Bill #13
opponent

EXHIBIT 43 HUH
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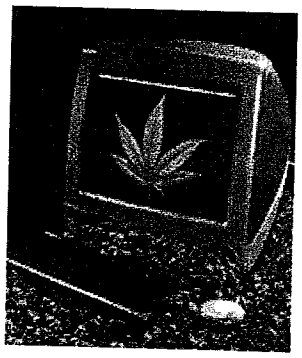
HB 73



"Standard Pot" produces approximately 60 joints per ounce or 960 per pound. "High-Quality" produces 120 joints per ounce or 1,920 per pound. Given the average of MJ quality grown on NFS lands, we could safely estimate that each pound of cannabis eradicated off NFS would yield around **1,200 joints per pound**.

CY 1999 1,000,000 pounds of eradicated MJ
x 1,200 joints = **1,200,000,000 joints for CY 1999**
[cy 1998 – 742,529 pounds X 1,200 joints = 891,034,800 joints]

CY 1996 through CY 1999 = 3,072,349 pounds
x 1,200 joints = **3,758,818,800 joints for CY 1996 - 1999**

NORML has a number of price ranges per ounce from $200 for "low grade Mexican" to $600 per ounce for "high grade sinsemilla". We could safely average these costs @ $300 per ounce on average for MJ off of NFS lands. That would put the average street price per pound at around $4,800, which is well above our stated average street cost of $1,500 to $3,000 we've been using.

Given the per ounce cost ($300) and the joint per ounce (75) or joint per pound (1200) we find each joint at approximately $4.00 each.

CY 1999 = $4,800,000,000 dollars in per joint outlay we prevented by our eradication efforts on NFS lands. **CY 1996 through CY 1999 = over $15,000,000,000**
[CY 1998 = $3,564,139,200 in per joint]

Figures since 1986 are approximately 5,500,000 plants or 2.2 lbs per plant = 12,100,000 pounds. Given the above figures and dollar amounts, we feel that the numbers attained are too much to fathom. Of course these figures may not represent the use of pipes, bongs, or other methods of ingestion that we commonly find folks using out there. We're sure that we could determine the average gram content of each fancy bong if we look long and hard.

A common defense for subjects arrested on NFS lands caught growing cannabis is that it was **"only for personal use."** Using all of the figures above, one could draw this conclusion if an individual was discovered with a 100 plant garden. **100 plants X 2.2 pounds/plant = 220 pounds. 220 pounds x 1,200 joints/pound = 264,000 joints.** 264,000 joints divided over one year is around 723 joints /day. One would have to smoke over 72 joints each and every day for ten (10) years to use the 100 plants of "personal use" marijuana they tried to produce.

These are measured statistics, but not the measured "outcomes" of preventing joints or the expenditure of money for illegal drugs. Someone needs to factor and quantify the costs of crime, family violence, lost productivity, and health problems associated with the amount of marijuana that is being produced on NFS lands each year.

Basic Street value using $1,500 per pound:
CY 1999 – 1,087,567 pounds X $1,500 = $1,631,350,500
CY 1998 - 742,529 pounds X $1,500 = $1,113,793,500

Marijuana: Is legalization the answer?

I am sure you have heard the well spoken, practiced media lines of those who would like you to believe that we would all be better off if we legalized marijuana. There are several groups with slightly different messages. Some want to legalize marijuana for medicinal purposes only, some want to legalize it for adults only, yet others want to legalize it for everyone. Together they get their message across often and for some reason it seems like the majority in the media support them. Unfortunately, the average person hears these messages often and after awhile they start to think they sound reasonable. Here is a list of some of the most common statements.

1. They say they would legalize and regulate it like alcohol and tobacco.
2. They say they would tax the sale of legal marijuana and use all the tax money for treatment and other programs.
3. They say they would control the purity of marijuana sold at the legal store.
4. They say legalization would get rid of Organized Crime.
5. They say legalization would eliminate the illegal marijuana grow operations.
6. They say less young people would use it, if it was legal.
7. They say less young people would get a criminal record for possession, if it was legal.
8. They say alcohol (and/or tobacco) is legal, why not marijuana.
9. They say the laws cause more harm to people than the use of marijuana.

Do these statements sound reasonable? Would it work? How do we know? The decision making model used in the new D.A.R.E. Program, teaches our children that it is important to take time to consider the potential consequences of our actions before we make a decision to do something. Thus, before we decide to change the laws with respect to marijuana, we should consider the potential consequences. To help in that process, I have listed a few questions under each of these headings that I think need to be addressed.

First, you can start by asking one very basic question. Ask them to show you how they are going to stop children from using alcohol and tobacco. They have both been legal and regulated for years, yet they are used by more children than any of the illegal drugs and continue to cause more deaths and other costs to society than all the illegal drugs combined. You will find that they don't have all the answers. They are big on opinions but short on facts to back them up.

