

Drug Legalization Gets Boost from Wall Street

by Michele Steinberg

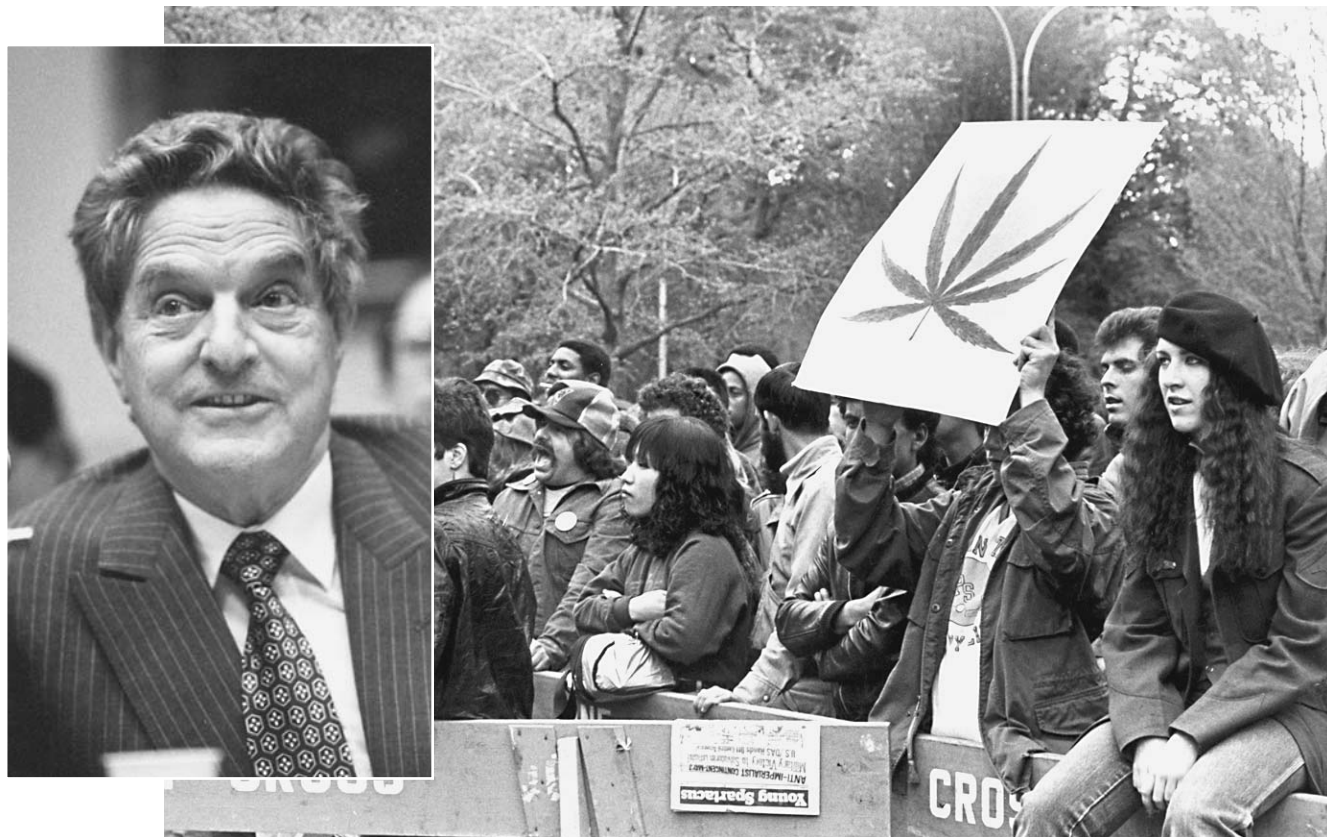
The network of drug-legalization lobby groups centered in hedge-fund and mega-speculator George Soros's Open Society Institute, are using this year's elections to escalate their drive to legalize drugs in the United States. In seven states, there are referendums on the ballot that will significantly weaken the ability of the United States to stop the use of psychotropic drugs. And, as stated by Soros's lackey on drug legalization, Ethan Nadelmann, in an October 1999 forum at the free-trade Cato Institute, these incremental legislative changes are designed to wear down the resistance to full legalization of illegal drugs.

