

8 National Drug Reform

“Correcting the Continuing Sins of Our Legislative Fathers, and Mothers”

Issue/Problem

As of 2008, the failed national War on Drugs is 36 or 70-plus years old depending on how you want to look at it.

This CS2 proposal is not the National Drug Reform (NDR) Proposal. That document is over 125 MS/Word pages in length and this book is already too long. Since finding a publicly acceptable solution to the nation’s hard drug problem was the issue that started me on this 25 year journey it would have been satisfying to present it here for your review, however, it is now just a side issue within An American Agenda. As you have already read that some of the lessons learned in its development have been applied to proposals such as in the US Re-Employment System, and there are more to come.

The full text of the NDR Proposal can be found on the Internet site, CICRU.org as a “free” download. CICRU (sigh-crew) stands for the Common Interest – Civil Responsibilities Union. It is a grassroots, citizen-based, civil action organization (not another non-profit) that I have established. I see it as the logical follow-on activity to this book. Only time and future events will tell how viable CS2 and CICRU will be with the American public. And while I take nothing for granted, but am optimistic!

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At first I had this National Drug Reform piece placed under the heading of Industry Restructuring. After all we are talking about a **Domestic Illegal Drug Industry** in the US that has been surpassing the **400 billion-dollar** mark every year without breaking a sweat! Further, Cannabis, more commonly referred to as Marijuana has been the nation’s largest cash crop for many years, and in December 2006 it was reported that it alone was an 87 billion dollar industry in the U.S.

In the end, I put this piece that addresses our National Drug Policy here, because it is National level issue that requires absolute, corrective changes being applied to the existing Federal legislation.

Herein we will realistically review National Drug Policy and our future approach to it. We will review how this mess happened and what we will be required to do to fix it!

No more Fantasyland! The “anti-drug” *Screamers* may as well skip to the next proposal on re-starting the Military Draft. Their foolish protests over this issue have helped kill too many people and the nation can no longer afford to listen to their blind stupidity.

The other part of the “*National Fix*” — the prudent creation of the fully “legal” Cannabis industry in America will be reviewed under New and Renewal Industries. It is time for America, as well as the entire developed world to *get real* with the drug business!

Amen.

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The Old Drug Death Statistics

Presented here as a reference is a classic and commonly referenced 1996 Substance Death Chart and the while it is now over a decade old it demonstrates the point-in-time casualty rate for our most popular national drugs of choice.

Take a look!

1996 Substance Death Chart

<u>Substance(s) Involved</u>	<u>Annual Deaths</u>
Tobacco kills about	430,700
Alcohol and alcohol-related diseases and injuries kill about	110,000
Secondhand tobacco smoke kills about	50,000
Adverse reactions to prescription drugs total	32,000
Aspirin and other anti-inflammatory drugs kill	7,600
Cocaine alone kills about	500
Cocaine in combination with another drug kills	2,500
Heroin alone kills about	400
Heroin in combination with another drug kills	2,500
Marijuana kills	0

I recall the first time I saw the chart and was shocked at the ‘surprisingly low’ number of heroin and cocaine related deaths. I would have expected the numbers to be much higher considering the billions of taxpayer dollars, the drug-related crime and killings, hundreds of thousands of incarcerations, and the hundreds of thousands of people arrested every year for simple of possession of drugs — with absolutely no involvement in drug sales or trafficking.

Just simple statistical evidence of how absolutely dysfunctional our National Drug Policy is for both our people and our society. And, We the People, will now see to its correction.

Let's see how this tragedy was allowed to happen.

**A Brief History of Marijuana (M)
and Our Failed National Drug Policy**

How Marijuana (M) Became Illegal in America and
How Our National Drug Policy Evolved

“From the very beginning – a grim fairy tale”

Purpose

The purposes here are two-fold. First, to provide the reader with an understanding of the history of the naturally growing, God-given plant Cannabis or Marijuana (herein referred to as M) — from its first known use in ancient China and India — to its ‘regular’ use by more than 20 million people all across America today. It is the world’s most popular substance!

Also, tied into this account is the origin and development of our failed national drug policy. It describes how M became illegal in the 1930’s (along with far more dangerous substances) which has resulted in the arrest, conviction, and incarceration of well over 22 million of our fellow Americans. Many of which were only drug users with absolutely no involvement in the trafficking, growth or distribution of this God-given plant.

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Over the next pages, you will learn the Plain Truth – such an interesting concept — of how M was originally used in the world, how its use spread across the world and eventually to the America. You will also learn how M, along with the primary hard drugs which are a problem today became illegal in our country.

This drug chronology is primarily built around M, although some references will be made other substances. You will be informed and probably somewhat disgusted by what you read. The legislative history and the special interest politics that drove it were not always pretty. And they still aren’t.

In order for us to address the drug problem, it is important for us all to have a common understanding of this history and flawed development our National Drug Policy (NDP). To have a real perspective on how it began and evolved into the public mess it is today – which includes the primary organizations charged with enforcement of policies, as well as, the NDP legislation as currently written and managed.

Also, inter-woven herein are the building blocks of our National Drug Policy

(NDP) explaining how it went from non-existent in 1900 to the multi-billion dollar, publicly oppressive government program that it is today. Billions that could, and in our controllable, near-term future will be better spent.

That background and knowledge are of particular importance since our existing NDP and its enforcement at the federal, state, and local levels are contributing to the drug problem and therefore are helping to perpetuate the Illegal Drug Industry! That may sound a bit odd to many people, but it is an accurate assessment.

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To be clear – Law Enforcement from our local sheriff’s office to the FBI and the DEA are absolutely not the problem. These public servants are only charged with trying to enforce the dysfunctional laws passed by legislators at all levels of government. And some of the laws they struggle with are 70 years old. Those that have to fight the Drug War in your locality are at the mercy of failed, ineffective, and unrealistic laws – and equally failed public leadership.

Certainly, some abuses by law enforcement have occurred while enforcing of drug laws against those in the drug business. Frankly, even the finest and well-intentioned of our officers have their limits of tolerance.

Consider that if you were constantly required to deal with vicious, unruly dogs that could take your blood at any time — occasionally you will need to kick some of them. I know I would. It is just another reason why this ridiculous, counter-productive public policy that is killing and locking up far more people than it is saving must be ended. And NOW.

We must now deal with negative interests that are a part the National System – the way America really works on a day-to-day basis —that continue to promote and allow the creation of more users, addicts, and drug dealers, but will not accept responsibility for the situation. Law enforcement is not the problem. The Laws are the problem.

This common base of understanding is critical for us to share as we approach the restructuring of our NDP. The modification of our current legislation to a publicly prudent and practical definition is essential for final victory over our nation’s hard drug problems.

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My original intent for this section in the overall National Drug Reform (NDR) Proposal was provide a brief but informative history on all the primary drugs – M, cocaine, opium (and its derivatives heroin and morphine), and

met-amphetamines. How each originated in the world and over the years came to use and at times abuse in our country, and was eventually made illegal.

However, the focus of the Drug Legalization component of the NDR is restricted M. Therefore, I have provided a historical perspective on M, only. I do make references to some of the primary hard drugs in that history when appropriate. M is by far the weak cousin of the other drugs involved.

The history of M is at once interesting, discouraging, and in some ways depressing. You will see in some cases where good, well-intentioned people conceived and implemented what is easily observed in today's light, as narrow-minded, self-serving, shortsighted public laws and programs.

