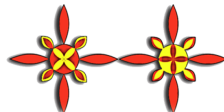




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MARIJUANA AS MEDICINE – PART 2

By Lono Ho'ala – Biochemist, Author, and expert at Natural Medicine. Lono is the Chief Executive Officer of Eagle's Nest Wellness Center in Cascade CO, a recognized leader in the use of medical-grade marijuana for serious disease.

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In Part 1 of this series we discuss the potential for harm when ingesting marijuana grown with Plant Growth Regulators (PGRs.) This is a problem seriously underestimated by both growers and consumers of cannabis products.

This Part 2 explains why marijuana is listed as a Schedule 1 Narcotic with no accepted medical use.

DOES MARIJUANA ACTUALLY HAVE MEDICINAL VALUE?

The federal government's answer to this question is an unqualified "no." That is why marijuana is currently listed as a Schedule 1 drug.

Schedule 1 is the only category of controlled substances that may not be prescribed by a physician. According to the United States Controlled Substances Act, the following findings are required for drugs to be placed in this schedule:

1. The drug or other substance has a high potential for abuse.
2. The drug or other substance has no currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States.
3. There is a lack of accepted safety for use of the drug or other substance under medical supervision.

While there has never been much evidence to support this classification, it is becoming increasingly untenable as an overwhelming mountain of evidence proves the answer to this question is an unqualified "Yes." To understand why such a wide difference of opinion exists, a review of the history of its use and prohibition is instructive.

THE HISTORY OF MARIJUANA

Many Americans assume that marijuana was made illegal through some kind of scientific process designed to protect the citizens from what was determined to be a dangerous drug. Nothing could be further from the truth.

As with many political issues that are driven by money, citizens who become informed discover that those who voted on the legal fate of this plant never had the facts, but were dependent on information supplied by those who had a specific agenda to deceive lawmakers.

Later in this article you will see that the very first federal vote to prohibit marijuana was based entirely on a documented lie on the floor of the Senate.

Many so-called “responsible citizens” have bought into the hundreds of billions of dollars spent on disseminating negative propaganda about marijuana. They believe that marijuana is a highly addictive narcotic, has no important medical benefit, and poses a great danger to our youth.

In fact, biochemists (who are independent of the government and/or the pharmaceutical companies and/or the institutions they support) who study the herb do not classify marijuana as a narcotic. Nor do they classify it as particularly addictive (in the sense of opiates) because there is no serious withdrawal symptoms upon termination of use.

Instead, such scientists would say that marijuana is more properly classed as a euphoriant. It takes away pain and (in most cases) helps people feel relaxed and at peace. When used by people in pain, older people, or those with chronic illnesses, this is a valuable benefit.

Many other people use marijuana as a recreational drug to mitigate stress. While it is true that marijuana is far less dangerous than alcohol, dependency is possible because most of us live in a stress-filled world, and this tends to make

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the use of the herb a habit – not to be confused with an addiction like the dependencies caused by alcohol or hard drugs.

MARIJUANA AND CHILDREN

Marijuana's euphoriant quality is also the main reason the use of marijuana is inappropriate for children and young adults. Such people are still mastering the art of self-discipline – one of the most important skills one must develop to be an effective human being with a strong sense of self-worth. The amotivational syndrome often associated with marijuana's use is directly due to its euphoriant qualities.

Amotivational syndrome is defined as a psychological condition associated with diminished inspiration to participate in social situations and work activities and/or other responsibilities.

When kids get used to using marijuana, they tend to blow off things like homework and chores and become fixated on things that make them “feel good.” This can become a serious problem for both the children and their families.

The same is true for adults. Habituation that leads to chronic use can lead to the loss of jobs, stress in relationships, and serious legal issues that can be extremely expensive and result in a criminal record.

It is also true that marijuana tends to be a “gateway drug” but not for the reasons most people think. It is a gateway drug primarily because kids turn to illegal drug dealers for their supply. Even in states where the substance is legal no dispensary will risk a multi-million dollar operation to sell a few dollars of pot to an underage customer.

Drug dealers know this, so they will often hang around schools or areas where students tend to congregate after school to give marijuana to kids to try.

