



DOJ To Federal Prosecutors: Do Not Focus Resources On Medical Marijuana

Washington, DC, USA: United States Deputy Attorney General David Ogden issued a memorandum to federal prosecutors on Monday directing them to not "focus federal resources ... on individuals whose actions are in clear and unambiguous compliance with existing state laws providing for the medical use of marijuana."

The directive upholds a campaign promise by President Obama, who had previously pledged that he was "not going to be using Justice Department resources to try to circumvent state laws on this issue."

Commenting on the directive, NORML Executive Director Allen St. Pierre said: "We applaud the administration for discouraging the use of federal resources to improperly target and prosecute state-authorized medical marijuana patients and their providers. However, this directive ushers a change in policy rather than a change in law. A better solution would be for Congress to move expeditiously to pass House Bill 2835, The Medical Marijuana Patient Protection Act of 2009, which would ensure – once and for all – that medical cannabis patients in states that have

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Massachusetts: Legislature To Debate Marijuana Regulation Measure

Boston, MA, USA: State lawmakers will hear testimony next week in support of taxing and regulating the commercial production and distribution of marijuana for adults age 21 and older.

Members of the Massachusetts Joint Committee on Revenue are scheduled to hear House Bill 2929, 'An Act to Regulate and Tax the Cannabis Industry,' on Wednesday, October 14, at 10 am in Room B2 of the State House. House Bill 2929, along with its companion bill SB 1801, were introduced by request in March.

NORML founder and Legal Counsel Keith Stroup will testify in favor of the measure – along with NORML Advisory Board member Dr. Lester Grinspoon (Harvard Medical School *emeritus*) and members of NORML's state affiliate, the Massachusetts Cannabis Reform Coalition.

"Marijuana use is not a harmless substance. But this fact is precisely why its commercial production and distribution ought to be controlled

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Pot Arrests Responsible For Majority Of Marijuana Treatment Referrals

Arlington, VA, USA: Nearly six out of ten individuals enrolled in drug treatment for marijuana were referred there by the criminal justice system, according to a new report issued by the US Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

"In 2007, the criminal justice system was the largest single source of referrals to the substance abuse treatment system," states the report, entitled "Substance Abuse Treatment Admissions Referred by the Criminal Justice System." "[T]he majority of these referrals were from parole and probation offices."

Fifty-six percent of individuals in drug treatment for marijuana were referred there by the criminal justice system, up from 48 percent in 1992. Overall, 37 percent of all drug treatment admissions were based upon criminal justice referrals.

Commenting on the statistics, NORML Deputy Director Paul Armentano said: "These figures

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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 of Marijuana Laws

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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**

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 BRITs BALMY?, page 1 > approved its use will no longer have to fear arrest or prosecution from federal law enforcement agencies."

Introduced in June, HB 2835 has 29 co-sponsors. The measure awaits action from the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. *For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500. Additional information regarding HB 2835 is available online from NORML's Take Action Center at: <http://capwiz.com/norml2/issues/>.*

California: L.A. District Attorney Intends To Prosecute "100 Percent" Of County's Medical Marijuana Dispensaries

Los Angeles, California, USA: Los Angeles County District Attorney Steven Cooley has announced that he will prosecute the proprietors of any southern California medical marijuana dispensary that engages in over-the-counter sales of cannabis. It has been estimated that as many as 800 such facilities are presently operating in L.A. County.

"The vast, vast, vast majority – about 100 percent – of dispensaries in Los Angeles County and the city are operating illegally," Cooley told the *Los Angeles Times*. "The time is right to deal with this problem."

Cooley publicly announced his intent hours after attending a conference sponsored by the California Narcotics Officers Association (CNOA) entitled "Eradication of Medical Marijuana Dispensaries in the City of Los Angeles and Los Angeles County."

In a September 2009 white paper published by the CNOA, it alleged that cannabis "has never (been) proven to be medically beneficial and, in fact, is much more likely to harm one's health."

The paper further alleged, "[O]nly about two percent of those using crude marijuana for medicine are critically ill. ... (Medicinal) marijuana is being abused by people who have no serious medical condition and simply like to be intoxicated."

District Attorney Cooley also threatened to target physicians who he believes to be inappropriately issuing recommendations to patients.

Cooley said that medicinal cannabis "collectives," which he defined as operations where the members "must raise their own marijuana and can only recoup their costs," would not be targeted.

NORML Executive Director Allen St. Pierre criticized D.A. Cooley and the CNOA's actions. "Neither D.A.

