

SB

32

file 4

The hearing letter



Alaska State Legislature
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION
AND SOCIAL SERVICES

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

POUCH V
JUNEAU, AK 99811
465-3759

March 18, 1988

<FIRST> <LAST>
<ADDRESS>
<CITY>

Dear <FIRST>,

Thank you for contacting us regarding the marijuana recriminalization issue. House Bill 55 and the Senate version of that bill, CSSB 32 (HESS), are presently in the House HESS Committee. We will be hearing CSSB 32 (HESS) in the next few weeks.

During that hearing our Committee will consider whether an adult's right to possess less than four ounces of marijuana in the home is outweighed by the ills associated with marijuana use. In 1975, the Alaska Supreme Court in Ravin v. State ruled that there was no adequate justification for State intrusion into citizens' right to privacy by its prohibition of possession of marijuana by an adult for personal consumption in the home, and thus found the possession of a limited amount of marijuana by adults for personal home use to be constitutionally protected.

CSSB 32 (HESS) has a series of "findings" intended to persuade the court that there is new evidence of greater ills associated with marijuana than was available to the court in 1975. This is the crux of the issue since privacy rights can be abridged to control use of dangerous substances such as heroin. There are serious questions as to: the validity and substantiation of these findings; whether they allege serious effects on the public health and not just upon individuals as would be required by the court; and whether the new evidence is in fact new and persuasive enough for the court to overturn its decision. As elected officials we have an obligation to pass laws that are constitutional. We plan an open, objective and rigorous discussion of the findings.

When the bill came to the Committee it was accompanied by supporting information that, by specific request, omitted all information that might cast doubts on the legislative findings. It also did not address all of the findings. We are presently gathering additional information which is objective and comprehensive from the House Research Agency. A hearing will follow receipt of this information.

We will also examine the health effects of marijuana in the context of other legal substances including alcohol and tobacco. While the negative effects of alcohol and tobacco abuse are well known, well documented and often severe, our society not only fails to discourage their use, but in fact encourages it through expensive and pervasive media campaigns which associate alcohol and tobacco with wealth, happiness, youth and sexual appeal. In regard to youth, the penalties for the possession of marijuana are, in most cases, already more serious than for alcohol. Tobacco is freely available to children through vending machines. The "message" is inconsistent. We must find meaningful and truly effective ways to discourage substance use.

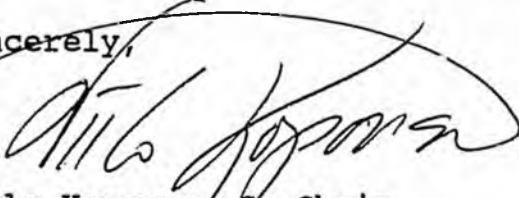
In light of these concerns we also need to determine if the penalties posed in CSSB 32 (HESS) are appropriate to the crime. Moving from a constitutionally protected basic right to imprisonment of up to ninety days may be excessive, especially given that this act was authored to be more symbol than substance. An even more basic question, over which there is intelligent debate, is whether increasing the penalties will effectively deter use in the first place. It is important to note that currently the sale, intent to sell, delivery, possession in public or in an automobile, or the possession of four ounces or more of marijuana in the home is in all cases either a felony or a misdemeanor. Possession by a minor of any amount is illegal.

The deterrent effect of this bill is further brought into question when the Department of Public Safety states that the law, if passed, would not be enforced. Understandably, the State Troopers need to devote their resources to more serious crimes such as the interdiction of hard drug trafficking. The State would not prosecute most cases due to a backlog of more serious cases. Should the Legislature be passing laws not intended for enforcement at the outset? Would we be entering into a situation where the law would be selectively enforced, which raises serious civil rights questions? What are the true fiscal impacts to the State? These and other questions will be discussed in the hearing.

The most persuasive cry for this legislation comes from those who want to do something about drug abuse by young people. We share this concern and, as a committee, we need to determine if CSSB 32 (HESS) is an effective, appropriate and constitutional means of inhibiting this destructive behavior. It would be tragic if this controversial bill would distract legislative and public attention from educational programs, counseling, crisis intervention and other methods of prevention that have proven records of performance.

We appreciate hearing your views on this subject. Thank you again for contacting us.

Sincerely,



Niilo Koponen, Co-Chair
House HESS Committee



Johnny Ellis, Co-Chair
House HESS Committee

Record#	FIRST	LAST	ADDRESS	CITY	ISSUE
1	David	Elliott	307 W. Manor Ave	Anchorage, AK 99501	pot a
2	Janice	Monigold	2460 Oak Drive	Anchorage, AK 99501	pot a
3	Cory	Benedict	P.O. Box 294	Dillingham, AK 99576	pot a
4	Don	Crandall	1634 Juneau Dr, #A	Anchorage, AK 99501	pot a
5	Glenda	Straube	1318 N Street	Anchorage, AK 99501	pot a
6	Steve	Zone	828 W. Seventh Ave	Anchorage, AK 99501	pot a
7	Lisa	Fitzpatrick	843 W. 11th St., #309	Anchorage, AK 99501	pot a
8	Duke	Russell	1447 Virginai Ct	Anchorage, AK 99501	pot a
9	Carol	Gates-Jensen	8541 Greenhill Way	Anchorage, AK 99502	pot a
10	Rick	Shilanski	Box 165	Dillingham, AK 99576	pot a
11	Carol	Jensen	8451 Greenhill Way	Anchorage, AK 99502	pot a
12	Philip	Roe	Box 811	Dillingham, AK 99576	pot a
13	Paul	Mitchell	1820 Bluegrass Circle	Anchorage, AK 99502	pot a
14	Dana	Armstrong	16605 Davis Street	Eagle River, AK 99577	pot a
15	Jackie	Renton	447 E. 73rd	Anchorage, AK 99518	pot a
16	Patrick	Green	1100 Wilshire, #2	Anchorage, AK 99503	pot a
17	Elyse	Guttenberg	P.O. Box 81622	Fairbanks, AK 99708	pot a
18	Rex	Talley	3201 W. 71st Ave	Anchorage, AK 99503	pot a
19	Steve	Bartee	P.O. Box 230190	Anchorage, AK 99534	pot a
20	Keith	Klemme	6630 E. Tenth	Anchorage, AK 99504	pot a
21	David	Maxell	P.O. Box 81898	Fairbanks, AK 99708	pot a
22	Mike	Speziale	2800 Brookridge Cir	Anchorage, AK 99504	pot a
23	Tom	Kane	P.O. Box 520989	Big Lake, AK 99652	pot a
24	Mary	Bannister	Box 90957	Anchorage, AK 99509	pot a
25	Sandra	Besser	3031 Ester Dome Rd	Fairbanks, AK 99709	pot a
26	Riki	Rockwell	11230 Polar Dr	Anchorage, AK 99516	pot a
27	Tom	Patmor	P.O. Box 124	Clam Gulch, AK 99568	pot a
28	Ben	Cockman	P.O. Box 772414	Eagle River, AK 99577	pot a
29	Jeff	Keener	3641 Sanovik St	Fairbanks, AK 99709	pot a
30	Lloyd	Ystenes	939 Lathrop St, #3	Fairbanks, AK 99701	pot a
31	Everett	Harrison	Box 73125	Fairbanks, AK 99707	pot a
32	kelly	Bartlett	P.O. Box 80423	Fairbanks, AK 99708	pot a
33	Del	Thorngren	758 Ester Loop Road	Ester, AK 99705	pot a
34	Kevin	Horn	P.O. Box 60874	Fairbanks, AK 99706	pot a
35	Ruth	Talley	3201 West 71st Ave	Anchorage, AK 99502	pot a
36	Deirdre	Helfferich	3412 College Rd	Fairbanks, AK 99709	pot a
37	Bonnie	Bond	1100 Wilshire, #2	Anchorage, AK 99503	pot a
38	Terry	Norman	P.O. Box 10166	Fairbanks, AK 99710	pot a
39	Mark	Ingeldinger	2800 Brookridge Cir	Anchorage, AK 99504	pot a
40	Gary	Pearson	P.O. Box 3055	Palmer, AK 99645	pot a
41	Alan	Armbruster	P.O. Box 58509	Fairbanks, AK 99711	pot a
42	Byron	Halterman	P.O. Box 162	Houston, AK 99694	pot a
43	Lynette	Clark	2521 Old Steese Hwy. N.	Fairbanks, AK 99712	pot a
44	Lee	Loomis	Box 3371	Palmer, AK 99645	pot a