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Many of these kids are already somewhat alienated from their parents and others in positions of authority. When such kids discover that marijuana is not nearly as dangerous as they've been told, they lose trust in authority and become inclined to try other, harder drugs that are far more expensive and addictive.

This is a major reason the so-called “War on Drugs” has been such an abysmal failure in that in spite of hundreds of billions of dollars spent over more than four decades, it has failed to put even a small dent in the use of illicit drugs.

All of these things being true, biochemists who honestly study the plant would agree that there is no doubt that the dangers of marijuana are highly exaggerated by those who advocate this “war.”

Demonizing marijuana has a purpose. It serves those who want to protect or expand their turf (the alcohol and pharmaceutical industries) or argue for increased budgets (the prison industry, certain police organizations, the DEA and other state or federal government agencies) or those who want to exploit such propaganda to consolidate political power by being seen as “protectors of our children” (members of city counsels, county commissioners, district attorneys, judges, and state and federal legislators.)

Marijuana is squarely at the heart of this “War on Drugs” which has been very successful at consolidating government power at the expense of the freedoms and rights of the general citizenry. Thoughtful observers have many reasons to suspect that this has been the real reason for the “War on Drugs” all along but we will discuss this in more detail in another installment.

Anyone who honestly researches the history of cannabis will discover that the actual reasons why marijuana is illegal is to do with the following reasons:

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- Protection of Corporate Profits
- Consolidation of Government Power at the Expense of Citizen's Rights.

The tools to accomplish these goals include:

- Propaganda Disseminated by Yellow Journalism Based On Fear Mongering
- Ignorant, Incompetent, and/or Corrupt Legislators
- Personal Career Advancement and Greed

To understand the why this is true let's take a short trip through history.

BACKGROUND¹

For most of human history, marijuana has been completely legal. It's not a recently discovered plant, nor is its prohibition a long-standing law. Marijuana has been illegal for less than 1% of the time that it's been in use. Its known uses go back further than 7,000 B.C. and it was legal as recently as when Ronald Reagan was a boy.

America's first marijuana law was enacted at Jamestown Colony, Virginia in 1619. It was a law "ordering" all farmers to grow hemp. There were several other "must grow" laws over the next 200 years and during most of that time, hemp was legal tender. Hemp was a critical crop for a number of purposes (including medicine as well as essential war requirements like rope, canvas, etc.) that the government went out of its way to encourage growth.

THE MEXICAN CONNECTION

In the early 1900s, the western states developed significant tensions regarding the influx of Mexican-Americans. The

¹ This information is credited to Pete Guither's article "Why Marijuana Is Illegal" which can be found at this link: <http://www.drugwarrant.com/articles/why-is-marijuana-illegal/>

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revolution in Mexico in 1910 spilled over the border, with General Pershing's army clashing with the bandit Pancho Villa.

Later in that decade, bad feelings developed between the small farmer and the large farms that used cheaper Mexican labor. Then, the depression came and increased these tensions as jobs and welfare resources became scarce.

Many Mexicans smoked marijuana and had brought the plant from Mexico with them. This fact caused California to pass the first state marijuana law, outlawing "preparations of hemp" then known as "loco weed."

Oddly enough, other state laws banning marijuana may be due to Mormons using it. Mormons who traveled to Mexico in 1910 came back to Salt Lake City with marijuana. The church's reaction to this may have contributed to the state's marijuana law.

Other states quickly followed suit with marijuana prohibition laws, including Wyoming (1915), Texas (1919), Iowa (1923), Nevada (1923), Oregon (1923), Washington (1923), Arkansas (1923), and Nebraska (1927). These laws tended to be specifically targeted against the Mexican-American population.

When Montana outlawed marijuana in 1927, the Butte Montana Standard reported a legislator's comment: "When some beet field peon takes a few traces of this stuff... he thinks he has just been elected president of Mexico, so he starts out to execute all his political enemies." In Texas, a senator said on the floor of the Senate: "All Mexicans are crazy, and this stuff [marijuana] is what makes them crazy."

JAZZ AND ASSASSINS

In the eastern states, the "problem" was attributed to a combination of Latin Americans and black jazz musicians. Marijuana and jazz traveled from New Orleans to Chicago,

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and then to Harlem, where marijuana became an indispensable part of the music scene, even entering the language of the black hits of the time (Louis Armstrong's "Muggles", Cab Calloway's "That Funny Reefer Man", Fats Waller's "Viper's Drag").

