

Cannabinoids cross the placental barrier and appear in maternal milk. Thus the fetus can be affected in the uterus by cannabis smoked by its mother, as well as by contaminated breast milk. Experimental studies indicate that the negative effects on development which have been seen in different animal species may be caused by: preconception exposure to cannabis with damage to the germ cells (sperm and egg); prenatal exposure in the uterus; and/or postnatal exposure to contaminated mother's milk.

In one study, of 10 independent factors such as age, alcohol use, cigarette smoking, and race, which were studied as possible causes of adverse effects in pregnancy, marijuana use was the most highly predictive of fetal malformations. In fact, it now appears that a significant number of cases of fetal alcohol

syndrome may actually represent the effects of marijuana.

Unlike alcohol, in which the heaviest consumption occurs among a small percentage of the total number of consumers, regular marijuana consumption is more widely distributed among the total number of consumers. Epidemiological studies indicate that the abuse potential of cannabis (its capacity to induce daily intoxication) may be nine times greater than that of alcohol, when it is easily accessible and socially acceptable.

It is also an addictive, dependence-producing drug. Since studies of large numbers of high school students show that 26% of marijuana users went on to experiment with opiates, barbiturates, and amphetamines, it is not surprising that those who are profiting from the drug trade are so eager to legalize this drug.

U.S. must grow food, wipe out marijuana

Two courses of emergency action are called for in the face of the decline of U.S. agriculture and rise of marijuana production: the restoration of a federal farm policy based on meeting national food supply goals, and an effective drug eradication program. The essential foundation for these initiatives to work is an economic growth campaign, involving infrastructural, industrial, and agricultural development, with opportunities for education and full productive employment.

Emergency agriculture program

The new five-year farm law, "Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990," should be scrapped, and a set of emergency measures initiated based on the following guidelines:

1) Prices. Farmers must receive fair or "parity" prices (80-100% of standard parity calculations) for their output. Anti-trust and related actions are needed to dismantle the food cartel companies' control over food prices, flow, and availability.

2) Debt relief. A moratorium on agricultural debt is required, with rescheduling and debt forgiveness, pending resumption of a healthy farm economy with the ability to repay just debts. Low-interest credits must be advanced through the Treasury Department and local banking services to permit the doubling of current output.

3) Ecology policy. Sound resource management policies must be reinstated based on required levels of energy and technology to begin to make land, water, and soil

improvements for the national agriculture resource base. The current low-energy, low-tech programs, called "sustainable" or "alternative" agriculture—programs which are impoverishing farmers and actually degrading the environment—must be stopped. Suspend the activities of the Environmental Protection Agency, pending critical review of its conduct.

4) Infrastructure. Projects for creating and maintaining water supplies, power, and transport for agriculture inputs and commodities must be initiated.

Emergency dope eradication campaign

1) Stop drug-money laundering. Enforce transparency in banking transactions; seize the drug traffickers' assets; jail the drug bankers.

2) Stop drug production. Use satellite detection of all production and processing sites. Use modern equipment for herbicide spraying, and other means to kill the crops. Heat-sensing snooping devices have successfully sought out the locations of underground marijuana grown in southern California and Arizona.

In 1990, the Operation Wipeout raids in Hawaii used a locally designed herbicide spray rig that dangled from a helicopter, to spray targeted patches. As the craft hovers about 100 feet overhead, a ball-shaped steel drum sprays the plot with glyphosate (a common weedkiller). For extensive tracts, aerial spraying of malathion are in order.

3) Stop drug distribution. Use modern technology, like nuclear magnetic resonance and X-rays, to detect suspicious shipments and to search likely illicit cargo.

4) Stop drug consumption. Defeat the legalization campaign. Enforce severe jail terms for all traffickers and dealers.

5) Stop pornography and satanism. Make them illegal, and jail violators. Promote classical culture among youth.