Dr. Robert Gilkeson, a noted child and adolescent neuropsychiatrist, addresses this issue in the following statement: "The toxic properties of chemical molecules and their cellular damage are not matters of opinion or debate. They are not determined by adolescent servicemen, or by scientifically uneducated lawyers, legislators, judges, or doctors without the facts. We cannot vote for or against the 'toxicity' of a drug. How much a drug impairs cell structure or chemical function is neither subject to nor governed by congressional committee, public referendum, or the federal constitution. Everyone is entitled to his own 'opinion'. He is not entitled to his own 'facts'. Chemically, marijuana is a far more dangerous drug than most of the scientifically ignorant media and American consumer have been duped into believing."

1. If they say they would legalize and regulate it like alcohol and tobacco, ask them:

- Would it be legal for everyone?
- Who wouldn't it be legal for?
- What laws/regulations would you have regarding those who couldn't legally buy it?
- How would you enforce those laws/regulations?
- Where would you allow legal marihuana to be sold?
- What laws/regulations would you have to control where and how it is sold?
- How would you enforce those laws/regulations?
- How would your new laws/regulations regarding the sale of legal marijuana be different than the present laws/regulations in place regarding the sale of alcohol and tobacco?
- Have the present laws/regulations concerning alcohol and tobacco been effective in eliminating the harms associated with the use of these two substances?
- Why would it be different for marijuana?
- Where would you get the marijuana to sell in your store?
- What laws/regulations would be in place for the legal suppliers?
- How would you enforce those new laws/regulations?
- Would people be allowed to grow their own?
- Would people be allowed to grow it for friends?

2. If they say they would tax the sale of legal marihuana and use all the tax money for treatment and other programs, ask them:

- If you added a tax on it, could you sell it for less than what organized crime charges?
- If organized crime still sold it cheaper, why would anyone buy from your legal store?
- If you tried to undersell organized crime, how much tax would you be able to collect?
- Would you collect enough tax money to offset the social and economic costs (health, treatment, prevention, enforcement of the new laws/regulations, administration, etc)
- How would this be different than it is now for alcohol and tobacco where the taxes collected are far less than the measurable social and economic costs?

3. If they say they would control the purity of marihuana sold at the legal store, ask them:

- What THC level would you allow to be sold?
- What information would you use to determine what the THC level should be?
- What laws/regulations would you have to control the purity level?
- How would you enforce these new laws/regulations?
- What if someone wanted a higher THC level than your store sells?
- Why would people stop buying from their usual dealer?

4. If they say legalization would get rid of Organized Crime, ask them:

- Would you make it legal for Organized Crime to sell it?

- Why would they stop selling it?
- How would you make them stop selling it (what would be different than now)?
- Would it be legal for Organized Crime to grow it?
- If not, how would you stop them from growing it?
- When you say (alcohol) prohibition failed, what failed?
  - alcohol related medical problems were at an all time low during prohibition.
- Did Organized Crime go away when we legalized alcohol?
- What would be different if you legalized marijuana?
  - we now have even more organized criminal groups and they still make money selling alcohol, as well as, many other legal products like tobacco, guns, stolen property, stolen ID, counterfeit money and fake trademarked merchandise, etc.
- What about the other drugs that Organized Crime sells (heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine, etc) would you legalize them too?

5. If they say legalization would eliminate the illegal marijuana grow operations, ask them:

- Why would those who are currently growing it, stop (refer to questions in previous sections)?
- Even if you were able to supply the same quality at a cheaper price in your legal stores, why would they stop growing it for export to other countries?
- How would the present dangers concerning grow operations change under your new laws/regulations?

6. If they say less young people would use it, if it was legal, ask them:

- What age would you make it legal for kids to buy marijuana from your store?
- What laws/regulations would you have to keep kids under that age from buying it?
- How would you enforce these new laws/regulations?
- How would legalizing marijuana change the perceived risk of smoking it?
  - several studies have shown that as the perceived risk goes down, use goes up.
- How would making it legal to sell to adults lead to less use by youth?
- How would making it legal for adults to possess lead to less use by youth?
- Would legal marijuana be less addictive for youth?
  - there are more youth in treatment for addiction to marihuana than for all other drugs combined (including alcohol).
- Why would legal marijuana be any different than alcohol and tobacco?
  - now more kids use alcohol and tobacco than marijuana.

7. If they say less young people would get a criminal record for possession, ask them:

- How would this differ from the present Young Offenders Act which already prevents young people (under 18) from getting a criminal record?