Cooley nor the CNOA possess any expertise in either tax matters or making medical diagnoses," he said. "Rather than driving these operations underground, law enforcement would be better served working with the patient community to enact guidelines that promote public safety and regulated patient access." *For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500 or Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org.*

New Hampshire: Senate Fails To Override Medical Marijuana Veto

Concord, NH, USA: Senate lawmakers fell two votes shy of the two-thirds support necessary to override the veto of a bill that sought to allow for the limited use of medical marijuana by state-authorized patients.

Senators voted 14 to 10 on Wednesday in favor of overriding a July veto by Democrat Gov. John Lynch, who argued that any use of marijuana was in violation of federal law. Supporters of the bill needed 16 Senate votes to override the Governor's veto.

The House had previously voted 240 to 115 to override the Governor. If passed, New Hampshire would have become the fourteenth state since 1996 to enact legislation allowing for the use of medical marijuana by state-qualified patients. New Hampshire's law would have been the most restrictive of any state that has enacted medical marijuana legislation. *For more information, please visit: <http://nhcompassion.org>.*

Maine: Voters To Decide Next Week On Medical Marijuana Expansion Measure

Augusta, ME, USA: Voters will decide on Tuesday whether to approve a statewide ballot proposal that seeks to amend the state's decade-old medical marijuana law.

If enacted, Proposition 5: the Maine Marijuana Medical Act, would expand existing state law by establishing a confidential patient registry, and by allowing for the creation of non-profit state-licensed nonprofit dispensaries to assist in the distribution of medical cannabis to qualified patients.

To date three states – California, New Mexico, and Rhode Island – allow for the establishment of medicinal cannabis dispensaries. If passed, Prop. 5

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<continued from previous page> would also expand the list of qualifying conditions for which a physician may recommend medicinal cannabis. The proposal's proponents gathered over 55,000 signatures from Maine voters to place the issue on the 2009 ballot.

In 1999, 61 percent of state voters approved the physician-supervised use of medical marijuana. However, the law did not establish a state identification registry for qualified patients, nor did it address regulating the distribution of medical marijuana.

Under state law, patients with a doctor's permission may legally possess up to two and one-half ounces of marijuana and/or up to three mature marijuana plants for medicinal purposes. *For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500, or visit: <http://www.mainepatientsrights.org>.*

Pot Compounds Effective For Treatment Of Neuropathic Pain, Study Says

Athens, GA, USA: Cannabinoids provide significant pain relief to patients suffering from neuropathy, according to a review published in the October issue of the journal *Neurotherapeutics*.

Investigators from the University of Georgia, Science and Behavior Program reviewed the analgesic properties of cannabis and cannabis-based agonists in over three dozen preclinical and clinical trials.

Researchers reported, "During the last two decades, a large number of research articles have demonstrated the efficacy of cannabinoids and modulators ... in suppressing neuropathic pain."

They concluded: "Clinical studies largely reaffirm that cannabinoids show efficacy in suppressing diverse neuropathic pain states in human. ... The present review suggests that cannabinoids show promise for treatment of neuropathic pain in humans either alone or as an add-on to other therapeutic agents."

Neuropathy is a debilitating form of chronic pain resulting primarily from nerve injury. Patients suffering from neuropathic pain seldom respond favorably to conventional analgesics, including opiates and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs). *For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, "Cannabinoids as pharmacotherapies for neuropathic*

pain: from the bench to the bedside," appears in Neurotherapeutics. Additional information on cannabis and neuropathy appears in NORML's booklet Emerging Clinical Applications for Cannabis," available online at: http://www.norml.org//index.cfm?Group_ID=7786.

<continued from MARIJUANA REGULATION, page 1 > and regulated by the state in manner similar to the licensed distribution of alcohol and cigarettes – two legal substances that cause far greater harm to the individual user and to society as a whole than cannabis ever could," says Stroup. "House Bill 2929 is a fiscally conservative, common sense proposal that will raise revenue, promote public safety, and limit young people's access to marijuana. It seeks to bring control to Massachusetts' untaxed, unregulated marijuana market and I encourage lawmakers to vote 'yes' on HB 2929."

For more information, please contact Keith Stroup, NORML Legal Counsel, or Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500. Further information on HB 2929 is available at: <http://capwiz.com/norml2/issues/alert/?alertid=12975651> or at: <http://www.cantaxreg.com>.

California: Lawmakers Hold Historic Hearing On Marijuana Legalization

Sacramento, CA, USA: State lawmakers heard testimony on Wednesday in support of taxing and regulating the commercial production and distribution of marijuana for adults age 21 and older.

