



# Student Drug Testing Counter-Productive

American Academy Of Pediatrics Slams Random Student Drug Testing Policies -- Tests Are Ineffective, Not Backed By Physicians, And May Push Teens Toward The Use Of Dangerous Drugs And Alcohol

**Elk Grove, IL, USA:** Federally funded random student drug testing policies are neither safe nor effective and should not be utilized in public middle schools or high schools, according to recommendations by the American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Substance Abuse and Council on School Health. The Committee's recommendations appear in the March 2007 issue of the journal *Pediatrics*.

"Currently, there is little evidence of the effectiveness of school-based drug testing in the scientific literature," the Committee reported. It noted that student athletes forced to submit to random drug testing "experienced an increase in

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## Roadside Sobriety Testing Increases Support For Taxing, Regulating Marijuana

**San Francisco, CA, USA:** Public support for legalizing cannabis would increase significantly if a roadside field sobriety test were widely available to detect drivers' impaired by pot, according to survey data published in the *Harm Reduction Journal*.

Investigators at the University of Albany, State University of New York, analyzed national polling data of 1,002 registered voters regarding their attitudes toward taxing and regulating cannabis. Respondents were first asked, "Do you agree or disagree that marijuana should be legally taxed and regulated like liquor, tobacco, and gambling?" Respondents were then asked, "If police had a roadside impairment test for marijuana like the one they use for alcohol, would you support or oppose marijuana being legally taxed and regulated like liquor, tobacco, and gambling?" The NORML Foundation commissioned

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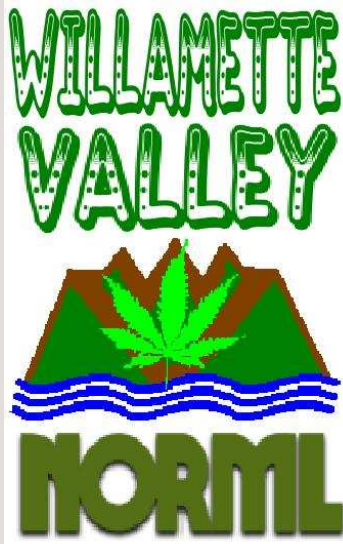
## Minorities Over-Represented In Pot Arrests

**New York, NY, USA:** African-Americans and Hispanics in New York City are far more likely to be arrested and receive a conviction for minor marijuana offenses than are white citizens, according to statistical data to be published in the journal *Criminology and Public Policy*.

Investigators at New York City's National Development Research Institute (NDRI), an independent think-tank specializing in substance abuse issues, analyzed local marijuana arrest data from 1980 to 2006. Authors reported that 85 percent of the defendants arrested in New York City for the crime of possessing marijuana in the fifth degree (e.g., smoking pot in public) were either African-American or Hispanic.

African-Americans and Hispanics together comprise approximately half of the city's population. Investigators also reported that African-Americans were 2.66 times

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The Willamette Valley  
NORML News Report  
is an all-volunteer, not-for-  
profit project to record and  
broadcast news,  
announcements and  
information about cannabis  
law reform.

The W-V-NORML News  
Report is produced by the  
Eugene, OREGON chapter of  
NORML, the National  
Organization for the Reform  
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Check 'em out on-line! *visit:*

**WillametteValleyNORML.org**

## A Voice for Responsible Marijuana Smokers

Since its founding in 1970, NORML has provided a voice in the public policy debate for those Americans who oppose marijuana prohibition and favor an end to the practice of arresting marijuana smokers. A nonprofit public-interest advocacy group, NORML represents the interests of the tens of millions of Americans who smoke marijuana responsibly. During the 1970s, NORML led the successful efforts to decriminalize minor marijuana offenses in 11 states and significantly lower marijuana penalties in all others.

The oldest and largest marijuana legalization organization in the country, NORML maintains a professional staff in Washington, DC, and a network of volunteer state and local [NORML Chapters](#) across the country. Check 'em out, and find the one nearest you!