45	Marilyn	Stowell	880 Fairweather Dr	Fairbanks, AK 99712	pot a
46	Catherine	Bixby	1750 Evergreen	Juneau, AK 99801	pot a
47	Rick	Parks	Box 1003	Girdwood, AK 99587	pot a
48	Paul	Nichols	HC02 Box 7568	Palmer, AK 99645	pot a
49	Kevin	Apgar	Box 125	Gustavus, AK 99826	pot a
50	Hazel	Lilla	719 Fifth St.	Juneau, AK 99801	pot a
51	Rick	Yoder	Box 1304	Barrow, AK 99723	pot a
52	Tom	Rapp	P.O. Box 267	Palmer, AK 99645	pot a
53	Mary	Spess	2837 Wendy's Way	Anchorage, AK 99503	pot a
54	Steve	Coleman	P.O. Box 33712	Juneau, AK 99803	pot a
55	Lee	Ricketts		Halibut Cove, AK 99603	pot a
56	Phyllis	Balogh	Box 22	Seldovia, AK 99663	pot a
57	Victor	Hiles	Box 1109	Homer, AK 99603	pot a
58	Detricia	Hahn	10819 Spur Hwy, #104	Kenai, AK 99611	pot a
59	Dayton	Butters	Box 1223	Homer, AK 99603	pot a
60	Tim	Moneypenny	Box 3637	Soldotna, AK 99669	pot a
61	Barbara	Reynolds	Box 1866	Homer, AK 99603	pot a
62	Esta	Clemons	Rt. 1 Box 94A	Kenai, AK 99611	pot a
63	Jeff	Wells	Box 1405	Homer, AK 99603	pot a
64	Sam	Kaser	Box 451	Sterling, AK 99672	pot a
65	Erv	Ravin	Box 3219	Homer, AK 99603	pot a
66	Richard	Odgers	Box 880	Kenai, AK 99611	pot a
67	Diana	Raggy	P.O. Box 230653	Anchorage, AK 99523	pot a
68	Sheryl	Judkins	SR 2131-N	Wasilla, AK 99687	pot a
69	Kelsey	Cecil	3600 Minnesota, #E	Anchorage, AK 99503	pot a
70	Jim	Cobis	SR 9320	Kodiak, AK 99615	pot a
71	Peter	Curry	3343 W. 83rd	Anchorage, AK 99502	pot a
72	Rebecca	Custer	P.O. Box 870644	Wasilla, AK 99687	pot a
73	Barrett	Fletcher	Box 575	Homer, AK 99603	pot a
74	Laurie	Knapp	P.O. Box 1851	Kodiak, AK 99615	pot a
75	Rick	Kaminskis	SRB 7460-A	Palmer, AK 99645	pot a
76	Roger	Kennedy	1535 Firth Rd	Wasilla, AK 99687	pot a
77	Brian	Kincaid	Box 118	Palmer, AK 99645	pot a
78	Doris	Pfalmer	P.O. Box 55655	North Pole, AK 99705	pot a
79	Donna	Roelfs	P.O. Box 521287	Big Lake, AK 99652	pot a
80	Claudia	Hutchinson	SR 2131-V	Wasilla, AK 99687	pot a
81	Joe	Buckingham	2837 Wendy's Way	Anchorage, AK 99517	pot a
82	Kim	Elam	P.O. Box 3195	Palmer, AK 99645	pot a
83	Laurence	Weiss	Box 700873	Anchorage, AK 99510	pot a
84	Glen	Williams	4501 Reka Dr, #19	Anchorage, AK 99508	pot a
85	Sallie	Dodd-Butters	Box 1223	Homer, AK 99603	pot a
86	Jack	Polster	1506 Ocean Dr	Homer, AK 99603	pot a
87	Michael	McKernan	1775 Williwaw Way	Wasilla, AK 99687	pot a
88	Tom	Taggart	Box 150	Hyder, AK 99923	pot a
89	David	Vernola	HC 32 Box 3400	Wasilla, AK 99687	pot a
90	Paul	Riggs	127 Behrends, #2	Juneau, AK 99801	pot a
91	Richard	Olson	HCR 64615	Homer, AK 99603	pot a

92	Donna	Wood	4049 Calhoun St	Homer, AK 99603	pot a
93	Janie	Munson	Box 880	Kenai, AK 99611	pot a
94	Pose	Cobis	P.O. Box 2875	Kodiak, AK 99615	pot a
95	Mark	Law	P.O. Box 55971	North Pole, AK 99705	pot a
96	Ray	Dorsey	Box 334	Kenai, AK 99611	pot a
97	Raymond	Lausterer	330 Main St. Loop	Kenai, AK 99611	pot a
98	Robert	Larsen	1750 Evergreen Ave	Juneau, AK 99801	pot a
99	James	Hendryx	1618 Fir Street	Kenai, AK 99611	pot a
100	Betty	Hess	HC 67 Box 1254	Anchor Point, AK 99556	pot f
101	Jerry	Ulmer	1220 R Street	Anchorage, AK 99501	pot f
102	Eldon	Ulmer	5204 Strawberry	Anchorage, AK 99502	pot f
103	Lillian	Ulmer	5204 Strawberry Rd	Anchorage, AK 99502	pot f
104	Normal	Creel	6501 DeBarr Rd	Anchorage, AK 99504	pot f
105	Lori	Smith	4318 Checkmate, #24	Anchorage, AK 99508	pot f
106	Shirlee	Emery	6005 Camden Cir	Anchorage, AK 99504	pot f
107	John	Emery	6005 Camden Circle	Anchorage, AK 99504	pot f
108	Glenn	Clary	6601 E. Sixteenth	Anchorage, AK 99504	pot f
109	Marie	Anderson	1201 West 43rd Ave	Anchorage, AK 99503	pot f
110	Joe	Baginski	6546 Cimarron	Anchorage, AK 99504	pot f
111	Mike	Fransworth	1731 Beaver Pl	Anchorage, AK 99504	pot f
112	Jim	Pinneo	2532 E. 20th	Anchorage, AK 99508	pot f
113	Mike	Murray	6924 Cape Lizburne	Anchorage, AK 99504	pot f
114	Marilyn	Sherman	4841 Folker	Anchorage, AK 99508	pot f
115	Steve	Hooge	1001 Boniface Pkwy, #13C	Anchorage, AK 99504	pot f
116	Phyllis	Platt	1730 Crescent Dr	Anchorage, AK 99508	pot f
117	Ruth	Schwartz	8121 Clear Haven Cir	Anchorage, AK 99507	pot f
118	Valencia	Scruggs	1001 Boniface Pkwy, #17-P	Anchorage, AK 99504	pot f
119	Susan	Manyoky	10018 Marmot	Anchorage, AK 99515	pot f
120	Jerry	Prevo	6401 E. Northern Lts	Anchorage, AK 99504	pot f
121	Gary	Cadd	616 Irwin	Anchorage, AK 99508	pot f
122	Steve	Wells	6600 East 12th	Anchorage, AK 99504	pot f
123	Ray	Dahl	4700 Rabbitt Creek Rd	Anchorage, AK 99516	pot f
124	Dan	Richards	2311 Chandalar	Anchorage, AK 99504	pot f
125	Dennis	Hansen	2863 Redwood Pl	Anchorage, AK 99508	pot f
126	Jacqueline	Bjornstad	6607 Stella Pl	Anchorage, AK 99507	pot f
127	Duane	Oveson	2330 Sue's Way	Anchorage, AK 99516	pot f
128	Mildred	Fogle	1990 Brayton	Anchorage, AK 99507	pot f
129	Tim	Reffner	3014 Sunflower St	Anchorage, AK 99508	pot f
130	Dean	Fatuch	Box 90270	Anchorage, AK 99509	pot f
131	James	Hipsher	2920 Leeward Pl	Anchorage, AK 99516	pot f
132	Loree	Wiltse	Box 101688	Anchorage, AK 99510	pot f
133	Edie	Brooks	13411 Diggins Dr	Anchorage, AK 99515	pot f
134	Anthony	Cuellar	9300 Arlene St, #214	Anchorage, AK 99515	pot f
135	Linda	Creed	P.O. Box 102092	Anchorage, AK 99510	pot f
136	John	Platt	P.O. Box 141789	Anchorage, AK 99514	pot f
137	Donald	May	6105 Eastwood Ct	Anchorage, AK 99504	pot f
138	Kathy	Kimura	12521 Neher Ridge	Anchorage, AK 99516	pot f

139	Terry	Schiller	6540 E. 11th	Anchorage, AK 99504	pot f
140	Lawrence	Helser	13710 Vern Dr	Anchorage, AK 99516	pot f
141	Pam	Robertson	6320 E. 35th	Anchorage, AK 99504	pot f
142	John	Jacobson	Box 3356	Homer, AK 99603	pot f
143	Beverly	Oveson	2330 Sue's Way	Anchorage, AK 99516	pot f
144	Roger	Dunbar	P.O. Box 143	Eagle, AK 99738	pot f
145	Brenda	Rees	2430 Nancy Cir	Anchorage, AK 99516	pot f
146	Heidi	Jacobson	Box 3356	Homer, AK 99603	pot f
147	Roberta	Foster	2752 W. 42nd, #1	Anchorage, AK 99517	pot f
148	Barbara	Desrochers	P.O. Box 61056	Fairbanks, AK 99706	pot f
149	Laurie	Lewis	2610 McRae Rd	Anchorage, AK 99517	pot f
150	Margarite	Felton	Box 1367	Homer, AK 99603	pot f
151	Chris	Pillar	Box 231324	Anchorage, AK 99523	pot f
152	Linda	Millhollon	P.O. Box 74285	Fairbanks, AK 99707	pot f
153	Evelyn	O'Brien	5013 East Northern Lights	Anchorage, AK 99508	pot f
154	Carol	Simpson	Box 1538	Homer, AK 99603	pot f
155	Jerry	Schiller	6540 E. 11th Ave	Anchorage, AK 99504	pot f
156	John	Lyle	Box 83715	Fairbanks, AK 99708	pot f
157	Rhonda	Price	6143 Prosperity, #2	Anchorage, AK 99504	pot f
158	Jim	Reinhart	Mile 5.5 East Rd	Homer, AK 99603	pot f
159	Jacob	Mlynarik	Box 703	Cooper Landing, AK 99572	pot f
160	Veva	Becker	4137 Rosebud Lane	Fairbanks, AK 99709	pot f
161	Lavonne	Baysinger	6921 Lester Lane	Delta Jct., AK 99737	pot f
162	Tom	Baird	P.O. Box 940331	Houston, AK 99694	pot f
163	Shirley	Dean	P.O. Box 86	Douglas, AK 99824	pot f
164	Russ	Adkins	1598 Wolverine Dr	Fairbanks, AK 99709	pot f
165	Chris	Coursey	SR 1734 Eagle River Rd	Eagle River, AK 99577	pot f
166	Jeff	Sperry	17151 Vanover	Eagle River, AK 99577	pot f
167	Mary Jane	Phillips	844 Congressional Dr	Fairbanks, AK 99709	pot f
168	Jay	Vanreed	9731 Vanguard, #5	Anchorage, AK 99507	pot f
169	Shawna	Muchmore	9338 Park View Ct.	Juneau, AK 99801	pot f
170	Karen	Pahoresky	4220 Yukla Circle	Anchorage, AK 99504	pot f
171	Jim & Twilight	Billings	P.O. Box 286	Galena, AK 99741	pot f
172	William	Leight	2400 Scarborough	Anchorage, AK 99504	pot f
173	Sally	Millay	3208 Breese St	Juneau, AK 99801	pot f
174	Vinton & Helen	Edwards	Box 801	Cooper Landing, AK 99572	pot f
175	Harry	Purdy	P.O. Box 149	Galena, AK 99741	pot f
176	Helena	Andree	Box 2690	Homer, AK 99603	pot f
177	Alicia	Watts	9341 Northland	Juneau, AK 99801	pot f
178	Oliver	Felton	Box 1367	Homer, AK 99603	pot f
179	Eileen	Becker	Box 103	Homer, AK 99603	pot f
180	Gerald	O'Brien	5013 E. Northern Lts	Anchorage, AK 99508	pot f
181	Sandy	Spargo	965 Goldbelt	Juneau, AK 99801	pot f
182	Anotnya	Scantlin	7031 Scalero	Anchorage, AK 99507	pot f
183	Phil	Clay	1935 East Rd	Homer, AK 99603	pot f
184	Scott	Eddy	1947 Barlett Dr	Anchorage, AK 99507	pot f
185	Gregory	Diller	10221 Jack Pot Bay Circle	Anchorage, AK 99505	pot f

