors are not youthful teenagers out on a one-time spree. They are part of large, sophisticated criminal organizations that we have investigated.

Public backlash hits drug decriminalizers

Backed by a substantial portion of the nation's media, the liberal press, and such stalwarts of the "Zionist lobby" and Kennedy machine as Edgar Bronfman and Sen. Jacob Javits, proponents of marijuana decriminalization are making a game show that nothing has changed since the heady days following Jimmy Carter's inauguration in 1977 when 15 leading Democratic congressmen including Sen. Ted Kennedy issued a public call for national legislation to decriminalize "pot."

But at the grassroots of America, there are widespread indications of a massive — and growing — public backlash against the decriminalizers, strong enough to have a significant impact on key electoral races in November, and strong enough to force public exposure of the organized crime and British-linked political networks behind drugs.

The antidrug grassroots action is typified by recent developments in Buffalo, New York. As schools opened, 36 school principals issued an open letter to Erie County (Buffalo) parents detailing exactly how drug use is destroying the minds of their children in the classroom. In the letter, carried by the Buffalo daily papers Sept. 25, they called for firm action against drugs, including re-criminalization of marijuana, reversing the hotly contested decriminalization bill rammed through the state legislature recently by Kennedy-wing Democrats.

The Buffalo principals' action contributed to public pressure which forced press coverage, throughout the state on Oct. 11, of a statewide report by the Office of Drug Abuse showing that marijuana use has tripled since decriminalization, and that 45 percent of all students in grades seven through twelve use the drug. A political hot potato for Bronfman-funded Governor Hugh Carey — a strong decriminalization proponent who is seeking reelection in November — the report was intended to be kept under wraps until after the election. As a result of its dissemination, the report is provoking a major political furor.

A similar backlash is hitting decriminalization drives elsewhere in the nation.