**The NORML mission is to move public opinion sufficiently to achieve the repeal of marijuana prohibition so that the responsible use of cannabis by adults is no longer subject to penalty.**

When marijuana is enjoyed responsibly, subjecting users to harsh criminal and civil penalties provides no public benefit and causes terrible injustices. For reasons of public safety, public health, economics and justice, the prohibition laws should be repealed to the extent that they criminalize responsible marijuana use. **NORML, the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws – is located at 1600 K Street, NW, Suite 501, Washington, DC 20006-2832. Phone (202) 483-5500, Fax: (202) 483-0057 or visit: [www.norml.org](http://www.norml.org)**

Today Willamette Valley NORML joins the fight to reform state and federal marijuana laws, whether by voter initiative or through the elected legislatures. W-V-NORML will serve as an informational resource to media on marijuana-related stories, providing a perspective to offset the [anti-marijuana propaganda](#) from the government; lobby state and federal legislators in support of reform legislation; publish a regular [newsletter](#); host an informative web site; and serve as the umbrella group for a regional network of citizen-activists committed to ending marijuana prohibition and legalizing marijuana.

Along with their parent organization, W-V-NORML will sponsor public advertising campaigns to better educate the public about marijuana and alternatives to current marijuana policy; provide legal assistance and support to victims of the current laws; and promote relevant research.

W-V-NORML supports the right of adults to use marijuana responsibly, whether for [medical](#) or [personal](#) purposes. All penalties, both civil and criminal, should be eliminated for responsible use. W-V-NORML also advocates the legalization of [hemp](#) (non-psychoactive marijuana) for industrial use. **To find out more, like how you can help, call, write or visit our website. You'll be glad you did!**

<continued from STUDENT DRUG TESTING page 1 > known risk factors for drug use ... and poorer attitudes toward school." The Committee also reported that the largest observational study to assess the efficacy of student drug testing "found no association between school-based drug testing and students' report of drug use."

The Committee further determined that:

- Standard drug tests do not detect many of the substances most frequently abused by adolescents, including alcohol, ecstasy (MDMA), or inhalants.
- Mandatory drug testing may motivate adolescents to switch from using drugs with relatively low morbidity and mortality, such as marijuana, to those that pose greater danger (such as inhalants), but are undetectable by screening tests.
- Widespread implementation of drug testing may also inadvertently encourage more students to abuse alcohol, which is associated with a greater number of adolescent deaths than any other illicit drug.
- Few physicians support school-based testing of adolescents for drugs; a national survey of physicians found that 83 percent disagreed with drug testing in public schools.
- Few schools possess the necessary funds or the expertise to properly implement drug tests or interpret their results correctly.

Since 2005, the US Department of Education has appropriated more than \$20 million to public school districts to pay for random drug testing programs.

*For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Senior Policy Analyst, at (202) 483-5500. Full text of the study, "Testing for drugs of abuse in children and adolescents: Addendum -- Testing in schools and at home," is available online at: <http://www.pediatrics.org/cgi/content/full/119/3/627>*

<continued from MINORITIES, page 1 > as likely as whites to be detained before arraignment while Hispanics were nearly twice as likely. In addition, both groups were twice as likely as whites to be convicted on pot charges.

Compared to Caucasians, African-Americans were four times as likely and Hispanics were three times as likely to receive additional jail time.

"In light of the disparities, we recommend that the NYPD consider scaling back on [the enforcement of] smoking marijuana in public view, ... and that legislators ... consider making smoking marijuana in public a violation and not a misdemeanor," authors concluded.

Although minor marijuana possession offenses are punishable by a civil citation under state law, the possession or use of cannabis in a public place is classified as a criminal misdemeanor. Citywide arrests for public smoking rose from less than 1,000 in 1990 to more than 51,000 in 2000.

In 2006, New York City police arrested approximately 32,000 citizens for the use of cannabis in public -- 87 percent of whom were either African-American or Hispanic.