Members of the California Assembly Committee on Public Safety called for the hearing, entitled "Examining the Fiscal and Legal Implication of the Legalization and Regulation of Marijuana." The hearing was chaired by Assemblyman Tom Ammiano (D-San Francisco), sponsor of Assembly Bill 390, the Marijuana Control, Regulation, and Education Act.

California NORML Coordinator Dale Gieringer urged the Committee to stop arresting adults who consume marijuana responsibly. "The laws against marijuana wrongly criminalize millions of otherwise law-abiding Californians," he said. "Marijuana should be legal for the same reason that alcohol, tobacco, caffeine and other substances are legal: (1) millions of Californians value and enjoy its use; (2) their use poses no inordinate hazards to society; (3) the prohibition of marijuana artificially

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<continued from previous page> creates crime and black-market traffic in the same way as alcohol prohibition and (4) deprives our economy of legal business and revenues."

NORML Deputy Director Paul Armentano added: "The criminal prohibition of marijuana provides law enforcement and state regulators with no legitimate market controls. This absence of state and local government controls jeopardizes rather than promotes public safety. I urge this Committee to move forward with the enactment of sensible regulations for legalizing marijuana."

"There is a gravitas to this issue now," said Assemblyman Ammiano at a press conference prior to the hearing. "It is inevitable that there will be some change in the way marijuana is viewed legally." *For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org.*

Colorado: Breckenridge Voters To Decide Next Week On Eliminating Pot Penalties

Breckenridge, CO, USA: Voters will decide on Tuesday whether to approve a municipal initiative to eliminate penalties on the adult possession of cannabis.

If approved, Measure 2F would amend the town code to remove all criminal and civil penalties, including fines, on the private possession of up to one ounce of marijuana. Passage of the initiative would also eliminate local penalties prohibiting the possession of cannabis paraphernalia by those age 21 or older.

Proponents of the measure, Sensible Breckenridge, gathered 1,400 signatures from registered voters to place the measure on the municipal ballot.

In 2006, over 70 percent of Breckenridge voters endorsed Amendment 44, an unsuccessful statewide ballot initiative that sought to eliminate minor marijuana possession penalties. *For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500 or visit: <http://www.sensiblecolorado.org>.*

Gallup: Majority Of West Coast Voters Back Marijuana Legalization

Princeton, NJ, USA: A majority of west coast voters, and 44 percent of the nation, are "in favor of making marijuana legal," according to national poll

of 1,013 likely voters published this week by Gallup. Fifty-three percent of west coast voters said that they supported regulating marijuana, while 46 percent said they opposed the idea. Regional support for legalization was second highest on the east coast, where 44 percent of respondents backed legalizing pot. Among self-described "liberals," 78 percent endorsed legalization, as did a majority of "Democrats" and half of "Independents." By contrast, only 28 percent of self-identified "Republicans" supported amending marijuana laws.

According to polling service, which has been posing the marijuana legalization question to likely voters since 1970, national support for the issue has never been higher. In 2005, the last time Gallup posed the question, only 36 percent of Americans said they backed legalization.

Among women voters, support for legalization has risen 12 percent since 2005.

The Gallup poll results echo those of separate national polls conducted this year by Zogby, ABC News, CBS News, Rasmussen Reports, and the California Field Poll – all of which reported greater public support for marijuana legalization than ever before.

Responding to the Gallup poll results, NORML Executive Director Allen St. Pierre said, "Public support for replacing the illicit marijuana market with a legally regulated, controlled market similar to alcohol, complete with age restrictions and quality controls, continues to grow nationally, and has already achieved majority support on the west coast – where many voters are already familiar with the state-licensed use and, in some cases, sale of medical cannabis."

He added, "As voters and legislators continue to look for alternative ways to raise revenue for public services and reduce law enforcement costs in this troubled economy, we expect Americans' support for regulating cannabis to only grow stronger in the years to come." *For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500.*

<continued from MARIJUANA TREATMENT, page 1 > make it clear that it is not marijuana use *per se* that is driving these treatment admission rates; it is marijuana *prohibition* that is primarily responsible. These people for the most part are not 'addicts' in any true sense of the word. Rather, they are ordinary Americans who have experienced the

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<continued from previous page> misfortune of being busted for marijuana who are forced to choose between rehab or jail."