- What laws/regulation would you have in place concerning the amount a person was allowed to have in their possession for personal use?
  -the present law allows for 30 grams, which is approx. 90-120 cigarettes.
- How would you enforce these new laws/regulations?
- How would you prevent young people from selling marijuana to other young people? (assuming their was an age limit for buying it legally)

8. If they say alcohol (and/or tobacco) is legal, why not marijuana, ask them:

- Would you suggest alcohol is the model we should use for marijuana?
  - alcohol use kills about 9,000 people per year in Canada.
- How would you keep marijuana use from going up the way alcohol use went up after prohibition ended?
- What would you do to control driving while impaired by marijuana?
  - would less people smoke and drive if it were legal?
- What about tobacco, did making it legal make it safe to smoke?
  - tobacco use kills about 37,000 people per year in Canada.
  - smoking marihuana is like mixing alcohol and tobacco together. It impairs like alcohol and causes cancer and respiratory problems like tobacco.
- How much marijuana can you smoke without getting high?
  - you can drink a little alcohol without getting drunk, the whole point of smoking marijuana is to get high.
- Do we really want to make the same mistakes with marijuana that we made with alcohol and tobacco?
  -shouldn't our goal be to try and reduce the use and subsequent harms associated to all drugs (including alcohol)?

9. If they say the laws cause more harm than the marijuana, ask them:

- Will it help console distraught parents (whose children are smoking marijuana) to tell them, that marijuana is now legal?
  - what do we tell those concerned parents who call when their children have dropped out of school, have no motivation and are getting into trouble because they are smoking marijuana?
- Would the problems related to young people smoking marijuana be any less if they smoked legal marijuana?
- Don't we already have too many kids using marijuana, leading to all kinds of bad decisions regarding school, work, driving, safe sex and other problematic behavior?
  - the more people that use, the more that end up having problems resulting from that use.

- Are they concerned about the use of other drugs, like crystal methamphetamine?
  - there is a strong correlation between the use of marijuana and use of other drugs (like crystal meth), the more kids that smoke marijuana, the more that go on to use other drugs.

-if we want to stop kids from using meth (and other drugs), we need to get to them early, before they start to use marijuana and help them make good decisions to prevent or delay first use.

- What would they do to help prevent the harms to young people from smoking it?
  - risk of harm is significantly higher for a maturing youth under age 21.
    - a recent study from Dalhousie shows clearly that youth below grade ten do not understand harm reduction (how to use safely). At that age, they need help learning the skills and information that will help them decide not to use.
    -saying marijuana never killed anyone is like saying tobacco never killed anyone. You can't overdose from either but the effects of continued use can be deadly. We do not know enough about marijuana to say how much it takes, but we do know that it contains all the same carcinogens as tobacco. They may smoke less, but they inhale deeper and hold the smoke in their lungs longer.
- Would there be less accidents (auto, industrial and other) if marijuana were legal?
  -marijuana, legal or not, impairs the ability to drive and when mixed with alcohol it is even more impairing than either by itself.
- Would there be any laws/regulations regarding the use of marijuana by people in safety sensitive areas (airline pilots, bus drivers, police officers, dentists, doctors, surgeons, etc.)?
- Would people make better decisions when high on legal marijuana than they do on illegal marijuana?
  - marihuana use affects the ability to make good decisions. There are a lot of people in jail who admit they were high when they committed their offence and that they probably would not have committed the offence if they weren't high. The more people smoking marijuana, the more bad decisions being made. Police don't usually get calls to report someone who made a good decision...

Yes, I understand the frustration with the current situation and I agree that something has to change. However, when I ask the questions, I just don't see the evidence to support legalization as the best choice. When I examine the potential consequences, I fail to see how that would lead to less problems for our children. There has to be a better choice!

Wouldn't it be better to help our children make good decisions and resist the pressure to use marihuana, alcohol or tobacco? Rather than choosing to give up (legalizing), why don't we try prevention? I mean get serious about it. Do it right!

Prevention does work, if you do it right. Some examples of effective prevention strategies that succeeded in changing social acceptance are the anti-smoking, drinking and driving, and seat belt campaigns. These comprehensive, long term (10+ years) strategies all reduced incidence and related harms. They all included an increase in penalties, a multitude of educational programs and consistent media messages, coordinated at both the national and provincial level.

In comparison, what have we done for drug prevention? We have a lack of coordination, very few educational programs, and nothing in the media to help young people learn the potential consequences of a decision to use drugs. Instead, we hear people talking about the benefits of

legalizing marihuana and other drugs. Even some of our community leaders are calling for the legalization of marihuana. Is it any wonder some children are confused and making bad decisions?

We have never had a comprehensive long term drug prevention strategy in Canada (or a so called "War on Drugs"). Until we have had one, we cannot say that it has failed. Rather than giving up, lets start something! Let's show them we care!

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