A previous analysis of marijuana arrest data by the NORML Foundation reported nationwide racial disparities in marijuana law enforcement -- finding that although fewer than 12 percent of all self-reported pot smokers were African-American, they comprised 23% of all marijuana possession arrests.

*For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500. Full text of study, "The race/ethnicity disparity in misdemeanor marijuana arrests in New York City" will appear in the spring 2007 issue of the journal Criminology and Public Policy. The study's lead author, Andrew Golub of the National Development Research Institute, will discuss his findings next week on the NORML Daily AudioStash.*

<continued from ROADSIDE TESTING, page 1 > Zogby International to conduct the poll.

Thirty-six percent of respondents said they supported legalizing marijuana when initially polled.

Public support for taxing and regulating pot jumped to 44 percent with the additional provision of roadside impairment tests. (Investigators noted, however, that this increased support was not uniformly from those who had previously disagreed with the question.)

"With the widespread use of roadside impairment tests, many voters may alter their perceptions regarding the legalization and regulation of cannabis," authors concluded. "Campaigns that educate registered voters about the existence of roadside impairment tests for cannabis have the potential to increase support for reform."

Although police and drug recognition experts in some states have modified Standardized Field Sobriety Tests (SFST) to assess whether drivers may also be under the influence of cannabis, such testing is not yet widely available.

NORML Advisory Board Member Mitch Earleywine, who co-authored the study, said that behavioral testing, such as modified roadside sobriety tests, are preferable to bodily fluid testing for cannabis.

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<continued from previous page> The latter tests, though far more widely utilized, are invasive and typically focus on past use rather than evidence of current impairment, Earleywine said. According to previous studies of on-road crash data, past use of cannabis (as indicated by the presence of marijuana metabolites in the urine) is not associated with an elevated risk of accident. By contrast, drivers who test positive for THC in the blood above 5 ng/ml (indicating recent use of pot) are typically associated with an elevated risk of accident compared to drivers who test negative for cannabis and/or test positive for levels of THC in the blood below 5 ng/ml.

A case-control study published last month in the *Canadian Journal of Public Health* reported that US drivers involved in fatal crashes who had trace levels of cannabis in their blood or urine were less likely to have engaged in risky driving behavior than drivers who tested positive for low levels of alcohol.

*For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Senior Policy Analyst, at (202) 483-5500 or Dale Gieringer, California NORML Coordinator, at (415) 563-5858. Full text of the study, "Roadside sobriety tests and attitudes toward a regulated cannabis market," is available online from the Harm Reduction Journal at: <http://www.harmreductionjournal.com/content/4/1/4/abstract>*

### **Pot Odor Not Sufficient For Warrantless Search, Supreme Court Rules**

**Lake City, UT, USA:** The odor of burning marijuana emanating outside of a home does not grant law enforcement the authority to enter that residence without a warrant to search for contraband, the Utah Supreme Court recently ruled in a 4-1 decision.

The ruling affirms a 2005 Utah Court of Appeals decision determining that police improperly entered a private residence after reportedly smelling "marijuana leaking out of the cracks of the trailer." Writing for the majority, Justice Ronald Nehring opined that only a limited number of circumstances - - such as the imminent destruction of evidence -- create exigent circumstances to justify a warrantless search.

"We decline to pare back a fundamental constitutional guarantee where the commission of an offense -- in this case, smoking marijuana -- involves as its incidental but inevitable consequence the destruction of evidence," the Court determined. "Presumably, even if some of the marijuana was destroyed through the process of smoking while law

enforcement sought a warrant, some evidence of the drug use would linger in the form of residue, unsmoked marijuana.. ... [Therefore,] the aroma of marijuana must be accompanied by some evidence that the suspects are disposing of the evidence, as opposed to casually consuming it, before law enforcement officials may be lawfully justified in claiming the benefit of the exigent circumstances exception."