I believe the common understanding of this specific slice of history will help guide us as we rethink the programs implemented by those preceding us. This common knowledge will help guide us as we restructure that failed National Drug Policy for the betterment of our society.

It is absolutely accurate to say all of the drugs that are viewed today as problems, had well-intentioned origins. Most of them actually have some beneficial medical uses when properly used. And today they technically can still provide genuine medical benefit, if administered appropriately (consider today's common hospital use of morphine that is a tremendous pain killer). However, with the exception of M (yes, the exception), all those harder drugs possess incredibly destructive properties when used improperly or abusively.

History Can be Such a Surprising Thing

Interestingly, all the drugs that so torment society today were available, legal, and in common use by the American public as recently as 1930. That's right, legal access to the general public!

These drugs 'began' the transition to illegal status in the United States in the 1930's when the first federal level legislation making M illegal was implemented on October 1, 1937. Herein you will follow the trail M from its origin in ancient China and India, to that date, and up to today.

Here is a reality check! The average person in America in the 1800's and early 1900's could legally obtain opium, morphine, and heroin. A person could order a nice metal-hinged travel style container that provided one syringe, two needles, and two doses for \$1.50 in the standard Sears and Roebuck mail order catalog (no slam intended to Sears, that is simply the way things developed; and they were not alone). The person's order was delivered by the U.S. Mail right to their front door in plain paper wrapping. It was commonly used by housewives in mid-America – the Heartland. I am not for a moment saying that common

availability was good, just that it was the normal state of affairs in day-to-day America just 70 years ago.

You Should Watch Some Serious Movies

If you would like to get some realistic insights to the U.S. drug world I suggest you checkout the movies *Traffic*, *Blow*, and *Training Day* (they are a few years old, but the reality is still the same). And in that order, please.

The first film, *Traffic*, follows a group of people through a period of less than a week. It is a dark, reality oriented drama. And it should, but probably would not be allowed to be required viewing in every 7th grade in the country. And it should be parents first, then the kids without the parents, and then group discussion. Some of your kids have already seen it and if you have not it could open your eyes.

The second film, *Blow*, is a romanticized, but true story about the ‘enterprising’ young American that almost single-handedly started the mass importation of M from Mexico in the Sixties, and in the Seventies did the same for cocaine from Columbia — a real entrepreneur? It is grim viewing, but very educational.

The third film, *Training Day*, is dark, brutal movie providing some hard insights into the realities of the daily drug business in the streets – American streets and neighborhoods. It is probably the next best thing to being somewhere most of us never want to be.

Hollywood did a fine job with these films which are real enough to make an impact. A little viewing homework – and to be certain these are not Disney movies!

History Channel Acknowledgement

For those of you that want a well-documented world history and analysis of drugs and their journey in America, I refer you to an excellent documentary presented by the History Channel; ©2000 A&E Television Networks. All Rights Reserved.

The series entitled, “*Hooked – Illegal Drugs and How They Got That Way*,” is narrated by Roger Mudd and was produced as a two (2) part series, those being:

Part I Marijuana – Opium, Morphine and Heroin

Part II Cocaine – LSD, Ecstasy, and the Raves

You may find out more than you may want to know about the past. A past filled with good intentions (that did not always go so well), abuse, fear, greed,

prejudice, and the bending of laws in every direction. The History Channel should run the full program at least once a month until 11-1-2008!

I strongly recommend that you watch that series, and possibly consider obtaining the set for yourself, a school or any other group to promote better understanding of the path that has taken us to where we are today. I thank the History Channel for presenting such an excellent historical reference.

An Excellent Resource

I want to acknowledge that the History Channel's document history mentioned above served as a primary source on history of M and part of the background on the evolution of our country's drug policy. After watching that presentation I knew there was more history there than I had already put together or cared to spend the time researching. Please forgive me for that indulgence, but re-inventing the wheel and too much historical research are my not favorite things to do. And it saved me a lot of valuable time and gave you quality information.

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A Brief History of Marijuana (M)

Background

M, is a naturally growing wild plant. It is technically a 'weed' (one of its nicknames). As previously noted, it can grow anywhere in the world, with the exception of the Arctic Circle!

M is used in its natural form meaning it does not require any additives (as we know is commonly done with cigarettes). It is commonly grown to maturity, harvested, dried (just like tobacco), and may be smoked via pipe or in cigarette (joint) forms. It is also used as an active ingredient in food, cookies, and candies. Hence, its affects are experienced from either inhaling or eating the substance.

In human history, M and the more potent product opium, are the world's oldest medicines – yes, medicines! M, is now and has always been the world's most popular drug providing the user with relaxation and euphoric sensations. It also has minor negative side effects. M has never caused a death by overdose, not even in the Netherlands were it became fully legalized in the mid-seventies. The Plain Truth is that hard drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, and numerous prescription drugs cannot make that claim!

The common physical benefits of M are reduced physical pain, stimulation of the appetite, and normally creating a feeling of euphoria. In a few cases, dependent

upon a given person's attitude toward M or their general mental state, it could create feelings of paranoia, but that is far from the normal reaction. And, the use of M does not cause a person to become aggressive, as domestic propagandists have been telling the public since the 1930's.

In Its Beginning

The historical references of M use originated in ancient China and India. The ancient Chinese utilized its medicinal properties to relieve the effects of stomach pain, menstrual cramps, malaria, and consumption (an old term for cancer).

From the lands of its origin, M began its eventual spread to the rest of the world. It was next seen in use in Greece. In time, Arab traders brought it from India's Ganges Valley to North Africa and Spain. From Spain the conquistadors brought it to the Spanish colonies New World (planting the seeds of a future drug trade).

The colonists made good use of M's truly NON-psychotropic cousin, Hemp. Yes, "non" psychotropic. You will hear details on this later, but for now begin to understand that you could smoke or eat of pound of Hemp and you would not be feeling euphoric! The un-holy joining of Hemp with M was orchestrated by special interest politics and domestic propaganda in the 1930's.

Hemp was a valued raw material for its practical utility in making paper (the U.S. Constitution was written on hemp paper), rope, oil for lamps, heating oil, and one of its oldest uses to make canvas sails for ships of the day. The word 'canvas' was derived from the Latin word cannabis! That well-known colonial drug trafficker Thomas Jefferson secretly smuggled the first Hemp seeds into the American colonies! He and his partner in the business George Washington grew and it and promoted its many uses. And the truth will set us free!

Guess Who Brought M to Europe

In 1804 the French Emperor Napoleon conquered Egypt. While there his soldiers were introduced to an intoxicant unknown in France – it was M. The French were used to drinking their intoxicants, mainly brandy. Instead this new substance was to be smoked. The troops liked the effects of M and that it did not cause hangovers, like their regular brandy would — no pain!

Napoleon took the simple plant back to Paris as a spoil of war where it was enjoyed by artists, authors, students, merchants, and courtesans — yes, all levels of society embraced this new experience. He "innocently" became Europe's first drug trafficker.

From there it moved to London, where it was also used as a smoking substance and as an extract or liquid for medicine. High society ladies used hashish (a

much more concentrated, solid form, but still all natural) as an ingredient in confections. They also found Ms medicinal uses for reducing fevers, relieving stomach pains and menstrual cramps, various other body aches, and it helped with insomnia.