Again, racism was part of the charge against marijuana, as newspapers in 1934 stated: "Marihuana influences Negroes to look at white people in the eye, step on white men's shadows and look at a white woman twice."

Two other fear-tactic rumors started to spread:

- 1) that Mexicans, Blacks and other foreigners were snaring white children with marijuana; and
- 2) the story of the "assassins."

Early stories of Marco Polo had told of "hasheesh-eaters" or hashashin, from which derived the term "assassin." In the original stories, these professional killers were given large doses of hashish and brought to the ruler's garden (to give them a glimpse of the paradise that awaited them upon successful completion of their mission). Then, after the effects of the drug disappeared, the assassin would fulfill his ruler's wishes with cool, calculating loyalty.

By the 1930s, the story had changed. Dr. A. E. Fossier wrote in the 1931 New Orleans Medical and Surgical Journal: "Under the influence of hashish those fanatics would madly rush at their enemies, and ruthlessly massacre every one within their grasp." Within a very short time, marijuana started being linked to violent behavior.

ALCOHOL PROHIBITION AND FEDERAL APPROACHES TO DRUG PROHIBITION

During this time, the United States was also dealing with alcohol prohibition, which lasted from 1919 to 1933. Alcohol prohibition was extremely visible and debated at all levels,

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while drug laws were passed without the general public's knowledge. National alcohol prohibition happened through the mechanism of an amendment to the constitution.

The federal approach is important. It was considered at the time that the federal government did not have the constitutional power to outlaw alcohol or drugs. It is because of this that alcohol prohibition required a constitutional amendment.

At that time in our country's history, the judiciary regularly placed the tenth amendment in the path of congressional regulation of "local" affairs, and direct regulation of medical practice was considered beyond congressional power under the commerce clause (since then, both provisions have been weakened so far as to have almost no meaning).

Since drugs could not be outlawed at the federal level, the decision was made to use federal taxes as a way around the restriction. In the Harrison Act, legal uses of opiates and cocaine were taxed (supposedly as a revenue need by the federal government, which is the only way it would hold up in the courts,) and those who didn't follow the law found themselves in trouble with the treasury department.

In 1930, a new division in the Treasury Department was established — the Federal Bureau of Narcotics — and Harry J. Anslinger was named director. This, if anything, marked the beginning of the all-out war against marijuana.

Anslinger was an extremely ambitious man, and he recognized the Bureau of Narcotics as an amazing career opportunity — a new government agency with the opportunity to define both the problem and the solution.

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He immediately realized that opiates and cocaine wouldn't be enough to help build his agency, so he latched on to



marijuana and started to work on making it illegal at the federal level.

Anslinger immediately drew upon the themes of racism and violence to draw national attention to the problem he wanted to create. He also promoted and frequently read from “Gore Files” — wild reefer-madness-style exploitation tales of ax murderers on marijuana and sex and... Negroes. Here are some quotes that have been

widely attributed to Anslinger and his Gore Files:

“There are 100,000 total marijuana smokers in the US, and most are Negroes, Hispanics, Filipinos, and entertainers. Their Satanic music, jazz, and swing, result from marijuana use. This marijuana causes white women to seek sexual relations with Negroes, entertainers, and any others.”

“... the primary reason to outlaw marijuana is its effect on the degenerate races.”

“Marijuana is an addictive drug which produces in its users insanity, criminality, and death.”

“Reefer makes darkies think they're as good as white men.”

“Marihuana leads to pacifism and communist brainwashing”

“You smoke a joint and you're likely to kill your brother.”