A 2004 paper published in the journal *Law and Human Behavior* reported that marijuana's odor is seldom strong enough to be detected by law enforcement outside of a home and/or the trunk of an automobile.

*For more information, please contact Keith Stroup, NORML Legal Counsel, at (202) 483-5500. Full text of the decision, *Utah v. Duran*, is available online at:*

<http://www.utcourts.gov/opinions/supopin/Duran030907.pdf>

### **Zogby Poll: Majority Of Americans Back Removing Criminal Penalties For Adult Pot Use 35 Years Later, Half Of All Americans Still Support Shafer Commission's Recommendations**

**Washington, DC, USA:** A slight majority of Americans support amending federal law to remove "criminal penalties" for the personal use of marijuana by adults," according to a national poll of 1,078 likely voters by Zogby International and commissioned by the NORML Foundation.

Forty-nine percent of respondents - including 57 percent of men - said they would support "a law in Congress that would eliminate federal penalties for the personal use of marijuana by adults and allow states to adopt their own policies on marijuana."

This proposal, commonly known as 'decriminalization,' was first recommended to Congress by the US National Commission on Marihuana (sic) and Drug Abuse (aka The Shafer Commission) 35 years ago today, on March 22, 1972.

Forty-eight percent of those polled by Zogby said they would oppose such a law. Three percent were undecided.

The poll has a margin of error of +/-3 percentage points.

Respondents' support for marijuana law reform was  
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<continued from previous page> strongly influenced by age and political affiliation. More than half of Americans (52 percent) between the ages of 30 and 64 supported decriminalizing pot, while only 45 percent of those under age 30 and 43 percent of seniors endorsed it.

Among those who identified themselves as political Independents, 62 percent supported federal decriminalization legislation, as did 51 percent of Democrats. Only 37 percent of Republicans supported eliminating federal penalties for minor marijuana offenses.

Respondents' opinions were also influenced by educational level and ethnicity. Fifty-three percent of those polled who had obtained college degrees said they backed decriminalization versus only 44 percent of those without college diplomas.

A majority of whites (51 percent) and nearly half of African Americans (49 percent) said that they supported decriminalization, while support among Hispanics was only 26 percent.

The poll found little difference in attitudes among parents (48 percent support) and non-parents (50 percent support) on the issue. Americans' views did not vary significantly by region.

Gender and holding a belief in God significantly influenced respondents' opinions. Among those polled, 57 percent of men said they supported removing criminal pot penalties versus only 41 percent of women. Of those who reported having no religious affiliation, 63 percent supported decriminalization legislation.

NORML Executive Director Allen St. Pierre noted that the poll was one of several recent surveys indicating growing support for ending cannabis prohibition. "This latest poll confirms an 80 percent upward swing in public opinion since 1990 in favor of ending the war on cannabis consumers," he said.

A previous Zogby poll of 1,004 likely voters commissioned last year by the NORML Foundation reported that 46 percent of Americans support allowing states to regulate marijuana in a manner similar to alcohol.

*For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, Executive Director of the NORML Foundation, or Paul Armentano, NORML Senior Policy Analyst, at (202) 483-5500.*

### **Marijuana Therapy Prevalent Among HIV/AIDS Patients, Study Says**

**Sydney, Australia:** A substantial portion of patients living with HIV or AIDS use cannabis

therapeutically to treat symptoms of the disease and/or the side-effects of prescription medications, according to survey data published in the current issue of the journal *AIDS Care*.

Investigators at the University of New South Wales, National Center in HIV Research, conducted face-to-face interviews with 408 patients with HIV or AIDS over a one-year period. Of the 408 participants, 244 (59.8 percent) reported having used cannabis during the past six months. Of these patients, 108 (44.3 percent) said they used it therapeutically.

Those who used cannabis medically were on average younger in age, had lower incomes, and had higher CD4/T-cell counts compared with those who reported only using pot recreationally.

Clinical trial data published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* in 2003 also reported that cannabis use by HIV patients was associated with increased CD4/T-cell counts compared to non-users.