186	Linda	Sohse	Box 14	Cordova, AK 99574	pot f
187	Grace	Mitchell	P.O. Box 770496	Eagle River, AK 99577	pot f
188	John	Watts	9341 Northland	Juneau, AK 99801	pot f
189	Gary	Hutchison	367 Leann	Fairbanks, AK 99701	pot f
190	Bob	Trani	7760 Glacier Hwy	Juneau, AK 99801	pot f
191	Sydney	Seay	P.O. Box 41	Fairbanks, AK 99707	pot f
192	Donald	Feasel	P.O. Box 2957	Palmer, AK 99645	pot f
193	Mike	Foster	P.O. Box 20716	Juneau, AK 99802	pot f
194	Linda	Gilson	3857 Fairview	Ketchikan, AK 99901	pot f
195	Joan	Heidersdorf	P.O. Box 020658	Juneau, AK 99802	pot f
196	Mary Ellen	Gray	HC02 9313	Palmer, AK 99645	pot f
197	Dona	Clement	Box 34922	Juneau, AK 99803	pot f
198	Michael	Harpold	3050 Fifth Ave	Ketchikan, AK 99901	pot f
199	Ronald	Sedgwick	P.O. Box 2007	Juneau, AK 99803	pot f
200	Rex	Gray	HC02 9313	Palmer, AK 99645	pot f
201	Elizabeth	Allen	P.O. Box 1875	Kenai, AK 99611	pot f
202	Clyde	Johnson	2051 Sea Level Dr, #203	Ketchikan, AK 99901	pot f
203	Robert	Harrington	P.O. Box 208	Galena, AK 99741	pot f
204	Lonita	Wainwright	HC02 7403-A	Palmer, AK 99645	pot f
205	Kerry	Ripplinger	3752 Denali	Ketchikan, AK 99901	pot f
206	Lynda	Adams	P.O. Box 7171	Ketchikan, AK 99901	pot f
207	Mary	Saunders	P.O. Box 3554	Palmer, AK 99645	pot f
208	Mary	Collins	P.O. Box 5997	Ketchikan, AK 99901	pot f
209	Judy	Smith	P.O. Box 7151	Ketchikan, AK 99901	pot f
210	Kenrietta	Cusack	P.O. Box 9047	Ketchikan, AK 99901	pot f
211	Don	Koenigs	Box 674	Petersburg, AK 99833	pot f
212	Kathy	Bolling	P.O. Box 5958	Ketchikan, AK 99901	pot f
213	Myra	Stanton	3817 Fairview Ave	Ketchikan, AK 99901	pot f
214	Robert	Bowers	P.O. Box 8515	Ketchikan, AK 99901	pot f
215	Gary	Grandy	Box 1111	Petersburg, AK 99833	pot f
216	Grace	Kinney	Rt. 1 Box 917	Ketchikan, AK 99901	pot f
217	Bob	Watt	Rt. 2, Box 178	Ketchikan, AK 99901	pot f
218	Ira	Waugaman	828 Congressional	Fairbanks, AK 99709	pot f
219	Paul	Sulley	19305 Andreanof	Eagle River, AK 99577	pot f
220	James & Betty	Wilson	659 Main Street	Ketchikan, AK 99901	pot f
221	Beverly	Dorsher	P.O. Box 3	Douglas, AK 99824	pot f
222	Peggy	Boydston	215 B Kimsham	Sitka, AK 99835	pot f
223	Virginia	Adams	3743 Alaska Ave	Ketchikan, AK 99901	pot f
224	Fran & Sam	Young	537 Tower	Ketchikan, AK 99901	pot f
225	Gerald	Covey	Box 51	Kotzebue, AK 99752	pot f
226	Shirley	Demmert	316 Wortman Loop	Sitka, AK 99835	pot f
227	Donna	Auspaugh	HC04 Box 9011	Palmer, AK 99645	pot f
228	Kris	Fulton	P.O. Box 3522	Kodiak, AK 99615	pot f
229	Jenett	Blood	Box 902	Homer, AK 00603	pot f
230	Lee	Demmert	316 Wortman Loop Rd	Sitka, AK 99835	pot f
231	Lucille	Oligney	70 Steelhead Rd	Fairbanks, AK 99709	pot f
232	Mrs. Lidster		1177 A .ec	North Pole, AK 99705	pot f

233	Susan	Baxter-Sakled	5000 Dartmouth, #3	Fairbanks, AK 99709	pot f
234	Glenn	Lee	P.O. Box 80245	Fairbanks, AK 99708	pot f
235	Mike	Cusack	P.O. Box 9047	Ketchikan, AK 99901	pot f
236	Charlie	Laub	3050 Fifth Ave	Ketchikan, AK 99901	pot f
237	Jim	McGinnis	1000 Lake St. Extention	Sitka, AK 99835	pot f
238	Ted	Ferry	334 Front St.	Ketchikan, AK 99901	pot f
239	Kathleen	Vanhorn	515 Verstovia St.	Sitka, AK 99835	pot f
240	Lloyd & Shirley	Nault	1810 First Ave	Ketchikan, AK 99901	pot f
241	Bill	Burke	234 Village Loop Dr	Wasilla, AK 99687	pot f
242	Bill	Burke	2234 Village Lp	Wasilla, AK 99687	pot f
243	Arthur	Wilson	Mile 4 North Tongass	Ketchikan, AK 99901	pot f
244	Ernest	Newland	P.O. Box 1127	Kodiak, AK 99615	pot f
245	Marty	Jackson	P.O. Box 694	Ward Cove, AK 99928	pot f
246	Bert	Romo	320 Bawden	Ketchikan, AK 99901	pot f
247	Mary	Daubersmith	Box 691	Ketchikan, AK 99901	pot f
248	Ken	Lyman	P.O. Box 873306	Wasilla, AK 99687	pot f
249	Clyde	Beutler	600 Seward Meridian	Wasilla, AK 99687	pot f
250	Stephanie	Vieira	611 Biorka	Sitka, AK 99835	pot f
251	Eileen	Sheridan	Box 1806	Sitka, AK 99835	pot f
252	Eleanor	Gigueroa	P.O. Box 5063	Ketchikan, AK 99901	pot f
253	Norma	Green	1033 Millar St.	Ketchikan, AK 99901	pot f
254	Roger	Stone	P.O. Box 5022	Ketchikan, AK 99901	pot f
255	Carole	Williams	819 Monroe St	Ketchikan, AK 99901	pot f
256	Ray	Vergin	Box 3186	Sitka, AK 99835	pot f
257	Jean	Schultz	407 Buren	Ketchikan, AK 99901	pot f

Post Hearing Letter

April 26, 1988

Dear

Thank you for your correspondence on CSSB 32 (HESS), regarding the recriminalization of marijuana. The House Health, Education and Social Services Committee, which we co-chair, held four hearings, during April 13-15, on this bill. We heard from numerous legal and medical experts as well as from state agencies effected by this legislation. We also entertained four hours of public testimony during an evening statewide teleconference.

During the hearings, it became clear to all committee members that this bill was fashioned to respond to the 1975 decision, Ravin v. State, in which the Alaska Supreme Court, based on the constitutional right to privacy, protected the adult possession of less than four ounces of marijuana in the home, for personal use. The Court did allow for the reversal of this decision based on new evidence of significant public health dangers associated with marijuana. The findings section of CSHB 32 (HESS) is designed to serve as new evidence of marijuana's dangers.

Testimony from medical experts caused the Committee to question the validity of several of the findings. While there was disagreement among the doctors testifying regarding the health effects of marijuana, the fact remains that the proposed medical findings remain largely unsupported. We are unaware of any documented medical evidence which can prove several of these findings to be true. It is essential that the findings be well substantiated if the legislature is to convince the Alaska Supreme Court to reverse its earlier decision.

The bill is currently in a subcommittee charged with gathering documentation which can support or refute the findings. We have contacted the sponsor of the bill, the House Research Agency (for an update), the University of Alaska and fifteen medical research professional from around the country. The subcommittee will be meeting at the end of this week to review the material received.

Our Committee recently passed three bills designed to specifically address substance abuse by young Alaskans. SB 339 raises the legal age for the purchase of cigarettes and prevents the sale of cigarettes from unsupervised vending machines; HB 361 limits the driving privileges of minors convicted of offenses involving drugs and alcohol and; HB 265 provides for community service and substance abuse treatment for minors who violate laws. We urge you to promote their passage through the legislature.

Thank you again for sharing your views with us.