Treatment statistics published by the federal government this past spring reported that over 37 percent of the estimated 288,000 thousand people who entered drug treatment for pot in 2007 had *not* reported using it in the 30 days previous to their admission. Another 16 percent of those admitted said that they'd used marijuana three times or fewer in the month prior to their admission.

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org.

Maternal Tobacco and Alcohol Use, But Not Marijuana, Associated With Psychotic Symptoms In Offspring, Study Says

Wales, United Kingdom: The maternal use of tobacco and alcohol during pregnancy is linked with increased incidences of psychotic symptoms in adolescents, according to the results of a longitudinal study published in the October issue of *The British Journal of Psychiatry*.

Investigators at the University of Bristol in Great Britain assessed whether maternal use of tobacco, alcohol, or cannabis during pregnancy increased the risk of psychotic symptoms in their offspring. Researchers examined the drug use habits of the mothers of over 6,300 adolescents – approximately 12 percent of which exhibited some symptoms of psychosis.

Authors concluded: "Frequency of maternal tobacco use during pregnancy was associated with increased risk of suspect or definite psychotic symptoms (in offspring.) Maternal alcohol use shows a non-linear association with psychotic symptoms, with this effect almost exclusively in the offspring of women drinking >21 units (approximately a half-pint of beer or a glass of wine) weekly. Maternal cannabis was not associated with psychotic symptoms."

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, "Maternal tobacco, cannabis and alcohol use during pregnancy and risk of adolescent psychotic symptoms in offspring," appears in the British Journal of Psychiatry.

Detection Of THC In Blood Not Necessarily Indicative Of Recent Pot Use, Study Says

Baltimore, MD, USA: Trace levels of delta-9-THC, the primary psychoactive ingredient in marijuana, may be identifiable in the blood of heavy cannabis users for up to seven days after their drug use has ceased, according to clinical trial data to be published in the journal *Addiction*.

Investigators at the National Institutes of Health in Baltimore quantified blood THC concentrations in 25 chronic cannabis users over a period of seven days of continuous monitored abstinence.

Researchers reported, "On day seven, six full days after entering the unit, six participants still displayed detectable THC (blood) concentrations. ... The highest observed THC concentrations on admission (day 1) and day seven were 7.0 and 3.0 ng/ml, respectively."

They concluded, "Substantial whole blood THC concentrations persist multiple days after drug discontinuation in heavy chronic cannabis users."

Previous studies had indicated that low levels of THC typically remain present in the blood of chronic users for a period of time not exceeding 48 hours.

Investigators noted that all of the subjects who tested positive for the presence of THC in their blood on day seven were female. Body mass index did not correlate with time until the last THC-positive specimen.

Researchers also noted that several subjects continued to test positive for THC in their blood even after initially testing negative for it on day one.

Commenting on the study, NORML Deputy Director Paul Armentano said, "These findings challenge the conventional wisdom that the detection of low levels of THC in blood are necessarily associated with recent cannabis use or impairment. In particular, these findings call into question the use of per se DUI drug driving laws, which presently treat drivers with any levels of THC in their blood as criminally impaired. These results indicate, once again, that drug testing results possess limited value when making judgments regarding marijuana use or impairment." *For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, "Do Delta(9)-tetrahydrocannabinol concentrations indicate recent use in chronic cannabis users," will appear in Addiction.*

Cannabis "Withdrawal" Syndrome Short-Lived, Affects Few, Study Says

Halle, Germany: Symptoms associated with so-called "cannabis withdrawal" among marijuana "dependent" subjects are relatively mild, short-lived, and "may only be expected in a subgroup of ... patients," according to the results of a prospective clinical study to be published in the journal *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*.

Investigators at four separate German universities assessed the self-reported withdrawal symptoms of 73 subjects diagnosed with "cannabis dependence."

"The intensity of most self-reported symptoms peaked on day one and decreased subsequently," authors reported. "Most symptoms ranged on average between low to moderate intensity. The most frequently mentioned physical symptoms of strong or very strong intensity on the first day were sleeping problems (21 percent), sweating (28 percent), hot flashes (21 percent), and decreased appetite (15 percent). ... Other often highly rated psychological symptoms included restlessness (20 percent), nervousness (20 percent), and sadness (19 percent)."

Overall, less than 50 percent of the trial subjects reported physical or psychological withdrawal symptoms.

"Only a subgroup experienced a cannabis withdrawal syndrome of clinical significance despite the fact that all patients had a diagnosis of cannabis dependence according to DSM-IV criteria," investigators concluded. "Significant associations of personality characteristics with psychological withdrawal symptoms suggest that at least some of the elevated symptoms are related to factors other than cannabis consumption."