"These results show that a substantial proportion of people living with HIV/AIDS use marijuana for therapeutic purposes, despite substantial legal barriers, suggesting [that] marijuana represents another treatment option in their health management," authors concluded.

Most recently, investigators at San Francisco General Hospital and the University of California's Pain Clinical Research Center reported in the journal *Neurology* that inhaling cannabis significantly reduced HIV-associated neuropathy compared to placebo.

Previous surveys in the US and Canada indicate that an estimated 25 to 29 percent of HIV/AIDS patient use cannabis therapeutically. Survey data presented in 2004 at the XV International AIDS Conference in Thailand reported that HIV/AIDS patients who used medical marijuana were 3.3 times more likely to adhere to their anti-retroviral therapy regimens than non-cannabis users.

*For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Senior Policy Analyst, at (202) 483-5500. Full text of the study, "Marijuana as therapy for people living with HIV/AIDS: Social and health aspects," appears in the February issue of AIDS Care.*

### **New Mexico Legislature Approves Medical Marijuana Bill**

**Santa Fe, NM, USA:** The New Mexico legislature approved legislation this week that seeks to establish a statewide medicinal cannabis

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On Tuesday, the House of Representatives approved Senate Bill 523, a substitute bill that is virtually identical to the "Lynn and Erin Compassionate Use Act." House members had narrowly rejected a similar proposal last week.

On Wednesday, the Senate concurred with a minor House floor amendment, sending the bill to the governor for his approval.

As proposed, Senate Bill 523 mandates the state Department of Health by October 1, 2007, to promulgate rules governing the use and distribution of medical cannabis to state-authorized patients. These rules shall address the creation of state-licensed "cannabis production facilities," the development of a confidential patient registry and a state-authorized marijuana distribution system, and "define the amount of cannabis that is necessary to constitute an adequate supply" for qualified patients.

Governor Bill Richardson, who worked closely with the House to persuade members to reconsider the bill, is expected to sign the measure into law. "This bill will provide much-needed relief for New Mexicans suffering from debilitating diseases while including the proper safeguards to prevent abuse," he said. "I am pleased that the legislature did the right thing, reconsidered this important bill and supported a humane option for New Mexicans who endure some of the most painful diseases imaginable."

If approved, New Mexico will become the twelfth state to enact medical marijuana legislation since 1996, though it will be only the fourth to do so legislatively.

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Senior Policy Analyst, or visit:

<http://www.drugpolicyalliance.org>

## Michigan Democrats Back Medical Marijuana Resolution

**Detroit, MI, USA:** Patients who use cannabis medicinally under a doctor's supervision should not be subject to criminal penalties, according to a resolution unanimously adopted by delegates of Michigan's Democratic Party at the organization's 2007 state convention in Detroit.

Approximately 1,500 delegates backed the resolution, which was introduced by Benzie-County NORML and Michigan NORML.

"There were no dissenting voices whatsoever at the convention," Michigan NORML Executive Director Tim Beck said in an interview on Monday's edition of the NORML AudioStash. "Support for medical marijuana is [now] an official part of the Michigan Democratic Party platform."

Patients who use cannabis with a doctor's recommendation "should not be subject to criminal sanctions," the resolution states. It adds, "[L]icensed medical doctors should not be criminally punished for recommending the medical use of marijuana to seriously ill people."

The unanimous endorsement comes just days after voters in Flint passed a municipal measure shielding medicinal cannabis patients from local prosecution. Flint is the fifth Michigan city since 2004 to pass medical marijuana legislation.

Legislation to enact statewide protections on the possession and use of medicinal cannabis is pending before the Michigan House Judiciary Committee.

For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500 or visit Michigan NORML online at: <http://www.minorml.org>. An interview with Michigan NORML's Tim Beck is available on the March 5, 2007 edition of the NORML Daily AudioStash at: <http://www.normlaudiostash.com>. Text of the resolution is available online at: <http://www.michigandems.com/resolutions.html>.