Even Queen Victoria used it for relief of menstrual pain (no disrespect intended; it is just history). Additionally, it was used to help Tuberculosis (TB) patients that had lost their appetite. It not only allowed them regain an appetite, but helped them keep down what they ate by keeping their stomach settled. And, of course, it was used recreationally, and was most often smoked.

Those “natural” remedies are just a few reasons why the Pharmaceutical Industry has lobbied without ceasing overtly and covertly against M legalization for decades — and obviously, very successfully with help from their many pawns – the ‘anti-drug’ screamers.

To New York City

Next M appeared in the New York City, along with its stronger form, hashish. Both soon became new ingredients in the then thriving, unregulated “Patent Medicine” industry.

“Patent” medicine was popular in the 1800’s and early 1900’s. These were “medicines” (some of which were referred to as snake oils) with secret formulas and were not required to list any ingredients for the consumer to see. This began to change in late 1800’s when Congress passed the Pure Food and Drug Act, the first federal legislation over drug production. For the first time producers were required to print the ingredients of their products, the public realized what they were consuming (many containing morphine), and Patent medicines quickly lost much of their appeal.

In America of the 19th century, medicine was primarily consumed rather than smoked as in the Eastern World. Until the latter 1800’s, Americans primarily used M for medicinal purposes. Most did not think to use for recreational purposes. It was rarely smoked. However, that would change.

In 1876, the World Exhibition was held in Philadelphia to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Declaration of Independence. The Sultan of Turkey’s present to America took the form of Hashish (the concentrated form of M) as a rare and exotic treat to be smoked in the Turkish Pavilion (no disrespect intended here either, just history). Smoking pipes were made available and the curious public smoked Hashish inside the Turkish Pavilion. Many fairgoers enjoyed the experience. Since then that event has been called the largest “pot party” in the US until Wood Stock 93 years later! Isn’t history entertaining sometimes?

American entrepreneurs saw this as an opportunity to provide the public with yet another self-indulgence. They quickly opened Turkish smoking parlors in the North. High society matrons, businessmen — all classes, openly or in secret used these parlors to smoke hashish and/or enjoy hashish-laced candies.

The raise of these parlors, coincided in time with the growing American Temperance movement against alcohol. However, the public did not switch its allegiance to hashish parlors. People maintained their preference and love for alcohol. Eventually, the hashish parlors lost their popularity and closed (maybe a point to remember regarding the legalization of M).

The decreased public interest in M continued until the Temperance Movement succeeded with the passage of the 18th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution — the Prohibition on Alcohol that was enacted in 1919. As a result, a “thirsting” nation re-discovered M...

The National Prohibition on Alcohol – A Failed Public Policy Experiment

Alcohol under Prohibition was illegal from 1919 to 1933. However, due to the increasing crime related to bootlegging of alcohol the public demanded action and reality. What a concept! The 21st Amendment to the US Constitution repealed Prohibition after a fourteen (14) year failed national experiment. It is the only Constitutional Amendment ever to be repealed.

Prohibition is a *classic* example of the well-intentioned few, trying to dictate the behavior of the masses, by ignoring the basic demands of the many.

In the 1920s

New Orleans was an international city, the second largest seaport, and the #1 Party City in the Americas (which it remained until Katrina). So with alcohol now illegal and the need to keep it out of public view, the natural, totally legal intoxicant M came into popular use. The mixing bowl influences of French Cajuns, Blacks, Spanish, Americans, Europeans, and Chinese all blended together to develop the jazz movement. The sounds of jazz and the effects of M formed a natural bond — a bond quite similar to that formed between rock n’ roll and M in the late 1950’s and 60’s.

Into New Orleans, M was shipped from Mexico, the Caribbean, and South America. It was legal, cheap, and popular — sold in jazz clubs, pharmacies, and markets just as cigarettes were.

Public Fears were Exploited by the Press

The American public in the post World War I era was “susceptible” to becoming very worried about and developing fears toward “those among them” that were perceived as unable to use a given substance and remaining in control of their actions. People that were viewed as “not in control of their minds” could frighten the general public.

Irresponsibly, newspapers of that period sometimes intentionally aimed their articles at promoting those fears to help generate sales rather than providing quality, objective journalism — and at times to deceptively promote the political objectives of special interests. Not very pretty then, and it continues to this day in newspapers, on network and cable news, and on the Internet.

New Orleans in the twenties was in the midst of a crime wave, mainly driven by alcohol bootleggers under Prohibition with their territorial battles. Doesn't that sound familiar?

At that time, the “press” promoted the policy concept that – “if society limited a person's access to a particular substance, in this case M, then the potential for negative public behavior could be controlled or at least be reduced.”

Regional groups and politicians used such opportunities to target and scapegoat minorities. State lawmakers sited it as the cause of American Black violence in New Orleans.

The famous and influential newspaper publisher William Randolph Hearst was looking for a big story to stimulate paper sales and he saw an opportunity with the turmoil in New Orleans. Hearst intentionally began publishing “lurid” articles telling his readers that M use was directly contributing to increased public violence, rape, and murder. He thereby helped to establish the initial public connection between M and civil crime. Hearst gets major credit for fanning the flames of public paranoia in his creative writing “just to” stir people's fears and generate newspaper sales. His personal responsibility for such *irresponsible* writing actions is not a secret – although it is little talked about today.

As it was with Cocaine

This domestic propaganda campaign was similar to stories used a decade earlier about American-Blacks and the ‘alleged’ results of their cocaine use. It was successfully used to force New York lawmakers to initiate the first state level legislation on cocaine to control a drug that was linked to crime, murder, and rape against the American-White population. This nasty piece of history is well-known in the American-Black community.

For some of the American Press of that era, it was not their finest hour.

To Continue the Tale

In 1924 Louisiana joined 14 other states banning the distribution of M for non-medicinal purposes. The ban on ‘non-medical’ use of M slowly expanded to other states for a variety of reasons. In spite of that movement, even until the early thirties the use M was still fully legal in many states across the country.

And there was still no federal level law.

Then Came the Big One

The Great Depression and Our Evolving National Drug Policy

The political rationale for the original federal legislation on M was actually born out of hard, local economic reality and practical, national necessity.

Starting on September 3rd and running through November 13, 1929 the stock market Crashed and the Great Depression began. As it wore on, all over the country local politicians out of necessity had to be more concerned about Americans in unemployment and bread lines, than non-Americans.

In the Southwest, politicians were worried about the number of Mexicans that were still north of the border. The same group that had been a desirable, cheap work force prior to the Depression. For economic and political purposes the Mexicans were no longer wanted and in some manner they needed to be shown as undesirable. The approach developed was to stigmatize the Mexicans with the use of M and creative stories about uncontrolled violence. True news stories were exaggerated and others were simply made up...

Considering the public crisis national politicians had to respond and it was to be Americans first. Sound familiar?

As a result, in 1931 the Mexican Repatriation Act became law, and was utilized to “encourage” Mexicans to leave the country. Any person from Mexico (or other county below the border) that did not go along peacefully was harassed in various ways. Some are arrested as jobless vagrants, others for violation of the new state laws regarding possession and use of M. New laws were implemented to serve as the vehicle to drive them out of the country.

In an extreme example, in Texas it was “possible” to be caught with a single joint and serve ‘life’ in prison. There were cases where people served many years, even decades for possession. Some people even campaigned for use of the death penalty, which was fortunately not successful.

