

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. . . .