## Flint Becomes Fifth Michigan City To Pass Medical Pot Law

**Flint, MI, USA:** Flint voters overwhelmingly decided on Tuesday in favor of a municipal initiative shielding medicinal cannabis patients from local prosecution.

Sixty-two percent of Flint voters approved Proposal 1, which amends city law so that the possession of cannabis and cannabis paraphernalia by authorized patients is no longer a criminal offense.

The initiative's proponents, the Flint Coalition for Compassionate Care and Michigan NORML, submitted approximately 2,000 signatures from local voters last August to qualify the measure on the 2007 ballot.

"While we expected to win, the victory margin was rather surprising," said Michigan NORML President Tim Beck. "It seems [that] public support for medical marijuana, at least in Michigan, is now deeply entrenched."

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<continued from previous page> Since 2004, four other Michigan cities -- Ann Arbor, Detroit, Ferndale, and Traverse City -- have each passed similar initiatives.

Backers of the initiative believe that the local efforts will encourage state legislators to consider the issue.

In January, representatives introduced House Bill 4038, which would allow authorized patients under a physician's supervision to possess up to three ounces of cannabis for therapeutic purposes. The bill is now before the House Judiciary Committee.

House members tabled a similar medical marijuana proposal last year.

*For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500 or visit Michigan NORML online at: <http://www.minorml.org>. Additional information on House Bill 4038 is available at NORML's Take Action Center at: <http://capwiz.com/norml2/issues/>.*

## National Commission On Marihuana Celebrates 35th Anniversary

***Congressional commission determined "the criminal law is too harsh a tool" to apply to pot possession. Decrim message is even more applicable today than it was then***

**Washington, DC. USA:** Recommendations to Congress by the National Commission on Marihuana (sic) and Drug Abuse 35-years-ago today that called for ending the criminal arrest and prosecution of adults who possess or use small amounts of marijuana are more applicable today than they were then, says NORML Executive Director Allen St. Pierre.

Thirty-five-years ago, the first – and to date, only – US Congressional Commission to address marijuana and public policy recommended the government amend federal law so that the possession and use of small quantities of cannabis by adults would no longer be a criminal offense. That commission, known as National Commission on Marihuana and Drug Abuse (also known as The Shafer Commission) concluded:

*"[T]he criminal law is too harsh a tool to apply to personal possession even in the effort to discourage use. ... It implies an overwhelming indictment of the behavior which we believe is not appropriate. The actual and potential harm of use of the drug is not great enough to justify intrusion by the criminal law into private behavior, a step which our society takes only with the greatest reluctance."*

The Commission recommended, for the first time, that Congress enact a national policy of marijuana 'decriminalization,' whereby the possession of cannabis for personal use as well as the casual distribution of small amounts of marihuana for little-or-no remuneration would no longer be a criminal offense. However, then-President Richard Nixon rejected the Commission's determinations – electing instead to launch a so-called "War on Drugs," a federal strategy that still exists today.

"In the years since former President Richard Nixon and Congress rejected the Shafer Commission's recommendations, the US government has spent billions of taxpayers' dollars targeting and arresting minor marijuana offenders without achieving any reduction in marijuana use, availability, or demand," St. Pierre says.

He notes that since 1972:

*\* Approximately 16.5 million Americans have been arrested for marijuana violations – more than eighty percent of them on minor possession charges;*

*\* US taxpayers have spent well over \$20 billion dollars enforcing criminal marijuana laws, yet marijuana availability and use among the public remains virtually unchanged;*

*\* Nearly one-quarter of a million Americans have been denied federal financial aid for secondary education because of anti-drug provisions to the Higher Education Act. Most of these applicants were convicted of minor marijuana possession offenses.*

"In 1972, the year the Shafer Commission first recommended decriminalizing small amounts of marijuana, the FBI reported that fewer than 300,000 Americans were arrested for pot," St. Pierre says.