Don't Criticize too Quickly

Looking back, it is too easy for us to talk about the prejudicial appearance of those laws and their intention. And the fact is that those motivations did play some part in what happened. However, we must also acknowledge the situation faced by the politicians of the day. Staggering numbers of Americans were unemployed. Our own citizens were out of work and hungry. Growing violence by citizens against non-citizens over the few available jobs was inevitable.

It was a prudent, public necessity. It was then, and still must be a politician's first duty to take care of our own people before worrying about non-citizens whether they are here legally or not! Just as every other country in the world we must to take care of our own people first **and without being required to justify it to anyone!** The reality of a periodic tightening of "legal" immigration flow remains a prudent action and a practical necessity at times.

The Push to Coordinate a Drug Policy

Remember in the early thirties, M was still legal in the US except for several Southwestern states. It would remain so until Harry J. Anslinger (HJA) appointed to be the nation's top drug enforcement agent takes office at the new Federal Bureau of Narcotics (FBN). The new bureau was charged with the role of enforcing the nation's narcotics laws such as they were at the time.

Until his arrival as the head of the new drug fighting bureau, the government had been focusing their attention on heroin and cocaine. However, with the arrival of HJA the political focus would be shifted toward M. It was a new focus born out of the problems in the Southwest with Mexican migrant workers.

In the 1930s the FBN began a program aimed at stopping the use of M and distributed educational material aimed at trying to help keep youth away from it.

How We got from There to Here

I have condensed this history as much as possible. However, that era and what occurred then due to political pressures are directly responsible for setting in motion the mess we are dealing with today. Common knowledge of what has happened 70 years ago will enable us to better determine our approach today in correcting the short-sighted, special interest sins of the past.

Again, it is 1930 and Anslinger is a 38 year old federal bureaucrat with no previous background dealing with the drug issue, let alone M. However, he was a good bureaucrat and so was concerned with protecting his agency and seeing to it that the budget was preserved, if not increased annually. After all that is the game.

HJA did not personally care that much about M as a political issue. He had trouble thinking of a career trying to exterminate a “weed” which at the time, literally grew in the wild all over the country. However, he appreciated the political reality that powerful people, like the publisher William Randolph Hearst, did care about it. So, HJA modified his position and priorities to address the political demands of the day. Political correctness has been around a long time!

Building the Federal Case Against Marijuana

HJA also realized the public had no particular issue with M. It was available and there were generally no problems being experienced by the general population with its use. It grew everywhere and he could not imagine how it could possibly be controlled. It even grew wild along the Potomac River between Virginia, DC, and Maryland.

He preferred that the burden would be left to the states to resolve, instead of making it federal action. However, heavy Congressional pressure from Western and Southwestern states, primarily Texas, Colorado, Arizona, and California forced him to develop a way to make M illegal. They pushed hard for federal legislation and controls.

HJA did not have adequate funding or people resources to control it. He started with an agency of 300 people and a total budget of 1.5 million dollars to address all drug related problems.

The hard reality was that the unemployment problems along the Southwestern border were politically connected to the Mexican immigration issue. And making M illegal was the approach developed to help force the Mexicans out of the country. So HJA, being the good bureaucrat went after the issue with everything he had!

HJA then initiated an over-the-top domestic propaganda campaign against M use working with Hearst and others using the newspapers, as well as the movie media making exaggerated claims about the negative effects of the drug. The use of M by was blamed for violence, insanity, “bestly perversion”, immorality, sex crimes, suicide, theft, and murders – and it was just plain domestic propaganda.

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In defense of Harry Anslinger it should be acknowledged that who ever would have been placed in that office at that moment in history would have done what he did, or else, the Congress would simply have found someone else to do the job. So we should not blame HJA, for overall it was the Congress, lobbyists, and

the dark side of that “National System” thing that keeps coming up!

And then Harry got an idea.

How Our Government Made a ‘Weed’ Illegal

So HJA had to figure out how to make M, a naturally growing plant illegal.

The Model that was Used

What follows equates to legislatively putting a square peg into a round whole!
Try following this logic:

- During an earlier high, gang crime period the federal government decided it needed a way to control the possession of machine guns.
- To that end Congress developed and enacted a law called, The National Firearms Act. It required that a person could not give, borrow or transfer a machine gun without a ‘Machine Gun Transfer Stamp’ in their possession. The catch was that the government would not print any of those stamps.
- The legal fight against the law went right up to the US Supreme Court with the argument that the stamps were not a legitimate taxing vehicle because the government was not collecting any taxes. It was purely to prevent the distribution of machine guns.
- Regardless of the logic of that argument, the Court ruled that the National Firearms Act was legal. And the Machine Gun Transfer Stamp requirement, even though the required stamps were purposely not available, it became the law.

There is no logic in that, but again it was a well-intentioned action on the part of the government to protect the American public. The nation wanted a legal way to keep machine guns away from the bad guys! That type of policy did not work very well then, and it still doesn't.

And Now HJA had the Means

HJA and the state lobbies now had the legislative model they needed to put controls M distribution. His campaign unfolded as follows:

- A law was proposed that anyone involved in the use, sale, distribution or transfer of M would be required to have a “Marijuana Tax Stamp.” Of course government would only print a token number of those stamps.
- HJA next had to convince Congress that M was just as dangerous to society as a machine gun. The Congressional hearings on the first federal law to control M began on April 27, 1937. The objective was to show Congress that M

was a horrible and dangerous a drug, worse than even cocaine or heroin! That M caused the user to become insane and capable of performing terrible acts including murder and rape when under its *terrible* influence.

- The newspaper publisher William Randolph Hearst of course covered those hearings in his newspapers and continued to aggressively pile on the negative propaganda about M usage, adding extra newspaper printings with headlines proclaiming its evils.
- Other newspapers and movies of the time were promoting the negative image. The movies included the classic anti-drug propaganda movie, *Reefer Madness*. You should really try to watch this movie. It will give you an interesting look at the times and people. You can find on DVD! Viewed today it is a simple, dark comedy. At that time it served as blatant scare tactics, filled with exaggerations and outright lies to increase public fears. The movie actually portrayed M having worst effects on people than cocaine!

Today, M, heroin, and morphine are all listed on the Schedule I of the DEA's Drug Control Schedules, while cocaine and opium are on the lower Schedule II. The beat goes on.

- HJA also gets credit for telling the U.S. Congress that M was the assassin of youth — a stepping-stone and as he declared a “**Gateway Drug**” to harder drugs like heroin and cocaine. True lies!

Thanks to HJA and Hearst that worked together on the propaganda campaign the *myth* of M being a gateway to hard drugs was born and was set in the minds of the fearful American public. I hope the Screamers are listening. It was simple, self-serving domestic propaganda.

- HJA told Congress that school children were being harmed using M. Just one (1) brave, solitary doctor came forward to dispute that claim in the only positive testimony about M during the hearings. The doctor testified that there was no evidence that M was affecting children in that manner. The members of the Congressional panel verbally attacked the doctor and his testimony was ignored.
- After just five (5) days of the Congressional hearings, the committee approved the Marijuana Tax Law, the first federal level law against M. After several weeks of debate both houses of Congress pass the final version of the bill.
- President Franklin Roosevelt signed the bill into law on August 2 and it went effect on October 1, 1937. HJA had successfully demonized M and proved

himself to be an effective bureaucrat and domestic propagandist.

- The group of Western and Southwestern states got the legislation they wanted. The law required that anyone wishing to buy, distribute or sell M must first have a Marijuana Tax Stamp.
- The first penalties established for anyone violating the new law were a \$2,000 fine and/or five (5) years in jail. And, again, the stamps were not available for purchase.