Sincerely,

Rep. Niilo Koponen, Co-Chair
House HESS Committee

Rep. Johnny Ellis, Co-Chair
House HESS Committee

April = post-hearing letter

Record#	FIRST	LAST	ADDRESS	CITY	ISSUE
1	Alice	Bergdoll	5896 Lund Street	Juneau, AK 99801	pot f
2	Royal	Bidwell	P.O. Box 74160	Fairbanks, AK 99707	pot f
3	Members		303 Kimsham Street	Sitka, AK 99835	pot f
4	David	Alderson	3560 Fairview, #A-1	Ketchikan, AK 99901	pot f
5	Gretchen	Anderson	3234 Linden Dr	Anchorage, AK 99502	pot a
6	Alan	Armbruster	P.O. Box 58509	Fairbanks, AK 99711	pot a
7	Betty	Bengtson	9449 Patricia Pl	Juneau, AK 99801	pot f
8	Gary	Betley	HCR2 34850 Moonrise	Homer, AK 99603	pot a
9	Richard	Bisler	P.O. Box 60874	Fairbanks, AK 99706	pot a
10	Kathy	Bolling	P.O. Box 5958	Ketchikan, AK 99901	pot f
11	Charles	Braden	538 E. 12th	Anchorage, AK 99501	pot a
12	Bonnie	Brody	P.O. Box 1250	Fairbanks, AK 99707	pot f
13	George	Brown	HNB. AVN. BDE	Fort Wainwright, AK 99703	pot a
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15	Sharon	Burrell	Box 78	Petersburg, AK 99833	pot f
16	Darlene	Chapman	P.O. Box 770165	Eagle River, AK 99577	pot f
17	James	Cheydleur	P.O. Box 81177	College, AK 99708	pot a
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19	Darryl	Earnshaw	517 Longspur Loop	Fairbanks, AK 99709	pot f
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25	Joan	Heidersdorf	P.O. Box 020658	Juneau, AK 99802	pot f
26	John	Holst	Rt. 2, Box 104	Ketchikan, AK 99901	pot f
27	Kevin	Horn	2990 Davis Rd, Apt. E-29	Fairbanks, AK 99709	pot a
28	Garry	Hutchinson	367 Leann St	Fairbanks, AK 99707	pot f
29	Carol	Jensen	8451 Greenhill Way	Anchorage, AK 99502	pot a
30	Roberta	Kelly	9026 Rosedale	Juneau, AK 99801	pot f
31	Ron	King	P.O. Box 783	Douglas, AK 99824	pot f
32	Bill	Kurz	Box 778	Haines, AK 99827	pot f
33	John	Lynn	7013 Trafford Ave	Anchorage, AK 99504	pot f
34	Terry	Mackie	HHT, 4th SQDN, 9th Cavalry	Fort Wainwright, AK 99703	pot a
35	Terry	Mason	1223 E. Sixteenth	Anchorage, AK 99501	pot f
36	Charles	McKee	538 E. 12th Ave	Anchorage, AK 99501	pot a
37	Bruce	McKenna	Box 963	Homer, AK 99762	pot a
38	Dennis	Miller	389 Diane Cove	Soldotna, AK 99669	pot a
39	Lee	Moench	10842 Anvik Circle	Eagle River, AK 99577	pot f
40	Mary	Morgan	8760 Dudley St	Juneau, AK 99801	pot f
41	Jim	Morrison	Box 2524	Kenai, AK 99611	pot f
42	Terry	Norman	P.O. Box 10166	Fairbanks, AK 99710	pot a
43	Leonard	O'Keefe	SRA 549	Homer, AK 99603	pot a
44	Bette	O'Moor	7521 Old Seward Hwy, #A	Anchorage, AK 99518	pot f

45	Nancy	Pearson	P.O. Box 3055	Palmer, AK 99645	pot a
46	Doris	Pfalmer	P.O. Box 55655	North Pole, AK 99705	pot a
47	Michael	Phillips	P.O. Box 520587	Big Lake, AK 99652	pot a
48	Maxine	Rader	2901 UAA Drive	Anchorage, AK 99508	pot a
49	Sharon	Rhodes	1545 S. Hoyt, #19	Anchorage, AK 99508	pot f
50	Malcolm	Roberts	2001 Church Hill Drive	Anchorage, AK 99517	pot f
51	Lonnie	Roberts	712 W. 47th, #3	Anchorage, AK 99503	pot f
52	Ray	Schalow	201 Gallcon Dr	Anchorage, AK 99515	pot f
53	Kim	Scott	1185 Pueblo St	North Pole, AK 99765	pot a
54	Alan	Seegert	P.O. Box 203	McKinley Park, AK 99755	pot a
55	Margaret	Soden	P.O. Box D	Juneau, AK 99811	pot f
56	Tom	Taggart	Box 150	Hyder, AK 99923	pot a
57	Connie	Taylor	P.O. Box 1690	Cordova, AK 99574	pot f
58	Michael	Tumey	P.O. Box 491	Girdwood, AK 99587	pot a
59	Cecelia	Warrior	632 N. Pine	Anchorage, AK 99058	pot f
60	Scooter	Welch	656 Seventh Ave	Fairbanks, AK 99701	pot f
61	Richard	Wittaker	Box 3313	Ketchikan, AK 99901	pot a
62	R.	Woodard	P.O. Box 9199	Ketchikan, AK 99901	pot a

CITY OF UNALASKA

P.O. BOX 112
UNALASKA, ALASKA 99685
(907) 581-1251

"Capitol of the Aleutians"

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY



February 24, 1987

Senator Paul Fisher, Chairman
Hess Committee
P.O. Box V
Mail Stop 3100
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Fisher:

This letter is to express the support of the Unalaska Department of Public Safety for Senate Bill 32 on Recriminalization of Marijuana.

The existent enforcement structure for marijuana use in our state is often used, in classes outside of Alaska, as an example of how ridiculous some statutes can be. While we are laughed at by those in the system, the lay person (average citizen?) is led to believe that marijuana is legal in Alaska.

Here in Unalaska, and I'm sure it is much the same in other ports and cities with large transient populations, the belief is that anyone can possess and light up just about anywhere! The most common expression we hear upon taking action is, "Hey man. I thought it was legal here!"

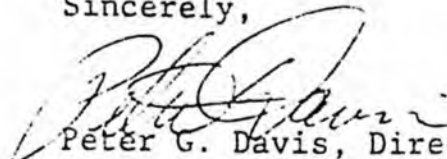
If we are to be at all successful in this struggle against drug use, we cannot afford to say that it is okay to have and use one drug but not another. There are also some who expound on the evils of alcohol vs. marijuana and the need to move on alcohol as the greater problem. To those I would suggest that their concern should be along the lines of last in - first cut. It is recognized that marijuana has much the same impact on many people as does alcohol. So why continue to allow the damage and loss attributed to any substance abuse when there is a chance to alleviate it?

Senator Paul Fisher
February 24, 1987

Page 2

We encourage and applaud your efforts.

Sincerely,



Peter G. Davis, Director
Department of Public Safety

PGD:plb

cc: Representative Terry Martin ✓



WILLIAM G. KLEIN
CHIEF OF POLICE
106TH SESSION

WRANGELL POLICE DEPARTMENT

CITY OF WRANGELL, ALASKA
POST OFFICE BOX 531 • WRANGELL, ALASKA 99929
(907) 874-3304



March 4, 1987

Senator Paul Fisher
Hess Committee Chairman
P.O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811 (Mail Stop 3100)

Dear Senator Fisher:

On behalf of this department and the concerned members of this community, I sincerely urge that all possible efforts and support be afforded to Senate Bill 32, Recriminalization of Marijuana, in order that said bill be brought to the floor of the Senate and House for a vote.

As an Alaska law enforcement officer for the past 21 years I can state without reservation that one of the greatest errors consummated by a legislative body was the decriminalization of marijuana. Not only is it in violation of Federal Law, its usage among the youth of this state has escalated like a malignant growth.

In all frankness, I must state that the time is long overdue for positive action on behalf of our elected officials to combat and control this statewide problem. Give law enforcement in the State of Alaska the weapons, in the form of realistic and effective laws, and we will do our part.

Respectfully submitted,

William G. Klein
Chief of Police

WGK:rrk

cc: Representative Terry Martin
Senator Lloyd Jones
Representative Robin Taylor
Representative John Sund



City of Galena

Antoski Hall • P.O. Box 149 • Galena, Alaska 99741 • Telephone (907) 656-1331

February 25, 1987

Representative Terry Martin
PO Box V, MS 3100
Juneau, AK 99811

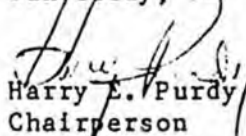
Dear Representative Martin:

On behalf of the Galena Drug Task Force, a group of people representing law enforcement agencies, education, the community, city and religious group initially appointed by the Galena City Council, would like to make you aware that there is a real drug problem on the Yukon River and especially here in Galena.

Further, we would like to encourage you to support legislation that would criminalize the possession of any amount of marijuana and legislation which will help make it possible to prosecute and convict dealers not only of marijuana but all controlled substance.

Your help and support will be most appreciated.

Sincerely,


Harry E. Purdy
Chairperson
Galena Drug Task Force

cc: Pat Myers, City Manager

HP/tw

CITY OF SEWARD

P.O. BOX 16
SEWARD, ALASKA 99664



- Main Office (907) 224-3331
- Police (907) 224-3338
- Harbor (907) 224-3341
- Telecopier (907) 224-3248

February 25, 1987

Representative Terry Martin
Hess Committee
Pouch V
Juneau, Ak. 99811
(MS 3100)

Dear Representative Martin:

I wish to take this opportunity to urge you to support Senate Bill 32. As a long time member of the law enforcement community in Alaska I have seen many tragedies due to the use of Hallucinogenics. I feel that the decriminalization of marijuana was a serious mistake. There is no shame in making a mistake but it is shameful to fail to rectify one.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Louis A. Bencardino".

Louis A. Bencardino
Chief of Police

Alaska State Legislature

SENATOR BETTYE FAHRENKAMP
CHAIRMAN, LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
CHAIRMAN, OIL AND GAS COMMITTEE
515 7TH AVENUE, SUITE 130
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701
OFFICE (907) 452-4882
HOME (907) 456-2899



WHILE IN JUNEAU
PO. BOX V
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
CAPITOL ROOM 125
OFFICE (907) 465-3834
HOME (907) 780-6027

Senate

February 23, 1988

Mr. Gene Williams
781 Nine Mile Hill Road
Fairbanks, AK 99712

Dear Geno:


Thank you for contacting me to express your concerns about SB 32, relating to marijuana.

Drug and alcohol abuse is a problem in Alaska, but I'm not convinced that it can be solved simply by recriminalizing marijuana. Drug abusers should be given treatment in drug rehabilitation programs and not just thrown in jail. Especially for children, a criminal record or prison experience could lead them in the wrong direction. Increasing penalties for possession of marijuana is not the right approach.

As far as the use of marijuana in the home is concerned, I feel there has to be a limit to the amount of government interference into the private lives of our citizens. The courts have ruled in the Raven case that there is "no adequate justification for the state's intrusion into the citizen's right to privacy by its prohibition of possession of marijuana by an adult for personal consumption." I feel strongly that Article 1, Section 22, of our state constitution, the right to privacy, is one of the foundations of personal freedoms and that SB 32 would violate important constitutional rights.