The trial is the first study to prospectively investigate cannabis withdrawal symptoms in an inpatient sample of cannabis dependent subjects.

A 1999 review by the US National Academy of Sciences, Institute of Medicine reported that marijuana's withdrawal symptoms, when identified, are typically "mild and subtle" compared to the profound physical and psychological syndromes associated with most other intoxicants, including alcohol, nicotine, and caffeine.

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at:

paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, "Cannabis withdrawal severity and short-term course among cannabis-dependent adolescent and young adult inpatients," will appear in Drug and Alcohol Dependence.

Pot Smokers Likely To Increase Their Use Of Alcohol During Abstinence, Study Says

New Haven, CT, USA: Abstaining from marijuana is associated with an increased use of alcohol, according to clinical trial data to be published in the journal *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*.

Investigators from the Yale School of Medicine and the University of Vermont assessed the alcohol intake of 28 daily marijuana users who voluntarily abstained from pot for a period of eight days.

"Seventeen of the 28 participants (61 percent) increased their alcohol use," researchers reported.

In particular, investigators reported that daily marijuana users with a history of "past alcohol abuse or dependence" substituted alcohol to a much greater degree than those without such a diagnosis. Seven of the 28 participants in the study reported previous problems with alcohol dependence.

Researchers reported that especially light drinkers were also likely to experience an uptick in alcohol consumption while abstaining from cannabis.

"Another subgroup of daily marijuana users that especially substituted alcohol was comprised of those who consumed alcohol at levels below the median number of drinks (per) day during the baseline period," authors wrote. "This finding ... suggests that marijuana users who are also moderate alcohol drinkers should be advised before initiating marijuana abstinence that although their alcohol use might not be problematic, they are still at high risk for increasing their alcohol use."

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, "Daily marijuana users with past alcohol problems increase alcohol consumption during marijuana abstinence," will appear in Drug and Alcohol Dependence.



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

Canadian 'Pot Prince' In Custody, Awaiting Extradition To U.S. Emery To face Up To Five Years In Prison For Marijuana Seed Sales

Vancouver, British Columbia: Longtime Canadian cannabis activist and publisher Marc Emery was taken into custody this week to await extradition to the United States on charges of conspiracy to manufacture marijuana.

United States law enforcement officials indicted Emery in August of 2004 for selling marijuana seeds to US customers. Emery had been previously convicted by a Canadian court in 1998 for selling pot seeds and was sentenced to pay a \$2,000 fine.

Upon issuing the indictment, former US DEA administrator Karen Tandy proclaimed that Emery's arrest struck "a significant blow to the marijuana legalization movement. ... Drug legalization lobbyists now have one less pot of money to rely on." Under a plea agreement, Emery faces up to five years in US prison. Under Canadian law, he would face no more than one month in jail (and probation), if convicted.

For nearly two decades, Emery operated a highly visible seed bank in Vancouver. Emery declared hundreds of thousands of dollars in taxes to the Canadian government, and officials at Health Canada – which oversees the nation's legal medicinal cannabis program – frequently advised patients to purchase his seeds. Virtually all profits from Emery's business ventures were distributed among various national and international drug law reform organizations. *For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500 or visit: <http://www.cannabisculture.com>.*

'Hemperor' Jack Herer Released From Hospital

Portland, OR, USA: Longtime marijuana activist Jack Herer has been discharged from a Portland, Oregon hospital and is now recovering at a nearby

*** NOTE! The Willamette Valley NORML
Public meeting * Happens every 4th
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state nursing facility. Herer was hospitalized for nearly one month after suffering a severe heart attack in early September. Herer had spent much of his hospitalization in the intensive care unit, and spent several days in a medically induced coma. Herer's condition "had improved enough" so that he could be moved, the website OregonLive.com reported this week. However, news reports caution that he is still unable to "really communicat[e] in any way."

Herer, 70, is the author of the book, *The Emperor Wears No Clothes*, and is credited by many as the founder of the modern-day hemp movement. Published in the mid-1980s, his book has sold over 600,000 copies worldwide. Herer was the subject of the critically acclaimed 1989 documentary, "The Emperor of Hemp," which documented his multi-decade involvement in marijuana law reform activism.

Herer suffered a heart attack on September 12, shortly after delivering a speech at the 2009 Portland Hempstalk festival. *NORML offers Jack Herer and his family its best wishes for a speedy and full recovery. For more on Jack Herer, visit - www.jackherer.com*

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