To be clear — the Marijuana Tax Law actually stipulated that the person had to have the M physically in their possession when requesting the stamp. **However, if they had the M in their physical possession, without the stamp, they were already in violation of the law!**

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The First Arrest for Possession of M

Just two (2) days after the law takes effect (October 1, 1937), a man in Colorado is arrested and jailed for possession of M. Four (4) days later, he gets four (4) years in jail and a \$1,000 fine. The federal battle against M users not just the providers had its first victim!

And with all that has been done to fight the drug trade, educate the public, and discourage M use since October 1, 1937:

- Some 22-plus million Americans have been arrested, tried, and incarcerated due to federal and state laws – only due to M use – not hard drugs. An incredibly sad and cruel statistic.
- Today M is America's #1 domestic cash crop! So much for control.

After 70 years, it is time to end the Prohibition on Marijuana. Any questions?

The Mayor New York City Tried

In 1938, a year after HJA got the Marijuana Tax Law enacted, he received a strong challenge of a sort from the well-respected and powerful Mayor of New York City, Theorelo J. LaGuardia (the man the named the airport in honor of). A few years earlier, the Mayor had commissioned a medical study by doctors from the New York Academy of Medicine to review his city's M problem. This Blue Ribbon group of professionals visited schoolyards, interviewed principles, tested adults. After a four (4) year study the commission presented the following official findings:

Text taken from the official New York report — the following conclusions are drawn:

1. Marihuana is used extensively in the Borough of Manhattan but the problem is not as acute as it is reported to be in other sections of the United States.
2. The introduction of marihuana into this area is recent as compared to other localities.
3. The cost of marihuana is low and therefore within the purchasing power of most persons.
4. The distribution and use of marihuana is centered in Harlem.
5. The majority of marihuana smokers are Negroes and Latin-Americans.
6. The consensus among marihuana smokers is that the use of the drug creates a definite feeling of adequacy.
7. The practice of smoking marihuana does not lead to addiction in the medical sense of the word.
8. The sale and distribution of marihuana is not under the control of any single organized group.
9. The use of marihuana does not lead to morphine or heroin or cocaine addiction and no effort is made to create a market for these narcotics by stimulating the practice of marihuana smoking.
10. Marihuana is not the determining factor in the commission of major crimes.
11. Marihuana smoking is not widespread among school children.
12. Juvenile delinquency is not associated with the practice of smoking marihuana.
13. The publicity concerning the catastrophic effects of marihuana smoking in New York City is unfounded.

End of report text

The findings offer a sobering insight into the times and lack of truth and prudence in the law even then.

However, in the end regardless of the scientific proof from his study, Mayor LaGuardia was pressured and subsequently followed the party line on M. The report along with the truth **was buried**...by the power of politics! Are you irritated, yet?

Thus, in spite of the concerned mayor's efforts, M remained illegal in the New York City and everywhere else. And that was 70 years and so many ruined lives ago!

1940's and 1950's

From the late 1930's through World War II, M use and arrests dropped. However, HJA did not stop 'pushing' his programs. He targeted visible music and movie celebrities to get headlines in the press. In some notable examples, the famous drummer Gene Krupa was jailed for nearly three (3) months for possession, and the young actor Robert Mitchum was busted at a pot party and his fine career was almost ruined before it began.

1960's

Despite the potentially harsh penalties, M made a strong comeback in the late Fifties and Sixties with the Baby Boomer Generation. Its affects appealed to intelligent people that wanted to be taken beyond the limits of normal thought and behavior. Some key perspectives at the time were:

- M does not cause **overdose** (OD) deaths.
- M does not produce a physical **dependency**, or to the least extent of all drugs which is still the case.
- M does not lead to **addiction**.

1970's – News Flash!

The U.S. Supreme Court Reverses the 1937 Marijuana Tax Law!

In 1970, the legality of the 1937 Marijuana Tax Law was challenged all the way to the US Supreme Court. The challenge was lead in part by the Timothy Leary, the famous LSD guru. He successfully argued that in order to get the license (tax stamp) you had to first break the law, because in order to request the Marijuana Tax Stamp you had to have the M in-hand, and were technically already breaking the law. Therefore, attempting to get a proper license was self-incrimination.

The US Supreme Court agreed and overturned the federal law. Technically, M was legal once again. The politics of the times had changed, as had the Court's opinion of the law's prudence for the population.

But It Would Not Last Long

However, the actual powers within the Congress — you remember our friends the lobbyists and the screamers — did not agree with the Court on legalized public access to M. The “well-lobbied” Congress still did not view recreational drug consumption as guaranteed by the Constitution. Therefore, the Congress once again acted to criminalize drugs under the Comprehensive Drug Abuse

Prevention and Control Act of 1970.

A case where the power of special interest lobbyists even over-ruled the Supreme Court? That does point out however that the Congress can act if it really wants to. Keep that fact in mind for later.

To continue the history lesson

M, or actually the THC substance in it was then placed on the Schedule I of the DEA's Drug Control Schedules where it is still found today along with much harder substances like heroin and morphine.

Schedule I, is the category of drugs that are stated to have no medical benefit "in the United States." And the king has no clothes!

This designation also conveniently prevented M's cousin plant Hemp that contains a non-affecting, less than one-half (.5) percent of THC from being available for agricultural and commercial uses — hurting farmers, manufacturing, and the environment. Certain industry lobbies wanted Hemp production suppressed – they won, we lost, but that too will now be corrected. More on the Hemp issue under New and Renewal Industries.

Possession and use of M after the 1970 Controlled Substance Act continued to be illegal. Of course it did not go away, just moved farther underground and its use peaked during the Seventies in spite of the government's efforts to control the young Baby Boomers.

The failed Prohibition-style approach to stopping the use of M and other drugs was again in full operation. Various special interest industry groups, their cherished screamers, as well as hard drug barons, traffickers, dealers, not to mention the drug hard drug growing countries – all in all an *extremely unpatriotic* group – really appreciated the U.S. Congress not acting in the Common Good of the American public. Seventy (70) years later they still do! And we keep on electing them?

And the prisons continued to fill up — jailing not just with the providers of these drugs, but the users as well — an absolute disgrace. The government cannot stop the import and distribution of drugs, and so they punish the victims of its availability. This terribly flawed situation will be ended soon by an enlightened and fed-up public.

1972 — The National War on Drugs Meets the Vietnam War

In 1972, then President Richard M. Nixon officially started what we then called “The National War on Drugs.” He appointed the first Drug Czar to be in charge of coordinating the nation’s battle against drugs.

Nixon’s primary motivations in taking these actions were both practical and politically prudent:

- A high number of our military people in Vietnam that were using drugs, **mainly M and heroin**, and were coming home addicted to the latter.
- It was a politically good thing to do at home.

Vietnam veterans were required to undergo drug rehabilitation before coming home — with mixed results, but the effort was made.

Closing Out the 20th Century

As the 20th Century drew to an end, M was being used ‘somewhat’ legally in a few states to help those with Aids and cancer patients in stimulating their appetite. It also helps people cope with nausea after chemotherapy.

However, those needy medicinal users are under random pressure from the federal government, which continues promoting bad federal policy, contributing to less cooperation between state and federal officials, as well as strained relations with the involved public.

And we taxpayers continue to pay for the Domestic propaganda machine and deal with drug related crime in our neighborhoods.