Despite my vote against SB 32, it passed the Senate by a vote of 15-3 on February 18. The bill is currently in the House Health, Education and Social Services Committee. Thank you again for your comments. I appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,


Bettye Fahrenkamp
Alaska State Senate

BF:dc/hss

Alaska State Legislature

SENATOR BETTYE FAHRENKAMP
CHAIRMAN, LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
CHAIRMAN, OIL AND GAS COMMITTEE
515 7TH AVENUE, SUITE 130
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701
OFFICE (907) 452-4882
HOME (907) 456-2899



WHILE IN JUNEAU
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JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
CAPITOL ROOM 125
OFFICE (907) 463-3834
HOME (907) 780-6027

Senate

February 23, 1988

Mr. John D. Lyle
P.O. Box 83715
Fairbanks, AK 99708

Dear John:

Thank you for writing to express your concerns about SE 32, relating to marijuana.

Drug and alcohol abuse is a problem in Alaska, but I'm not convinced that it can be solved simply by recriminalizing marijuana. Drug abusers should be given treatment in drug rehabilitation programs and not just thrown in jail. Especially for children, a criminal record or prison experience could lead them in the wrong direction. Increasing penalties for possession of marijuana is a naive approach to a serious problem.

As far as the use of marijuana in the home is concerned, I feel there has to be a limit to the amount of government interference into the private lives of our citizens. The courts have ruled in the Raven case that there is "no adequate justification for the state's intrusion into the citizen's right to privacy by its prohibition of possession of marijuana by an adult for personal consumption." The recent information I have read about marijuana's effects on health is almost identical to the evidence that was considered in that case. The opinion of our legal division is that SB 32 would most likely be found to be unconstitutional. I feel strongly that Article 1, Section 22, of our state constitution, the right to privacy, is one of the foundations of personal freedom and that SB 32 would violate important constitutional rights.

February 22, 1988
Page two

The Governor's Interim Commission on Children and Youth does point to the problems of drug and alcohol abuse among children. It claims that alcohol is involved in at least one fourth of all juvenile crime. What is the message we are sending children when we condone drinking alcohol at home but criminalize marijuana use?

Despite my vote against SB 32, it passed the Senate by a vote of 15-3 on February 18. The bill is currently in the House Health, Education and Social Services Committee. Thank you again for your comments. I appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Bettye Fahrenkamp
Alaska State Senate

BF:dc/hss



Alaska State Legislature

REPRESENTATIVE BILL HUDSON

P.O. BOX V
Juneau, Alaska
99811
(907)465-3744 or 4991

COMMITTEES
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October 2, 1987

Dear Colleague,

Attached you will find information regarding much of the new-found data on marijuana. I believe it important enough to share with you and I'll deeply appreciate your taking the time to review it.

Respectfully,

Bill
Bill Hudson

BH/skp

Chris - file

October 2, 1987

A LINE ON POT

Dear *Representative Ellis,*

The September 1987 issue of the Drug Abuse Update published by Families in Action and the Scott Newman Foundation carried the following article on marijuana and adolescents that I would like to share with you.

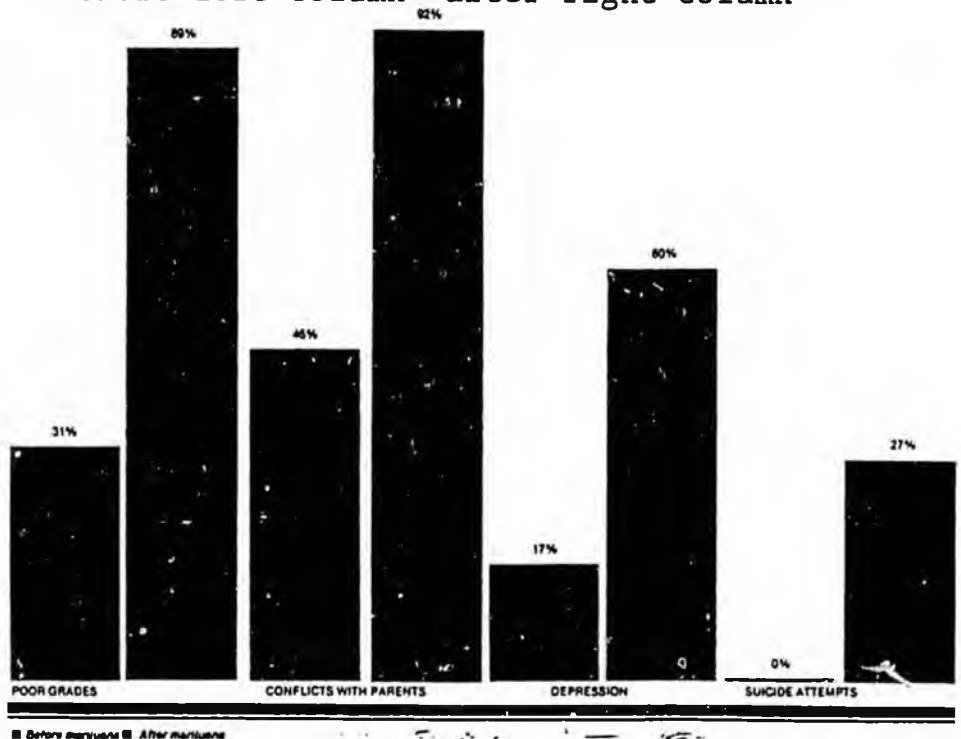
Adolescent marijuana use causes many problems. Richard H. Schwartz, M.D. and colleagues recently studied the psychosocial and behavioral effects of frequent marijuana use on adolescents. They evaluated 35 patients, ages 14 to 17, who were admitted to a drug treatment facility. All adolescents had smoked marijuana for at least four days each week for four consecutive months.

Family relationships and school attendance and performance began to deteriorate when use reached these levels. Behavioral effects included automobile accidents while intoxicated, average school grades of D or F, suicide attempts, running away from home and convincing a younger sibling to try marijuana. (See chart below)

On average it took parents up to a year to discover their child's drug involvement. Moreover, 17 percent of the adolescents studied say they were high during visits to health professionals and were proud of concealing it. (Clinical Pediatrics, Vol. 26, No 5 May 1987, pp 264-270)

TEEN PROBLEMS BEFORE AND AFTER MARIJUANA USE

before left column after right column



Sincerely,

Bobi

Bobi Trani
Safe Homes/Parents Against Drugs

Alaska State Legislature

REPRESENTATIVE BILL HUDSON

P.O. BOX 5
Juneau, Alaska
99801
(907)465-3744 OF 4991

COMMITTEES

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October 20, 1987

Dear Colleague,

Once again I am passing on to you some information on marijuana which I believe you will find important and useful.

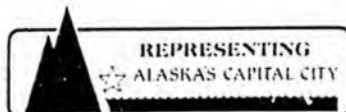
I believe it valuable enough to share with you and I'll deeply appreciate your taking the time to review it. Please do not hesitate to let me know your thoughts on this matter, and please share this information with others in any way that you can.

Respectfully,



Bill Hudson

BH/skp



Dear *Representative*
Ellis,

A LINE ON POT

"He was always an honor student until that time. It took three years for me and my husband to recognize he was using pot. A friend turned him on. All his group of peers used pot. He changed from being loving and open to being withdrawn and self-centered. He was careless and left marijuana papers around, so we found out. . . . He had real trouble with his memory. He couldn't tell jokes, because he couldn't remember them."

"He got into other drugs: uppers, downers, PCP, Quaaludes. He would steal, at first from his sisters, and he dealt. He got arrested for stealing. He and some friends went to another town and stole tires and brought them home in my car and left them in the driveway. It was as if he couldn't make the connection between stealing and hiding the evidence. The judge ordered him to go to jail for two years or to treatment. He went to a treatment center."--Viola (mother of an ex-user), The Marijuana Question by Helen C. Jones and Paul W. Lovinger.

A 1985 study done by the Justice Department reports, "A higher percentage of today's criminals were under the influence of drugs at the time of their offense than were criminals in the late 1970's. Three-fourths of a representative sample of jail inmates in 1983 admitted using drugs at some time in their lives, and one in four said they were under the influence of one or more drugs at the time of their current offense. Half of the offenders were using marijuana."

Sandy Spargo

Sandy Spargo
Safe Homes/Juneau
965 Goldbelt
Juneau, AK 99801
586-2392 (w)
586-6122 (h)

September 21, 1987

Dear *Representative
Ellis,*

A LINE ON POT

"The Alaska Peace Officers' Association (APOA) supports recriminalizing marijuana." This position is taken from the Position Statements of the Alaska Peace Officers' Association Concerning Legislative Proposals before the Fifteenth Alaska Legislature, March, 1987.

"Alaska is the only state to have, in effect, legalized small amounts of marijuana--up to four ounces--for personal use. No other state has adopted a similar law. Using small amounts of marijuana legally stimulates trafficking of the drug, which is illegal. The existing statute, in effect, promotes illegal activity.

Possession of any quantity of marijuana is against federal law, while state law permits possession of small amounts. This creates confusion in the minds of the public. This dichotomy of federal law v.s. state law tends to breed disrespect for the law. As the Baltimore Sun editorialized in early 1984, 'Only in Alaska can you sit at home and smoke marijuana, secure in the knowledge that you are breaking federal law with the blessing of the State Supreme Court.'

Alaska's tolerance of marijuana has also inhibited the efforts of the U.S. to obtain agreements by foreign countries to crack down upon illicit drugs in their country. According to the Undersecretary for International Narcotics Affairs Department of State, in a recent address in Anchorage, several foreign countries have questioned the sincerity of the U.S. regarding suppression of illicit drugs by calling attention to Alaska's legalization of small amounts of marijuana. This is significant, since the U.S. is a signatory nation to two international conventions concerning control of narcotics--the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 and the Psychotropic Substances Act of 1971, which include outlawing marijuana.

APOA considers the contradiction of federal and state law regarding marijuana, the increasingly effective health campaigns against smoking, and the public's proclaimed respect for the law, with state law permitting use, to be sending mixed signals to our youth. Either society condones drug use and smoking or it does not. Our collective position should be clear to our young people.

The Ravin decision leading to legalizing marijuana was based, in part, upon the finding that the state could show no clear and convincing public need to ban marijuana. Since then, more and more information from around the country shows increasing concern about the health aspects of smoking in general and marijuana in particular. The APOA believes that a clear and convincing health issue can now be made to support a ban upon marijuana use.