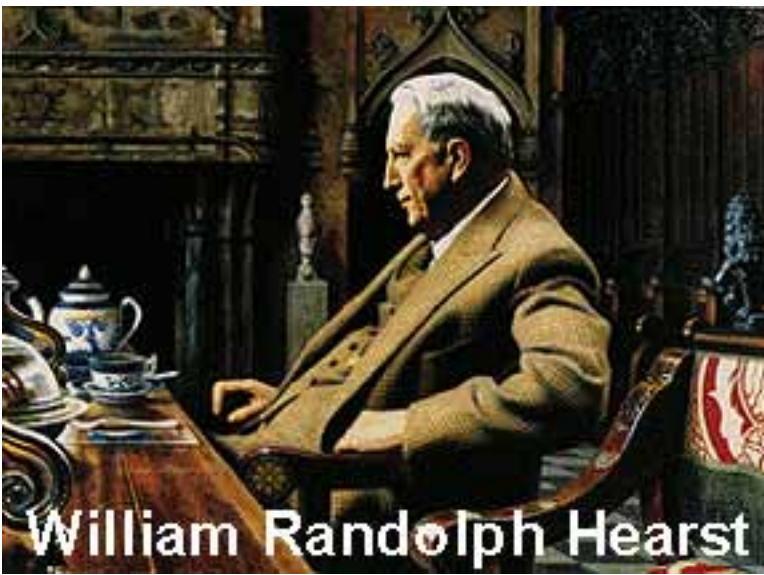
“Marijuana is the most violence-causing drug in the history of mankind.”

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And he loved to pull out his own version of the “assassin” definition:

“In the year 1090, there was founded in Persia the religious and military order of the Assassins, whose history is one of cruelty, barbarity, and murder, and for good reason: the members were confirmed users of hashish, or marihuana, and it is from the Arabs’ ‘hashashin’ that we have the English word ‘assassin.’”

YELLOW JOURNALISM



Harry Anslinger got some additional help from William Randolph Hearst, owner of a huge chain of newspapers.

Hearst had lots of reasons to help. First, he had invested heavily in the timber

industry to support his newspaper chain and didn't want to see the development of hemp paper in competition. Second, he had lost 800,000 acres of timberland to Pancho Villa, so he hated Mexicans. Third, telling lurid lies about Mexicans (and the devil marijuana weed causing violence) sold newspapers, making him rich.

Some samples from the San Francisco Examiner:

“Marihuana makes fiends of boys in thirty days — Hashish goads users to bloodlust.”

“By the tons it is coming into this country — the deadly, dreadful poison that racks and tears not only the body, but the very heart and soul of every human being who once becomes a slave to it in any of its cruel and devastating

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forms... Marihuana is a short cut to the insane asylum. Smoke marihuana cigarettes for a month and what was once your brain will be nothing but a storehouse of horrid specters. Hasheesh makes a murderer who kills for the love of killing out of the mildest mannered man who ever laughed at the idea that any habit could ever get him...”

And other nationwide columns...

“Users of marijuana become STIMULATED as they inhale the drug and are LIKELY TO DO ANYTHING. Most crimes of violence in this section, especially in country districts are laid to users of that drug.”

“Was it marijuana, the new Mexican drug, that nerved the murderous arm of Clara Phillips when she hammered out her victim’s life in Los Angeles?... THREE-FOURTHS OF THE CRIMES of violence in this country today are committed by DOPE SLAVES — that is a matter of cold record.”

Hearst and Anslinger were then supported by Dupont chemical company and various pharmaceutical companies in the effort to outlaw cannabis. Dupont had patented nylon, and wanted hemp removed as competition. The pharmaceutical companies could neither identify nor standardize cannabis dosages, and besides, with cannabis, folks could grow their own medicine and not have to purchase it from large companies.

This all set the stage for...

THE MARIJUANA TAX ACT OF 1937.

After two years of secret planning, Anslinger brought his plan to Congress — complete with a scrapbook full of sensational Hearst editorials, stories of ax murderers who had supposedly smoked marijuana, and racial slurs.

It was a remarkably short set of hearings.

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The one fly in Anslinger's ointment was the appearance by Dr. William C. Woodward, Legislative Council of the American Medical Association.

Woodward started by slamming Harry Anslinger and the Bureau of Narcotics for distorting earlier AMA statements that had nothing to do with marijuana and making them appear to be AMA endorsement for Anslinger's view.

He also reproached the legislature and the Bureau for using the term marijuana in the legislation and not publicizing it as a bill about cannabis or hemp. At this point, marijuana (or marihuana) was a sensationalist word used to refer to Mexicans smoking a drug and had not been connected in most people's minds to the existing cannabis/hemp plant. Thus, many who had legitimate reasons to oppose the bill weren't even aware of it.