2000 and Beyond

As the new century began, some eleven (11) states have decriminalized possession of small amounts of M. They have determined that legal side effects are more harmful to the population than the drug itself. And they too come under random pressure from the federal government that does not approve of their actions —again, the issue of States Rights.

Today, M remains America’s largest domestic cash crop and an estimated 20-plus million Americans smoke pot on a regular basis. Based on a total population of 281 million in 2000, that is about 1 in 14 Americans.

By comparison, in 2000 about eleven (11) million Americans were estimated to be cocaine users! Of those 11 million users it is estimated that 1.5 million were addicts, meaning with the rest were only using the drug ‘*recreationally.*’ Go figure.

This ends the mini-history

Wasn't that a fascinating, yet grim look at a piece of American history?

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What About Prohibition Today

So let's take look at today and our final answer to the War on Drugs.

I have only selected a few outside references to present in CS2. I have included this piece taken from the website of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws or NORML the oldest and longest suffering group working to reverse our failed National Drug Policy. I personally view them as a credible, public interest group. Their concise article speaks volumes and references FBI provided "human" statistics.

Note: As stated this article was copied from NORML's Internet site. NORML had no prior knowledge of my plan to use the article in CS2. I doubt that they will mind it.

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Marijuana Arrests For Year 2005 — 786,545 Tops Record High... Pot Smokers Arrested In America At A Rate Of One Every 40 Seconds

September 18, 2006 - Washington, DC, USA

Washington, DC: Police arrested an estimated **786,545** persons for marijuana violations in 2005, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's annual Uniform Crime Report, released today. The total is the highest ever recorded by the FBI, and comprised 42.6 percent of all drug arrests in the United States.

"These numbers belie the myth that police do not target and arrest minor marijuana offenders," said NORML Executive Director Allen St. Pierre, who noted that at current rates, a marijuana smoker is arrested every 40 seconds in America. "This effort is a tremendous waste of criminal justice resources that diverts law enforcement personnel away from focusing on serious and violent crime, including the war on terrorism."

Of those charged with marijuana violations, approximately 88 percent some **696,074** Americans were charged with possession only. The remaining **90,471** individuals were charged with "sale/manufacture," a category that includes all cultivation offenses even those where the marijuana was being grown for personal or medical use. In past years, roughly 30 percent of those arrested were age 19 or younger.

"Present policies have done little if anything to decrease marijuana's availability or dissuade youth from trying it," St. Pierre said, noting young people in the U.S. now frequently report that they have easier access to pot than alcohol or tobacco.

The total number of marijuana arrests in the U.S. for 2005 far exceeded the total number of arrests in the U.S. for all violent crimes combined, including murder, manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery and aggravated assault.

Annual marijuana arrests have more than doubled since the early 1990s.

”Arresting hundreds of thousands of Americans who smoke marijuana responsibly needlessly destroys the lives of otherwise law abiding citizens,” St. Pierre said, adding that over 8 million Americans have been arrested on marijuana charges in the past decade. During this same time, arrests for cocaine and heroin have declined sharply, implying that increased enforcement of marijuana laws is being achieved at the expense of enforcing laws against the possession and trafficking of more dangerous drugs.

St. Pierre concluded: “Enforcing marijuana prohibition costs taxpayers between \$10 billion and \$12 billion annually and has led to the arrest of nearly 18 million Americans. Nevertheless, some 94 million Americans acknowledge having used marijuana during their lives. It makes no sense to continue to treat nearly half of all Americans as criminals for their use of a substance that poses no greater - and arguably far fewer - health risks than alcohol or tobacco. A better and more sensible solution would be to tax and regulate cannabis in a manner similar to alcohol and tobacco.”

YEAR	MARIJUANA ARRESTS
2005	786,545
2004	771,608
2003	755,187
2002	697,082
2001	723,627
2000	734,498
1999	704,812
1998	682,885
1997	695,200
1996	641,642
1995	588,963
1994	499,122
1993	380,689
1992	342,314
1991	287,850
1990	326,850

For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500. For a comprehensive breakdown and analysis of US marijuana arrests, please see NORML’s report: “Crimes of Indiscretion: Marijuana Arrests in the United States”.

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Just some more sad statistics in the grim fairy tale that is our National Drug Policy, and especially when,

“The total number of marijuana arrests in the U.S. for 2005 far exceeded the total number of arrests in the U.S. for all violent crimes combined, including murder, manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery and aggravated assault.”

To say that our criminal Justice System priorities are misplaced is putting it very nicely.

We will now fix this madness and stop hurting our own people! The U.S. Congress will set about correcting this in 2008 before the November election, or else, We will install a new Congress!

The Bad Lobbies

President Nixon created the office of National Drug Czar in 1972 to lead the fight in the newly declared War on Drugs. Some 35 years later the entity is referred to as the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP). It is the nation’s longest running war — and it has in fact become a domestic war against our own people. This is classic lose-lose domestic policy!

And there is no happy ending in sight under the doomed to failure Prohibition-style battle plan, along with the continued and successful sponsorship of the odd bunch of bed-fellows that are lobbying against any change to it.

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The overtly and covertly politically influential Pharmaceutical Industry is the most stressed over the possibility of ending the Prohibition on Marijuana and they have vigorously fought it for decades! Just who do you think are the biggest financial supporters of anti-drug use groups?

They are not looking at the collapse of their industry, but will realize a percentage decrease. The “real” medical uses and benefits of this naturally growing, “God given” plant, without any chemical additives whatsoever are numerous and must become available to those in medical need.

By one estimate and who really knows the number, well over 20 million Americans use M regularly.

In a perfect world no drugs would be used, desired or even needed. A brutal accounting shows that tobacco smoking and its second-hand effects are responsible for some 500,000 deaths every year in America alone. In the Netherlands where M (and all drugs) has been fully legalized since the mid-1970s to total number of deaths caused by M use, is ZERO. None have died in the U.S. either.

Therefore, in thirty years, zero deaths from M use versus let's say 15 million slow deaths thanks to the tobacco industry and their lobbyists (one of whom was my Mother at 57 years of age).

Only the Plain Truth about drug legalization and many other public issues will be presented in CS2 and will be discussed in public forums in the future. Such open and honest public debate is a key part of my approach to promoting public awareness and open review of the facts as opposed to the domestic propaganda we are always fed.

Myth Buster 1 – in the 1930's in order to support the new government public scare campaign Harry J. Anslinger (HJA) the nation's top drug enforcement agent at the new Federal Bureau of Narcotics (FBN) invented the term "**Gateway Drug**" and pinned it on cannabis. Any questions?

Myth Buster 2 – during that same domestic propaganda campaign, cannabis' cousin the Hemp plant was portrayed to a fearful public as the same physical plant, which it is not. Technically, both of the cousin plants contain THC that is the active substance. Many Americans still identify them as the same plant.

However, Hemp contains less than one half percent of THC with cannabis at 6-plus percent, which means someone could smoke or eat a pound of hemp and get nothing but a large headache.

By the way, we could also make cotton type fabric, paper products, canvas for sails, home heating oil, lamp oil, bio-diesel fuel for cars and trucks, and plastic products from much maligned Hemp plant.

American Farmers have been petitioning for decades to grow this viable crop, but are continually put off by Congress and stronger lobbies. This foolishness will also end soon.