The following measures already certified for ballot referendums:

- In California, Proposition 36 would abolish jail terms for "simple possession" of marijuana, cocaine, crack cocaine, heroin, PCP, and virtually every other type of narcotic and hallucinogenic drug, for the first, second, and *third* offense.
- In Oregon and Massachusetts, the same "wear down resistance" technique is being applied to repeal "forfeiture laws," which allow law enforcement authorities to seize property that is part of a drug enterprise.
- Alaska is intended to be the beachhead for full legalization of marijuana. Alaska passed decriminalization of marijuana for personal use several years ago.
- And, Colorado, Nevada, and Florida are the latest additions to the list of states that have gotten a "medical use of marijuana" referendum on the ballot.

The strategy is not just to undermine the morality of the United States, but to try to repeal all international laws against trafficking in mind-altering drugs—a "New Opium War" strategy modelled on the opium-trafficking days of the British East India Company.

And, through a ready-made network of "Human Rights



Yippies at their annual smoke-in in 1981. Drug legalization efforts didn't get far for more than 20 years, until big financial backers, such as British-controlled speculator George Soros (inset), got behind the effort.

Watch” organizations, founded and financed by Soros, each step toward the legalization of dope in the United States is used as a political sledgehammer against the patriots of Ibero-America that are committed to stopping the narco-terrorist forces from destroying their nations. A special branch entitled “Americas Watch,” with Soros on the board, is used specifically to target patriotic leaders in Peru and Colombia as “human rights violators.”

Opposition Formed

The crown jewel of the legalization drive is Proposition 36 in California, where Soros and friends engineered the first passage ever of the “medical marijuana” initiative, in 1996.

But Proposition 36 is coming under steady attack from law enforcement, health-care, and drug-treatment professionals, through a group called Californians United Against Drug Abuse. The group says, “Proposition 36 effectively decriminalizes heroin, crack cocaine, PCP, methamphetamine . . . and many other illegal substances—the hard drugs behind most child abuse, domestic violence, sexual attacks, and other violent crimes. . . . Instead of offering a real solution to drug abuse, it gives up the fight.

“Proposition 36 wasn’t written by drug-treatment experts. It was written by a criminal defense lawyer and funded by three wealthy out-of-state backers whose ultimate goal is to legalize drugs.”

The “three backers” are Soros, John Sperling, and Peter Lewis, affectionately known to pot-heads and journalists as “the funders,” who cough up tens of millions of dollars for drug legalization. Sperling is a 76-year-old, Arizona-based financier who heads the Apollo Group, a holding company for not-for-profit universities led by an infamous correspondence school, the “University of Phoenix.” The third in the troika, Lewis, of Cleveland, Ohio, heads the Progressive Corporation, the fifth-largest auto insurer in the United States.

The Soros-Sperling-Lewis combination provided the money—an estimated \$30 million—for the 1996 Proposition 36 initiative, when they created a front group, the so-called Americans for Medical Rights, to push through the medical marijuana initiative. The media today try to paint them as Robin Hoods, who are “deeply concerned” about sick people getting pain relief, and ghetto youngsters going to jail. In reality, they are cynical manipulators with a secret agenda to legalize dope.

Soros to the Rescue

If there is any bright spot in this picture, it is to understand clearly that this legalization mafia is totally dependent on a *tiny* handful of operatives—a few hundred in number—who operate under Soros’s umbrella.

The Lindesmith Center of Soros’s Open Society Institute in New York, run by Nadelmann, is the clearinghouse for the drug-decriminalization efforts. The Drug Policy Foundation, which provides “grants” and “research,” and the National

Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML), which came on the scene more than 25 years ago as the first lobby organization for decriminalization of marijuana, are two of the other groups that rely heavily on Soros’s dollars to carry out their political efforts. Through a highly professional Internet-linked communications network, two or three “grass-roots” organizations in virtually every state are given support from a few lawyers, doctors, and foundations to give the appearance of a popular movement. The closest these pro-marijuana groups come to being grassroots groups, is the “grass.” Without the infusion of Soros’s dollars and other largesse from philanthropists, the aging hippies that lead the pro-marijuana movement in the United States probably couldn’t get out of bed by themselves.

Nadelmann admitted as much in his remarks to the Cato Institute last October, when he pointed out, that until the semantic ruse of “medical use of marijuana” came along, the decriminalization movement had suffered nearly 20 years of defeats. For years, NORML and the Drug Policy Foundation had hammered away at the U.S. Congress and state legislatures, in attempts to pass decriminalization legislation, but they failed each time. But even the “medical marijuana” initiative was going nowhere, until Anglo-American billionaire Soros, and his friends, spent an estimated \$30 million to get it enacted into law.

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