Woodward went on to state that the AMA was opposed to the legislation and further questioned the approach of the hearings, coming close to outright accusation of misconduct by Anslinger and the committee:

Committee members then proceeded to attack Dr. Woodward, questioning his motives in opposing the legislation. Even the Chairman joined in:

The Chairman: I would like to read a quotation from a recent editorial in the Washington Times:

The marihuana cigarette is one of the most insidious of all forms of dope, largely because of the failure of the public to understand its fatal qualities.

The Nation is almost defenseless against it, having no Federal laws to cope with it and virtually no organized campaign for combating it.

The result is tragic.

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School children are the prey of peddlers who infest school neighborhoods.

High school boys and girls buy the destructive weed without knowledge of its capacity of harm, and conscienceless dealers sell it with impunity.

This is a national problem, and it must have national attention.

The fatal marihuana cigarette must be recognized as a deadly drug, and American children must be protected against it.

And that was basically it. Yellow journalism won over medical science.

The committee passed the legislation on.

On the floor of the house, the entire discussion was:

Member from upstate New York: “Mr. Speaker, what is this bill about?”

Speaker Rayburn: “I don’t know. It has something to do with a thing called marihuana. I think it’s a narcotic of some kind.”

“Mr. Speaker, does the American Medical Association support this bill?”

Member on the committee jumps up and says: “Their Doctor Wentworth[sic] came down here. They support this bill 100 percent.”

And on the basis of that lie, on August 2, 1937, marijuana became illegal at the federal level.

The entire coverage in the New York Times: “President Roosevelt signed today a bill to curb traffic in the narcotic, marihuana, through heavy taxes on transactions.”

ANSLINGER AS PRECURSOR TO THE DRUG CZARS

Anslinger was essentially the first Drug Czar. Even though the term didn’t exist until William Bennett’s position as director

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of the White House Office of National Drug Policy, Anslinger acted in a similar fashion.

Anslinger circumvented the First Amendment. He banned the Canadian movie “Drug Addict,” a 1946 documentary that realistically depicted the drug addicts and law enforcement efforts. He even tried to get Canada to ban the movie in their own country, or failing that, to prevent U.S. citizens from seeing the movie in Canada. Canada refused.

Anslinger had 37 years to solidify the propaganda and stifle opposition. The lies continued the entire time (although the stories would adjust — the 21 year old Florida boy who killed his family of five got younger each time he told it). In 1961, he looked back at his efforts:

“Much of the most irrational juvenile violence and that has written a new chapter of shame and tragedy is traceable directly to this hemp intoxication. A gang of boys tear the clothes from two school girls and rape the screaming girls, one boy after the other. A sixteen-year-old kills his entire family of five in Florida, a man in Minnesota puts a bullet through the head of a stranger on the road; in Colorado a husband tries to shoot his wife, kills her grandmother instead and then kills himself. Every one of these crimes had been proceeded [sic] by the smoking of one or more marijuana “reefers.” As the marijuana situation grew worse, I knew action had to be taken to get the proper legislation passed. By 1937 under my direction, the Bureau launched two important steps First, a legislative plan to seek from Congress a new law that would place marijuana and its distribution directly under federal control. Second, on radio and at major forums, such that presented annually by the New York Herald Tribune, I told the story of this evil weed of the fields and river beds and roadsides. I wrote articles for magazines; our agents gave hundreds of lectures to parents, educators, social and civic leaders. In network broadcasts I

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reported on the growing list of crimes, including murder and rape. I described the nature of marijuana and its close kinship to hashish. I continued to hammer at the facts.

I believe we did a thorough job, for the public was alerted and the laws to protect them were passed, both nationally and at the state level. We also brought under control the wild growing marijuana in this country. Working with local authorities, we cleaned up hundreds of acres of marijuana and we uprooted plants sprouting along the roadsides.”

AFTER ANSLINGER

The narrative since then has been a continual litany of:

- Politicians wanting to appear tough on crime and passing tougher penalties;
- Constant increases in spending on law enforcement and prisons;
- Racist application of drug laws;
- Taxpayer funded disinformation campaigns;
- Stifling of opposition speech;
- Political contributions from corporations that profit from marijuana being illegal (pharmaceuticals, alcohol, etc.);

CONCLUSION

This history accounts for why marijuana is classified as a Schedule 1 Controlled Substance in spite of the mountain of evidence to the contrary. Schedule 1 says that:

1. The drug or other substance has a high potential for abuse.

What is real is that marijuana does have a potential for abuse but only in certain segments of the population. In addition, the consequences of such abuse are far less

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dangerous than those whose names appear on lower schedules or for alcohol.