In other words, for the U.S. Congress, the publicly irresponsible lobbyists, and all of the bad guys in the hard drug business — it is "***Stay the Course***". Does that sound grossly familiar? And anyone that dares to suggest prudent alteration in the approach is screamed at, belittled, but mainly ignored.

That is until now.

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Action Demanded by the Electorate

The obscene foolishness of the War of Drugs with its Prohibition on Marijuana that has cost us so many American lives, destroyed so many families, and wasted so many taxpayer dollars — must now end. The Prohibition on Alcohol only lasted from 1919 until 1933, and it took two Constitutional Amendments to institute and then repeal. The U.S. Congress could end this “*marijuana madness*” in less than 30 days!

And since it is We the People that will be driving the U.S. Congress on this and other long unresolved issues, we will begin setting legislative deadlines by which our elected officials must act.

They will act or stand up in public and explain their failure to implement legislative changes clearly identified by the People for action. And then they will be voted out of office upon their next re-election bid. We the People will say, “you’re fired.”

In the case of M legalization the Congressional Legislative Implementation Deadline (CLID) will be set at **July 1, 2009** or before!

There is no practical case that can be made to delay it any farther than that. And we will not wait until the Republicans and Democrats drag us through another presidential election and into 2009 without even mentioning the alleged War on Drugs.

This mandate by the American electorate is one of several legislative fixes, some small and some large, that we will declare for Congress to act upon prior to the November 2008 election. We will improve the conduct, content, and quality of American politics for the Common Good – and do it now!

The bottom line reality is that in order to fix the problems that are so imbedded in the National System — we will expect and in some cases demand that prudent changes or adjustments be made and made over the protests of industry, opposition groups, and the ‘screamers’ in their various forms.

Like Any Cut Left Unattended

What makes solving the hard drug problem more difficult is that it is both a problem and a symptom of other problems at the same time. I and many other

people believe that part of today's drug problem naturally grew as a result other problems in society. Those social and economic problems still exist today and are worse than before. Other parts of An American Agenda will be addressing some of those core issues, as well.

Since those 'other' problems were not properly addressed early on in the 70's or 80's the nation's demand for drugs was allowed to grow into a major problem all its own. Just like a minor cut that goes unattended and becomes severely infected. Again, the difficulty in developing a solution to our nation's drug problem demonstrated to me why more of our complex public issues are not yet resolved. It can be an extremely, hard problem-solving exercise. However, I said they are hard to solve, not impossible to solve!

The bottom line reality is that in order to fix such problems that are so imbedded in the National System, we must expect to make changes or adjustments to that System. These are not changes to our form of government. This and all the other proposals are in no way an assault on our government.

These are changes to how America functions on a day-to-day basis. We will need to agree to change the way we look at some things and the way that some things are currently allowed to work. Not for trivial reasons, but for prudent and practical ones.

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The implementation of the NDR proposal will be a major step in realizing a better order of things in our day-to-day lives.

It is also critical for us to realize that various Special Interest forces within the National System will as they always have, discount the potential success of the NDR and attempt in both overt and covert ways to block any potential changes to the way things currently work — protecting the status quo.

As a Partial Explanation

Think of the Special Interest resistance as a means of self-preservation. It is often just a person's, an agency's, or corporation's survival instinct kicking in. Many of us have known that feeling sometime in our lives, particularly if we thought our employment status could be negatively affected. For corporate lobbyists it comes down to maintaining market share, revenue, profits, earnings, bonuses, and the holy grail of stock dividends.

It is Time to End this War

So, critics beware! Do not come to criticize this drug reform proposal on drug

legalization or the overall National Drug Reform (NDR) proposal, unless you have equally effective and comprehensive plan in your hand. And, I mean one that the American public will support and see enacted by 2009!

Otherwise stand back out of the way – for the troops are coming with a new, winning plan of attack!

We the People, are coming to the literal rescue of those with the drug problems and those brave souls currently fighting the drug war that is at best a holding action. We are bringing relief to the people on the front lines — our law enforcement, the DEA and ATF officers, and others — to provide added protection for our friends and loved ones threatened by the drug-providing enemy.

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With this proposal and the overall NDR proposal, the solution to our 35-plus year War on Drugs is displayed for public review and debate, and the end of our national drug problems will finally be within our sight.

Therefore, It is Our Time

So guess what America? We are now, the people, and it is our time. We have the opportunity, if not the responsibility to seriously consider taking this “giant step” as a nation. In doing so, we will also be addressing some associated problems that ripple through the National System. It will be awkward at first, but will soon become part of our improved National System, the new way in which America will work.

We can confidently state that if we continue our current course, approaching the War on Drugs as we have for over three decades, the results are very predictable. A whole lot more bad news.

An analogy I once heard seem to apply to our situation — the one about the frog and the pot of water.

If someone were to throw a poor frog into a pot of boiling water it will jump out immediately, if it can, to save itself. However, if the frog is placed into a pot of cool water and the water that is then slowly heated to boiling, the frog will not jump out, and it will cook! Please do not try this at home!

The War on Drugs is the water and American society is the frog. I don't know about you, but I do like frogs. I just do not want to be one!

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Yes, America, we are the frogs and the drug business and with its associated problems continue to heat the water we are swimming in. We must stop allowing (yes, I said allowing) our common problems, like that of drugs, to continue heating things up around us! Slowly making our daily lives a little less than they could be, and actually once were.

We, the American public have the intelligence and the power, should we choose to exercise it resolve any of our national problems. In changing the system to fix these problems, there will be winners and losers, just as there has always been when some functioning part of a nation's system has changed.

We, the people, must unite our spirits and creativity as the Founders did when they considered their options – focusing on the Common Good, to do what needs to be done to improve and maintain the Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness for all Americans. To accomplish this, the majority needs to continue to act responsibly and must rightfully demand that the minority (all those that would rather not) do the same.

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Remember, the NDR proposal and this book was developed by me for you. And in this case, you are the decision maker. You are the voter, the phone caller, the letter writer, and the email sender. *You* must weigh the pros and cons of these contents for yourself – to see how they could benefit you and those you care about.

The NDR proposal components have been refined and are presented to you as a true compromise proposal, with a solution-driven approach.

Frankly, I will vote for it, but as written it is not exactly what I would personally prefer to see done in all cases. However, in a pure problem-solving mode, the sole objective is always to solve the problem at hand, to develop an approach without personal opinion affecting the design and absolute functionality of the solution. Also to create a solution that will most effectively address all the client issues and/or problems. In this case, you are the client. We, the people – all 300,000,000 and more of us are the clients. Drug use and its associated public ills are the problems we need to work together to solve. And we need to start solving them now!

We will have a few tough things to do to bring this part of our national house to order. However, it pales when compared to what those brave men and women that preceded us had to face.

Now our national ancestors are watching us, waiting to see if we, *in our time*, will have the vision, the courage, and strength to face this test and overcome one of our complex national challenges.

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The People's Sense

And the Truth will set them free!

Under the NDR Proposal the naturally growing, God-given plant cannabis or marijuana (M, as I like to write) and only marijuana, **will be fully legalized and decriminalized in the U.S.**, no later than July 1, 2009.

The straightforward legislative changes required will accomplish three (3) primary objectives:

- It will make M legally available for medical use — making it fully available to any Americans suffering with various illnesses and negative reactions to medical treatment — that includes Americans suffering with forms of cancer, Aids, and other medical conditions that have no appetite and/or cannot keep food (or medication) ‘down’ and are literally starving. And they may have it with or without a doctor’s prescription!
- It will be fully legalized and made available for personal use.
- It will decriminalize the possession of M, only. We will cease immediately to arrest ANY drug users regardless of what drug(s) they are using.