One

Alaska State Legislature

REPRESENTATIVE BILL HUDSON

P.O. BOX V
Juneau, Alaska
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(907)465-3744 or 4991

COMMITTEES
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November 13, 1987

file

Dear Colleague,

This is more of a series of information that I have been forwarding to you because I think it is so important. I have personally gained a great deal of knowledge from reading these "Lines on Pot" and hope this has been helpful to you as well.

I have appreciated your comments as a result of these mailings; please continue to stay in touch with me.

Sincerely,

Bill
Bill Hudson

BH/skp



Dear *Representative Ellis,* A LINE ON POT

The following are 1986 quotations by the American Academy of Pediatrics, an organization of 29,000 pediatricians dedicated to the health, safety, and well-being of infants, children, and adolescents in North, Central, and South America.

"Marijuana is the most widespread illegal drug used in this country. Society's acceptance of its use stems from inconclusive research conducted during the 1960's. Marijuana's reputation as a 'safe drug', combined with abundant supplies and societal messages to 'do drugs' have contributed to its popularity among young people.

* More than 1/3 of all students will have tried marijuana before leaving ninth grade.

* Nearly 2/3 of all students will have tried marijuana before finishing high school.

* One of six high school seniors will have been a daily user at some time in their lives.

* At least one of 20 seniors will continue to smoke marijuana on a daily basis.

Medical experts are alarmed about these statistics and about the increasing potency of marijuana that is currently available. THC is the main mood-altering ingredient found in marijuana. When the drug became popular in the 1960's, the THC levels averaged point two percent. Today stronger strains of marijuana contain THC levels of at least five percent, making it 25 times more potent. Marijuana is no longer the 'harmless little giggle' referred to by John Lennon in the 1960's.

Recent studies of marijuana on the health effects of marijuana indicate that, far from the innocuous substance it was thought to be, it is a dangerous drug. Marijuana distorts the senses and causes motor-coordination difficulties. The effects can linger for more than 14 days. In this condition, it is dangerous to operate a vehicle or to engage in sports activities. Pediatricians also are concerned about the development and social difficulties encountered by pre-teen and young adolescent users."

The Annual Report to the Legislature, 1986, states, "Increasing numbers of Alaskans are entering treatment as a result of cocaine, marijuana, and opiate use." The accompanying chart shows that marijuana treatment rose from 273 people in 1985 to 354 people in 1986 in public-funded programs. (How many in private clinics?)

Sandy Spargo/Safe Homes/965 Goldbelt, Juneau, Alaska, 99801

Sandy



AMERICA HURTS: THE DRUG EPIDEMIC

Hosted by Collin Siedor
Produced by Dystar Television, Inc.
An MTI Film & Video release.

CALL TOLL-FREE 1-800-621-2131
In Illinois and Alaska call collect 312-940-1260.

Safe Homes has
this video.

 **MTI Film & Video**
108 Wilmot Road
Deerfield, Illinois 60015

Contact: Sandy Spargo
586-2392 (w)
586-6122 (h)

In this powerful new documentary, Collin Siedor takes a hard look at the crippling menace of drug use in our society. Not surprisingly, he uncovers some frightening facts, an ever-expanding circle of drug-related death and destruction of international proportion.

The damage we do comes in ways most of us wouldn't think to consider. The image we conjure of dying drug addicts—night, a poor part of town, dark eyes, dark skin—is not the reality. The reality is much more frightening:

- The threat of death at the beginnings of life—a newborn infant is hooked on cocaine...
- An 8-year-old takes her first drink—the first of many...
- An 11-year-old drug addict attempts suicide...
- A boy of fourteen has tried every drug imaginable. After five years of rehabilitation attempts, his parents tearfully grant custody to the state...
- Thousands of our brightest teenagers experience learning problems directly attributable to marijuana use...
- A 17-year-old girl rejects her ninth attempt at rehabilitation and returns once again to the streets and to her addictions...
- A youth earns \$200 a day dealing drugs, and can see no good reason for completing high school...
- South American drug smugglers kidnap, kill and gut three infants, stuff them full of cocaine and ship their bodies across international boundaries...

Say to yourself, "It's not that bad!" Then think again.

Interviews with drug abusers, drug dealers, recovering addicts, parents and family members, and concerned professionals all serve to question the nonchalant attitudes of two generations of Americans who have said all along that drugs aren't bad. Two generations of Americans who condoned casual use, and by doing so condemned "supplier" countries and perhaps our own children to certain destruction.

This program makes it embarrassingly clear: we can no longer shift the blame to the smugglers and the pushers. We are the real menace. The casual users, those content with the attitude that they hurt no one, that their body is their own to govern, support a marketplace where unpredictable, deathly dangerous substances are sold by individuals who see dealing as a lucrative alternative to social responsibility, a ticket out of the land called poverty.

There is a price on that ticket. Using drugs, or even allowing the use of drugs, means condoning the methods of acquisition. It means contributing to the wealth of violent, vicious profiteers. It means accepting the responsibility for undermining the lives and economies of South American countries where the drug industry has taken control. It means accepting the risk of "designer" drugs whose unpredictability can paralyze bodies and torture minds for a lifetime. The casual user secures an important link in the destructive drug cycle. Go ahead. Say to yourself, "It's not that bad." Then think again.

5115M--34 minutes
16mm \$595 Video \$495 Rental \$85

OVER



Alaska State Legislature

REPRESENTATIVE BILL HUDSON

P.O. BOX V
Juneau, Alaska
99811
(907)465-3744 or 4991

COMMITTEES
Transportation
HHS
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Fisheries
International Trade

January 22, 1988

file

JAN 25 1988

All Members of the House and Senate
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Colleague:

Marijuana use may have a greater effect on memory and thinking ability than has previously been thought. The THC (the psychoactive substance in marijuana) appears to interfere with the manufacturing of essential protein substances in the nuclei of brain cells, according to Jeff Fortuna, Director of Drug Education consultants in Orange County, California and an instructor for the Health Science Department at California State University at Long Beach. The most noticeable effects of marijuana use are decreases in both memory and thinking ability.

"Occasional use mainly affects short-term memory," notes Fortuna. "Regular use, however, damages long-term and abstract memory."

THC also has a way of sticking with a person, sometimes as long as thirty (30) days after using marijuana. "THC remains active in the blood for at least seven to ten days," says Fortuna. "Because it stays in the body for such a long time, its effects on memory and thinking ability are prolonged. Neither the weekend smoker nor the daily smoker is ever free from marijuana's effects. (LISTEN Magazine 12/85)."

Respectfully,

Bill
Bill Hudson

BH/skp

Alaska State Legislature

REPRESENTATIVE BILL HUDSON

P.O. BOX V
Juneau, Alaska
99811
(907)465-3744 or 4991

COMMITTEES
Transportation
HESS
Telecommunications
Fisheries
International Trade

January 12, 1987

JAN 13 1987

Dear Colleague,

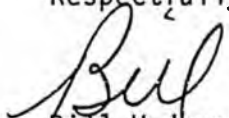
Attached is another edition of A LINE ON POT. In it, you will see that the Journal of Respiratory Diseases, in an article titled "How the Lungs are Affected by Marijuana Smoking" by Donald P. Tashkin, M.D., Henry Gong, Jr., M.D. and Suzanne E.G. Fligel, M.D. shows current medical findings, dated November 1987, that:

"daily smoking of only a few marijuana joints appears to be comparable with smoking over 20 tobacco cigarettes a day."

This important finding is for your information as you consider House Bill 55.

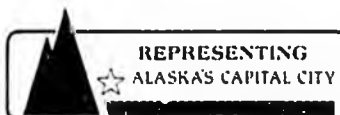
HB 55 deserves at least a full debate; won't you join me in calling for a hearing this session?

Respectfully,


Bill Hudson

BH/skp

file



Dear Representative Ellis,

A LINE ON POT

The Journal of Respiratory Diseases, November, 1987, has now stated that there is "striking evidence of short- and long-term consequences" of marijuana smoking.

"Why might marijuana be more harmful than tobacco? Daily smoking of only a few marijuana joints appears to be comparable with smoking over 20 tobacco cigarettes a day One explanation may be that the components of marijuana are more irritating to the lungs than those of tobacco smoke. Comparison of the smoke contents of one joint of marijuana with those of one unfiltered tobacco cigarette of the same weight reveals many similarities, both qualitative and quantitative, as well as a number of differences. While nicotine is present in tobacco but not in marijuana Δ^9 tetrahydrocannabinol (THC)--itself a respiratory irritant--and more than 60 additional cannabinoid compounds are present in marijuana but not in tobacco. In addition, marijuana smoke contains greater than 50% more of the carcinogenic polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons benzantracene and benzpyrene than is found in tobacco smoke, indicating the potential for malignant changes in the airways of frequent users.

Another possibility is that more particulates and irritating gases per cigarette are deposited and retained in the lungs of marijuana smokers than in the lungs of tobacco smokers, possibly because of the manner in which each type of cigarette is smoked. To investigate the latter possibility, we assessed smoking dynamics--the amount of smoke particulates delivered to the respiratory tract and the change in the amount of end-expired carbon monoxide while a single marijuana or tobacco cigarette was smoked.

The results indicate that marijuana smokers took nearly twofold larger puffs, inhaled the smoke into their lungs 40% to 50% more deeply, and retained the smoke in their lungs three to five times longer than did tobacco smokers. Moreover, these differences were associated with a more than three times greater increase in end-expired carbon monoxide and a three to four times greater delivery and respiratory deposition of smoke particulates from a single cigarette of marijuana compared with that of tobacco."

Sandy Spargo

Sandy Spargo
Safe Homes of Juneau
955 Goldbelt
Juneau, Alaska 99801
586-6122 (h)

Illinois adopts 'grass tax' against dealers

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP) — The state has imposed a tax on marijuana, cocaine and other illegal drugs, but expects that most of the revenue from the new law will come from stamp collectors.

The law requires drug dealers to purchase tax stamps, featuring either a marijuana leaf with a slash through it or a skull and crossbones, and affix them to drug packages.

The stamps cost \$5 per gram for marijuana, \$250 per gram for other drugs and \$2,000 for each dose of drugs not sold by weight.

However, no drug dealers bought stamps when they went on sale Monday, said Helga Adorjan of the state Department of Revenue. She thinks stamp collectors will be the most frequent

buyers, although they would have to pay the same price as a drug dealer.