2. The drug or other substance has no currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States.

This is true because as a Schedule 1 drug, physicians cannot prescribe marijuana without losing their license.

However, while defending this classification on the one hand, the government admits that marijuana has valuable medicinal benefits as it attempts to patent the substance.

According to the US Department of Health and Human Services, Patent number 6,630,507, *“Cannabinoids have been found to have antioxidant properties, unrelated to NMDA receptor antagonism. This new found property makes cannabinoids useful in the treatment and prophylaxis of a wide variety of oxidation associated diseases, such as ischemic, age-related, inflammatory and autoimmune diseases (like heart disease, stroke, and cancer.) The cannabinoids are found to have particular application as neuroprotectants, for example in limiting neurological damage following ischemic insults such as stroke and trauma, or in the treatment of neurodegenerative diseases, such as Alzheimer’s disease, Parkinson’s disease and HIV dementia. Nonpsychoactive cannabinoids, such as cannabidiol, are particularly advantageous to use because they avoid toxicity that is encountered with psychoactive cannabinoids at high doses useful in the method of the present invention.”*

3. There is a lack of accepted safety for use of the drug or other substance under medical supervision.

This is true because no credible research can be performed due to the herb’s listing as a Schedule 1 drug.

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Clearly marijuana has an important role to play for those who want to treat and heal a wide variety of disease conditions without the side-effects of pharmaceuticals. How important this role actually can be is just now starting to see the light of day. As evidence of its healing properties mounts, and the understanding of the what, why, and how of marijuana use becomes clearer, there is no doubt that the federal government will have to relent on its untenable positions regarding this medicine.

Eagle's Nest is one of Colorado leaders in this emerging new field of health care. We are grateful for the opportunity and will continue to advocate for the responsible use of marijuana as a medicine.

Our next installment entitled Part 3 will explore the unique value of marijuana as a medicine for certain health conditions.

This account only scratches the surface of the story. If you want to know more about the history of marijuana, Harry Anslinger, and the saga of criminalization in the United States and elsewhere, visit some of the excellent links below. (All data and quotes for this piece came from these sources as well).

- The History of the Non-Medical Use of Drugs in the United States by Charles Whitebread, Professor of Law, USC Law School. A Speech to the California Judges Association 1995 annual conference.
- THE FORBIDDEN FRUIT AND THE TREE OF KNOWLEDGE: AN INQUIRY INTO THE LEGAL HISTORY OF AMERICAN MARIJUANA PROHIBITION by Richard J. Bonnie & Charles H. Whitebread, II. VIRGINIA LAW REVIEW. VOLUME 56 OCTOBER 1970 NUMBER 6

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- The Consumers Union Report – Licit and Illicit Drugs by Edward M. Brecher and the Editors of Consumer Reports Magazine

- The History of the Marihuana Tax Act of 1937

By David F. Musto, M.D., New Haven, Conn.

Originally published in Arch. Gen. Psychiat. Volume 26, February, 1972

- The Report of the National Commission on Marihuana and Drug Abuse

I. Control of Marihuana, Alcohol and Tobacco.

History of Marihuana Legislation

- The Marihuana Tax Act of 1937.

The history of how the Marihuana Tax Act came to be the law of the land.

- Marijuana – The First Twelve Thousand Years by Ernest L. Abel, 1980

Please consider donating to our Compassionate Care Program. Many ill people are in need of high quality marijuana for the treatment of their cancers and other serious illnesses but they can't afford the expense. Your donations go to a 501(c)3 Foundation and are completely tax deductible. 100% of the proceeds go to benefit the patient.

Another way you can help is to consider an investment in a program that will lease a medical hemp and marijuana grow and processing facility to Eagle's Nest Wellness Center, LLC. Accredited investors who can afford a minimum \$25,000 for 5 years will earn 12% per year secured by real estate.

For more information call Lono Ho'ala at 719-687-2978.



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