However, we will mandate and enforce the “overall” clean-up of obvious drug addicts for their sake and for the health and safety of the public at large.

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The Basic Approach

This is described in greater detail in Proposal Number 20 – The Domestic Cannabis Industry.

In general M will be sold under the general guidelines (by locality) governing for hard liquor and with the oversight of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF), which will be renamed to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Cannabis (ATFC). That is not intended to be funny, although it is a bit – and it will need to happen. Cannabis has been the largest cash crop in America for many years.

Further, just as the Canadian government has been on the verge of doing (in spite of continued pressure from our government not to do so) it will become at the most, parking ticket level offense – and no points. Also, as Canada has determined to be realistic, M will be available for sale to those eighteen (18) years of age and older. However, in the U.S. under the NDR provisions an 18-year old must first have graduated from high school. It will be controlled via a simple designation on a person's driver's license.

England has also reluctantly delayed this same practical approach due to political pressure from our government. It must and will end.

The NDR Proposal in Brief

- The required national legislation will be enacted by the US Congress as of **July 1, 2009 or sooner.**
- We will set the National Hard Drug Sale Cutoff Date as of **August 1, 2009.** After that absolute point in time, anyone that decides **of their own freewill** to continue in the trafficking and/or distribution and sale of **hard** drugs (an exact list will be publicized) will be given three (3) chances to be apprehended with an amount of a specific set of drugs that is undeniably intended for trafficking and/or distribution – not just for personal use.

Remember this does threaten not drug users.

- Those individuals will not go to jail, but will be tried and convicted with no plea-bargaining allowed and will then be under standard Criminal Probation.
- They will also be placed under Civil Probation that is described in the NDR proposal. Under Civil Probation, a non-criminal status, they will be evaluated assigned access to drug treatment, social skills training, educational and vocational services as needed, and if needed the services will be mandatory. The same procedures that will be used to rehabilitate drug addicts.
- If, **of their own freewill** they continue in the hard drug business and reach their third apprehension they will go immediately to jail and 3-months after their third conviction they will be given the Death Penalty by lethal injection.

End of problem and taxpayer expense. Any questions.

That's the very short version. And you would be amazed by how many Americans of all types will vote for what you just read. I know I was. And, I mean 80% approval is a low number.

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Marijuana and its cousin plant Hemp (from which it is **impossible** to get a buzz!) will become legal domestic industries providing jobs and considerable tax revenue.

American farmers have been trying to get the “right” to grow Hemp for years, but have been stuffed by you know who – the screamers and the Congressional lobbyists. The new domestic Hemp industry will be overviewed under the New and Renewal Industries – Proposal Number 19.

Some Random Points

- The overt and covert lobbying against marijuana legalization by the Pharmaceutical, Alcohol, and Petroleum industries to name a few will be stopped or at least ignored by Congress.
- Several hundred thousand men and women (fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers) currently in prison for generally minor drug offenses will be systematically released from jail and their records will be cleaned. Their ability to obtain employment will not be limited by this history.
- Going forward under the revised laws — every month thousands more will not be arrested and/or sent to jail for simple possession. No more beating up of drug users.

Just another reason why we will never need to build another prison! We will soon suspend jail and prison construction projects – maybe diverting those funds to repairing bridges!

- As the prisons are emptied, they will make proper facilities for detoxification of the existing hard drug addict population. Think about the possibilities.

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The Final Part of Our Answer from Those Who Know Best

Now for the hard part!

The grassroots group Law Enforcement Against Prohibition (LEAP.org) that was created by former law enforcement officers advocates the full legalization of **all drugs** similar to what the Netherlands did in 1976.

While I have long opposed any legalization beyond that already detailed for M, I

now believe we need to seriously consider a mid-ground approach short of full drug legalization in the US.

For one thing, the American public would never vote for full drug legalization. Personally, I would not.

If we do not accept a method on controlling the flow of hard drugs, a manner similar to what is now used for controlled (e.g., codeine) prescription drugs, we will not really end the chaos. We must have a transition plan that will wean American society off of hard drugs, with the objective of killing the international drug trade. And this *We* can do.

The Simply Stated Final Answer

Do not be offended at how simply stated this may sound. This is hard public policy.

Logically, it will be prudent policy to allow the possession for personal use only of hard drugs for a controlled multi-year period. It would have a nationally acknowledged start date of mid-2009, or sooner. To be crystal clear, we will stop arresting drug users.

Simply stated, since the U.S. Congress and all other involved parts of our government have proven over the last 35 years to be absolutely incompetent and incapable of stopping the flow of those hard drugs into our country, then We the People will no longer allow them to arrest anyone for possessing those substances for personal use.

Especially when the government allows the legal Tobacco Industry to kill more American on a single month, than hard drugs kill in an entire year. Any questions?

This realistic national approach will relieve the law enforcement at all levels and the courts of the processing of anyone for drug use as a criminal offense.

Consequently, law enforcement at all levels will freed to attack the trafficking and distribution networks which is what they should have been doing all along.

That newly focused law enforcement capacity combined with the NDR Proposal "*three (3) strikes their dead*" policy for those choosing of their own free will to keep moving hard drugs, will send shock waves through the national and international drug trade. Exactly what is required.

That is not wishful thinking – that is how we will take control of drug use and abuse in America.

It is our choice.

About the NDR Proposal

A Sincere Warning to the Critics of the NDR Proposal

I reasonably expect not only criticism, but also the outright opposition what you have just read and to the NDR proposal, from the usual suspects. To expect anything else would be foolish at best. You cannot please everyone and not everyone can be pleased.

However, I need to make one thing perfectly clear to the critics, including those individuals, agencies, companies, and other professionals currently involved in any segment of the Illegal Drug Industry. To those that will come forward to say, among other things, that I do not have the proper educational background or professional experience to make such recommendations. To those, I simply reply:

The development of what you have just read and to the NDR proposal was quite necessary.

The simple fact is, that the combination of collective knowledge, intellect, imagination, creativity, legislative power, as well as, the many billions of our tax dollars spent over the last 35 years, have been a colossal failure!

The net results have left us in a situation that would charitably be described as a 'holding action' at the front lines of the conflict, in the very streets of America.

They have failed the American public and our society as a whole. And it can no longer be permitted to continue. The 'professionals' have failed!

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It is Easier to Study a Problem

Yes, the simple fact is that it is far easier to study a problem, than to solve it! Just do another study on the problem and update the related statistics, rather than developing a concept and approach aimed at resolving it through constructive change. It requires far less creativity and little risk! Unfortunately, this scenario applies to more of our problems than just the War on Drugs.

Consequently, you will not find at the library or on the Internet, is a single comprehensive proposal to end the nation's War on Drugs. If such a proposal had been written and presented to the general public for consideration, you

would have heard about it.

That is, not until now.

This writing and the NDR Proposal provide the nation with a real, hardball, but fair solution to the War on Drugs. It has not been an easy solution to develop and a few aspects of the proposal can be difficult at first hearing.

However, after all the tough things we have already faced as a nation and conquered together over the last 230 years, we can do this, too. And we will be an even greater nation by the accomplishment.

It will work, if We take action and make it happen!

That's enough on that for now. The next topic is where things get hot.