Other states have also levied taxes on illegal drugs — not to raise money, but to provide another legal weapon against dealers.

Major drug dealers without the stamps would be hit the hardest. A violator would be subject to four times the amount of the tax, a \$10,000 fine and three years in prison.

"An immediate reaction is, 'Why tax something illegal?' But as you look at it more closely, it makes more sense," said Sen. David Barkhausen, R-Lake Bluff.

Barkhausen, the law's chief sponsor, modeled the "grass tax" after a similar law in Min-

nesota, which has sold about 150 stamps so far and collected \$13 million in fines since its inception about 18 months ago.

The law provides that dealers cannot incriminate themselves by buying the stamps, Adorjan said. Employees will not even ask for names, she said.

Only those who order stamps by mail will be required to give their names and addresses for return mail, she said.

Illinois State Police spokesman Bob Fletcher said the department is strongly in favor of the new law.

"People can say the taxes and the law are ridiculous, but they should think back a little bit and remember how Al Capone was convicted," he said.

Capone was convicted of tax evasion.

CWIS
HBS: 5.14

2-2-88

Dear Neil

Alaska should have a law like this.

It is not possible to put every small time drug pusher and user in jail everytime they get caught in possession of drugs. However, this could make it very expensive for them, financially.

The system of tax assessments and collection already exists, and should be used to help combat the drug problem at every level, from dealer to importer, right down to every user in possession.

What are your thoughts on this? I would like to hear from you, as I have some ideas on how this law could be efficiently and effectively administered, with the cost being entirely paid for by the "druggies".

Sincerely,

Pete Morgan
PETE MORGAN
Box 10-2623, ANCH. AK 99510

Sirs:

file
no response

Lee Lewis
P.O. #71
Palmer AK

Enclosed find copies of
report to the medical
findings behind Senate Bill #55
House Bill #35.

I have lived, worked and
voted in this state for 6 years
and spent another 18 years
between Seattle and many parts
of Alaska.

I came here because I love
this state and here we have
freedom - unique only to our
great state.

God made Alaska to test
the metal of mortals.

The last frontier and all the
freedom we have with it takes
a step backward if this legislation
is passed. The spirit and very
guts of our great unique way
of life are at stake.

I and thousands of people
in this state smoke marijuana
responsibly.

I am a bartender and have
watched friends die from it. I
haven't lost a friend yet to
marijuana. I have 50%
disabled, marijuana helps to
keep me away from narcotics

To stop the pain. The
narcotics were a vicious circle.
Pain, medication, pain medication.
until I got tired of hurting
from taking the drug (addiction)
and hurt when I didn't.

Marijuana allows me to
relax, (important to pain control)
to eat (Pain & Pain medication
cut my appetite) and to sleep.

Basic things healthy people
take for granted.

I and many others who vote
feel this is "Wrong".

Pressure from outsiders
have never crushed Alaskans
yet.

I need schedules of all
planned meetings. I plan to
attend.

My apology but I live
back in the mountains. No
typewriter, this ~~is~~ is me. I
wanted to get the message across
and want to come to Juneau for
the "scheduled meetings". Please
let us know, there will be more
than me so please send meeting
schedule.

Thank you

Lee Loomis
Box 3371
Palmer, AK. 99645

P.S. B. R. L. date 1/19/50
Registered Voter

We Need to Refocus The War on Drugs

WASHINGTON POST HEALTH/OCTOBER 14, 1986

The drug-related deaths of young and promising athletes focuses attention on a major problem in the United States. To stem the tide of illicit drug use, people are calling for greater law enforcement, the use of drug testing and more educational programs. Yet none of those actions gets to the heart of the matter.

The real issue is the inappropriate use of all drugs by each of us. Our national drug problem is not just the free-basing of cocaine, excessive use of alcohol or the misuse of prescription drugs. It is our casual attitude toward all the drugs we take and our lack of appreciation of their potency and toxicity. It is our unwillingness to understand that many chemicals are actually drugs, and our willingness to put those chemicals into our bodies unnecessarily.

The tonnage of chemical compounds that this nation swallows, injects, inserts or inhales into its collective body each year is astronomical. We're so casual about the use of drugs that we don't even consider alcohol, nicotine, aspirin, caffeine and the theobromine in chocolate to be drugs.

The crucial factor in all of this is attitude. We must adopt a new national philosophy toward appropriate drug use. We must minimize usage, limit the effects of the so-called social or cultural drugs and use prescription drugs in a cost-conscious and therapeutically effective manner.

Making such changes in our heterogenous society will be difficult; cynics might say impossible. But I am not a cynic. The current antismoking campaigns have shown that massive change can happen.

Alcohol use can't be effectively banned; that was tried and failed 60 years ago. However, while each individual should continue to have the right to use alcohol (and tobacco), that use should not impact negatively on other persons.

While the sale of alcoholic beverages should continue, penalties for drunk driving should be severe. The efforts of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) and similar groups should be supported. The use of the breathalyzer test should be required when erratic behavior is seen. The effect of alcohol on job performance should be clearly identified and treatment programs made easily accessible and required for abusers. Repeat offenders should face disciplinary action.

Serious consideration should be given to the further decriminalization or even legalization of marijuana. Legal control of marijuana is almost impossible, and our limited resources should be directed to the control of the more toxic illicit substances. While there have been claims that the use of marijuana leads to the use of more potent substances, that has not been substantiated. Just as in the case of alcohol, the individual's right of use in private should be allowed, but drug-related public actions, such as impaired driving, severely penalized.

Increased taxes on social drugs—alcohol, tobacco and marijuana—would directly support an expanded National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA).

Over-the-counter drugs are generally considered by the public to be non-drugs, an idea reinforced by their relative safety and accessibility. Yet each drug does cause side effects, some serious. Many interact negatively with other drugs.

continues its efforts to release addictive prescription drugs to the OTC market.

Prescription drugs are a major part of our lives. When we visit a physician, we expect to receive a magical piece of paper called a prescription. We must learn to accept that there are times when drug treatment is inappropriate.

As for illegal drugs, we cannot afford, either financially or philosophically, to create the kind of enforcement envelope around this country that would be required to block the flow. Therefore, if the supply can't be substantially reduced, we must work to reduce the demand.

Why do people take illegal drugs? The reasons are numerous and complex. Some include the

Serious consideration should be given to the further decriminalization or even legalization of marijuana. Our limited resources should be directed to the control of the more toxic illicit substances.

need to isolate oneself mentally from poor living conditions; the thrill of the risks involved; the affluence of American society and the great increase in leisure time; peer pressure; and the lack of knowledge of toxic effects.

One of the most obvious ways of combating illicit drug use among the poor is simple, albeit expensive and complicated: their environment must be changed. This means better housing, jobs, education and other activities that help build self-esteem, especially among our young people. There is no higher priority.

Stopping the use of cocaine and other illicit drugs by the affluent will require them to change their attitude. They must be educated to understand that these drugs are not without toxicity, and that each user contributes to the support of a terrifying underground drug distribution system that will ultimately, if unchecked, destroy the entire texture of American life.

Admittedly, change is difficult, but until we do, cocaine will continue to flow across our borders and up the noses of abusers; heroin, another "hound of hell" in the Rev. Jesse Jackson's memorable phrase, will murder our national spirit; drunk drivers will kill thousands of innocent persons; and the costs to society for the inappropriate and misuse of over-the-counter and prescription drugs will escalate.

Dr. William J. Kinnard Jr. is the dean of the School of Pharmacy at the University of Maryland at Baltimore.

Second Opinion is a forum for points of view on health-related topics. Send articles to Second Opinion, Health Section, The Washington Post, 1150 15th St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20071.

I have examined the findings reported in Senate Bill #55 and Senate Bill #12 of the Alaskan Legislature and have found them flawed and inaccurate. Here is a point by point rebuttal of the findings. Beginning sentences by apostrophies are direct quotes from the bills. References to the National Academy of Sciences refer to their publication Marijuana and Health which reports their 1982 study of marijuana related research. I have also enclosed other materials which are pertinent to the topic of recriminalization.

1) "THC, the mind altering ingredient in marijuana, is not soluble in water, but goes into the fatty tissues of the brain, testicles, ovaries, and other internal organs, and takes 30 days to be eliminated from the body;"

Actually, THC is broken down by the body soon after ingestion. It's metabolites stay in the body for up to 30 days, but these metabolites are non-psychoactive. Any toxicologist can confirm this. Urine testing advocates exploit the confusion between THC which is the active ingredient and is metabolized relatively quickly, and its metabolites (chiefly 9-carboxy-THC) which have no psychoactive effect but linger in the body for a month or so.

The following quote is from a recent article by Chemical & Engineering News (6/2/86). "Marijuana is the most commonly abused drug and the kinetics of its metabolism have been studied extensively. It is also an unusual drug in that it can be detected in urine for a long time. Very little of the original drug, Delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol or THC, goes into the urine. The chemical is absorbed from the blood into body fat tissue where it is eliminated as it is slowly metabolized. . . (metabolites) can be found in urine for longer than a month . . ."

The following quote is from a Center for Disease Control MMWR Report (9/16/83). "Studies involving humans indicate that 80% - 90% of the total dose of Delta-9-THC is excreted within 5 days - approximately 20% in urine and 65% in feces."

Most experts claim that the metabolites disappear 10 to 14 days after ingestion in most cases. Urine tests detect these metabolites, which is why the manufacturers are required to point out that they are tests to indicate recent use, not intoxication or impairment. If THC remained in the system for 30 days, and remained active, the urine tests would be marketed as a way to indicate impairment. They aren't.

2) "the buildup of THC in the body causes the user to smoke more marijuana to achieve the desired high and may result in loss of sleep, appetite, and initiative, as well as moodiness and depression;"

The "buildup of THC" is actually tolerance to the drug, a physiological response humans and animals have to any drug. It occurs not because of the THC buildup, but because of other complex biological factors.

There is no clear evidence that marijuana causes schizophrenia. The National Academy of Sciences found that drug abuse was more often than not a symptom rather than a cause of mental problems. Illusions and hallucinations are often subjective phenomena influenced by an individual's mental state and the power of suggestion. Individuals susceptible to lapses in their grasp of reality will compound their mental problems with the use of alcohol, marijuana, or other drugs.