"Today, nearly 800,000 Americans are arrested annually on marijuana charges – an increase of more than 150 percent. In addition, nearly 90 percent of those arrested today are charged with simple possession only – the very practice that the Commission demanded Congress end 35 years ago."

St. Pierre concludes: "Currently, one in every eight inmates incarcerated for drug crimes is behind bars for pot, at a cost to taxpayers of more than \$1 billion per year. It is apparent that the Commission's 35-year-old common-sense solution to decriminalize cannabis is even more applicable today than it was then. It is time for the new Democrat Congress to revisit this issue and bring

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## News From *your* local affiliate of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws

an end to the needless arrest and incarceration of otherwise law abiding citizens who consume marijuana in the privacy of their own home."

*For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500 or visit:*

[http://www.norml.org/index.cfm?Group\\_ID=7216](http://www.norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=7216)  
*Additional audio commentary on the Shafer Commission report, including an exclusive interview with former Commission member Dr. Thomas Ungerlieder, is available on NORML's Daily AudioStash at: <http://www.normlaudiostash.com>*

### Richard Nixon On Pot

#### ***Previously Unheard Nixon Recordings To Be Broadcast On NORML's Daily AudioStash***

**Washington, DC, USA:** Former President Richard Nixon believed that Americans who advocated for marijuana law reform "weren't good people" and repeatedly warned members of the National Commission on Marihuana (sic) and Drug Abuse not to issue findings that could appear to be "soft on marijuana," according to never-before aired Presidential audio-tapes to be broadcast today on NORML's Daily AudioStash, online at: <http://www.normlaudiostash.com>.

The audio, made available to the public for the first time on the NORML AudioStash, captures several conversations between Nixon, his staff, and former Pennsylvania Gov. Raymond P. Shafer – who headed the 1972 Marihuana Commission.

In the recordings, Nixon and Shafer consistently voice their objections to legalizing or regulating marijuana use in a manner similar to alcohol – a proposal that they note was then-favored by several members of Congress. Nixon also warns Shafer about making any recommendations that might appear to run contrary to the administration's anti-drug position.

"The thing that is so terribly important here is not to appear that the Commission [is] frankly just a bunch of do-gooders ... that would come out with something that would run counter to what the

Congress feels and ... what we're planning to do," Nixon told Shafer on September 9, 1971.

He added, "On the marijuana thing, I have very strong convictions. ... Just on my own analysis, once you start down that road, the chances of going further down that road are great. I know there's a lot [of experts] who disagree with that ... because of the people that are, frankly, promoting it [but] they're not good people."

Separate recordings taped on March 21, 1972 – the day before the Commission released its findings – indicate that the White House intended to bury the report's findings. Speaking with his domestic policy advisor John Ehrlichman, Nixon affirmed that his administration would not endorse the Commission's recommendations to decriminalize the private possession and use of pot.

**President Nixon:** What is your feeling about this damned report, this thing?

**John D. Ehrlichman:** A lousy report.

**President Nixon:** Can we give an inch on this?

**Ehrlichman:** No, sir. No, sir. There is no place—

**President Nixon:** How was he able to sell all that [inaudible].

**Ehrlichman:** Well, I'll never understand what went on in that commission, 'cause this guy, for instance, from Rockford is a —

**President Nixon:** John Howard [inaudible].

**Ehrlichman:** —rock-ribbed conservative.

**President Nixon:** Well, what do you think about legalizing the use and possession of marijuana?

**Ehrlichman:** It's a crazy rule. What they've done is they've come half way. It's this, it's like liquor.

There would be no law against consuming liquor at home, but there'd be a law against selling it. Now how the hell can you make that work?

**President Nixon:** Well, I made it clear enough to him that I don't endorse it.

**Ehrlichman:** He's not [under] any illusions, ... and I made it very clear to him before he came in here so that he's not under [any] misapprehensions.

*To hear these and other audio transcripts, please visit <http://www.normlaudiostash.com>.*