Marijuana users do not hallucinate. They do experience an alteration of their space perception, and an apparent enhancement of colors. These, combined with impairment of motor coordination, are reasons why marijuana should not be used while driving a motor vehicle. However, to call these effects of marijuana "hallucinations" is misleading if not untruthful. Individuals who take LSD hallucinate. Individuals detoxifying from alcohol addiction hallucinate. Hallucinate means the individual sees something that isn't there. Marijuana users do not hallucinate.

The National Institute on Drug Abuse's pamphlet, "Marijuana", is far from being the best source on marijuana's effects. However, it's claims are based far more on actual research than popular myths. It makes no mention of hallucinations, illusions, or schizophrenia resulting from marijuana use.

Marijuana's promise as a pain killer is referenced above. However, the dose required to render an individual oblivious to body signals such as pain far exceeds standard levels of use. A sufficient dose to accomplish this would also put the subject to sleep. It is unlikely that this presents any danger to the individual or to society.

6) "although it may take a heavy cigarette smoker as long as 20 years to develop lung cancer, one marijuana cigarette a day may cause lung cancer in three years;"

Marijuana is used daily by over 6 million Americans, according to the National Institute of Drug Abuse. Marijuana has been a popular recreational drug used by a large percentage of young Americans since 1965. There is no record of case histories to document this finding. If this finding were true, we would have millions of case histories of young individuals with lung cancer from marijuana use. The case histories don't exist because the statement is false.

The National Academy of Sciences decided that marijuana smoking and tobacco smoking can not be compared because the methods of ingestion differ so greatly. Marijuana smokers smoke far less materials a day than tobacco smokers (up to 2 cigarettes a day compared to 20 - 60), but they inhale the smoke far deeper into the lungs. On the other hand, many marijuana smokers use a waterpipe (or "bong") which filters out many, but not all, of the tars that contribute to lung cancer.

Claims that marijuana is more carcinogenic than tobacco are compelled by a logic that dictates that because marijuana is illegal (except in Alaska) it has to be more dangerous than tobacco (or in other cases, than alcohol). The claims are based on the undisputed fact that marijuana contains more tar than tobacco, but ignore the differences in ingestion and dosage that make comparisons inaccurate. Marijuana smoke is bad for the lungs, it does

contribute to the formation of lung cancer, and I am convinced that by the year 2000 we will begin to hear of case studies of bronchitis and lung cancer as a result of long term marijuana use.

Nonetheless, it is not true that a marijuana cigarette a day for three years will cause lung cancer. I offer my own lungs and continued health as proof.

7) "THC affects eggs, sperm, sexual hormones, and the development of a fetus, and marijuana use may result in deformed or undersized offspring."

There are no documented cases of marijuana use causing a genetic deformity. I challenge anyone to provide one.

In April, 1984 Ralph Hanson delivered a paper at a NORML conference on "Effects of Marijuana Use on Pregnant Women". Dr. Hanson's conclusion was that marijuana use during pregnancy may result in a smaller birth weight for the fetus, but in an allowable range (similar to the smaller birth weight for babies from nicotine or alcohol using mothers.) NORML has been publicizing this since 1984. We regularly hear, though, from mothers who used marijuana during pregnancy who delivered babies of normal weight.

Laboratory tests have indicated that under some conditions, large doses of THC affect the eggs, sperm, and sexual hormones of rats and other animals. There is evidence that THC inhibits sperm mobility. However, the effects of marijuana on fertility seem to be negligible - as millions of marijuana smoking parents will attest to.

The National Academy of Sciences report affirmed that marijuana use has no effect on chromosomes or fertility.

8) "other physical reactions to marijuana include irreversible changes in the brain, sinusitis, pharyngitis, bronchitis, emphysema, increased heart rate, and decreased blood circulation;"

Marijuana use does not cause brain damage. NIDA recently announced proof that it does. My office contacted the researcher. His data actually suggested that a dose of 50 marijuana cigarettes a day for 30 years would not cause brain damage. What NIDA based their comments on was his finding that 100 marijuana cigarettes for 30 years would cause slight premature senilia. An individual would have to smoke a marijuana cigarette every 8 minutes for 12 hours a day, for thirty years, to suffer any brain damage - if this study is conclusive. The enclosed NORML press release cited above re: marijuana potency contains more details of this study.

Smoking contributes to lung and sinus problems, and marijuana smoking is no different. Marijuana does increase the heart rate and/or blood pressure in some individuals; NORML cautions against marijuana use by individuals with cardiovascular problems.

9) "other psychological reactions to marijuana include loss of memory; impairment in thinking, reading comprehension, and verbal and arithmetic problem solving; impairment of perception of distance and time; and anxiety, panic, paranoia, psychosis, and psychological dependence."

The symptoms mentioned accompany cessation of marijuana use in some individuals, not the building up of the body. A majority of marijuana smokers experience no side-effects from cessation of use. If these symptoms indicate anything, they indicate the relative lack of serious side-effects from cessation of use, unlike those associated with alcohol and opiate withdrawal.

3) "it is possible for a human being to overdose from the use of marijuana, especially if it is used in conjunction with alcohol, because it increases the effects of alcohol;"

There is no record of anyone ever dying from an overdose of marijuana. It is one of the least toxic drugs known to man.

Raphael Mechoulam, who isolated the main ingredient of marijuana (THC) has edited Cannabinoids as Therapeutic Agents which includes an article by Mark Segal on Marijuana's potential as an analgesic. He reports that marijuana has promise as a pain killer because it is non-addictive and does not depress the respiratory tract (unlike opioids.) Marijuana's promise as a pain-killer is reported by the National Academy of Sciences, and by Roger Roffman in the book Marijuana as Medicine; its promise rests on the fact that finding #3 is essentially false.

Marijuana is a mild intoxicant, and as such should not be used in conjunction with other intoxicants. Whether marijuana increases the effects of alcohol, or complicates them, or just how one would subjectively describe the effects of mixing the two, is beside the point that multiple drug use provides multiple safety concerns. Marijuana, though, has far less severe cross-reaction with alcohol than barbituates or tranquilizers such as valium. Once again, a good toxicologist can provide confirmation of these points.

4) "the THC content of a marijuana cigarette 10 years ago was one percent, but is as high as 10 percent per cigarette today;"

Proponents of jailing people for marijuana use have been using this argument as if to suggest that marijuana is ten times more dangerous than it used to be. The premise that an increase in potency demonstrates an increase in danger is logically unsound. As with alcohol, consumers compensate for higher potency by consuming smaller doses. Anyone who counsels alcoholics will confirm that beer is no less dangerous than whiskey simply because it has a lesser potency.

The government has been trying to sell the increased potency argument for some time. The enclosed press release refers to a New York Times report in 1980 that marijuana had increased to an average potency of 3.5%, and that this was an alarming increase over the seventies. However, in 1980, The Times ran a similar story, only at that time they claimed that marijuana had an average potency of 4%. So, marijuana has actually decreased in potency, if you believe The Times.

5) "Marijuana causes schizophrenia, illusions, and hallucinations, including a dulling of the senses, creating the possibility that the user is unable to respond to body signals, such as pain;"

People use marijuana because they enjoy the mild impairment of the senses marijuana contributes. This impairment is short term, and wears off two to three hours after ingestion. There is no evidence of prolonged impairment from marijuana use. The effects described above up to but not including anxiety are the short-term effects desired by the marijuana user.

The danger of teenage marijuana use is that many teens are prone to mix relaxation and studying, meaning they think it is okay to study while high on marijuana or while drinking beer. Impairment limits the ability to learn, especially the acquisition of learning skills. This is why it is essential to deter adolescents from marijuana use, and a primary reason why NORML advocates legalizing marijuana for adults (and shutting down the black market that will sell to students.) However 90% of marijuana smokers are adults whose learning skills are unimpaired by their occasional, moderate marijuana use.

Marijuana produces a condition similar to stress on the human body (for example, the increase in heart rate.) Most users find this pleasurable (ironically even the ones who claim they use marijuana to alleviate stress), some first time users do not. This is what accounts to reports of anxiety attacks by new or inexperienced users of marijuana. No everybody who tries marijuana likes it, nor does everyone who uses it does so without ill-effect. People with pre-existing mental problems, as mentioned above, are susceptible to drug abuse. They are the source of reports of panic, paranoia, and psychosis resulting from marijuana use.

The issue of psychological dependence has been hotly debated for twenty years. Obviously, millions and millions of Americans use marijuana regularly. I contend they do so because they enjoy using marijuana. Whether they are psychologically dependent or not is a moot point. Marijuana is not an addictive drug, nor a dangerous one. Psychological reactions to it are cultural, not medical or biological. Once again, to belabor the point, some people with psychological problems abuse marijuana and other drugs. As with anxiety, panic, paranoia and psychosis, psychological dependence is not an observed side-effect in the overwhelmingly majority of marijuana users.

Additional Comments

To be to the point, these findings at best constitute horrible distortions and exaggerations of existing research findings. At worst, they are deceptive lies and half-truths designed to mislead the legislature of Alaska. The bulk of the rebuttal information presented here deals with health issues because of the logic of the bills.

Other valid arguments against the bill include the fact that Alaskans generally don't like the government interfering in their personal lives. This is the reason for the right to privacy clause in the state constitution. Also, the Alaskan police have better things to do with their time and your tax money than arrest marijuana offenders. Also, if this bill passes, it will likely be challenged in court as a violation of Ravin vs. State.

The National and International Drug Law Enforcement Strategy of the National Drug Enforcement Policy Board (NDEPB) (Jan. 1987) states that "because the decriminalization of marijuana possession undermines the standard

of the unacceptability of drug use, the 11 states which would have decriminalized marijuana possession should reconsider their position. This document indicates that the Attorney General, i.e. the federal government, is in the forefront to change Alaska's laws.

Many of the claims represented in the above findings replicate claims in the NDEPB's Analysis of the Domestic Cannabis Problem and the Federal Response, (3/86). The source cited was a Drug Enforcement Administration report "The Health Implications of Marijuana Use." It is rife with phrases such as "research suggests," "have been observed," "marijuana may," and other cautious terminology which avoids making a direct conclusion. It is my opinion after studying these claims that the represent law enforcement's last attempt to justify the laws which they are obligated to enforce.

Social bias often interferes with sound scientific reasoning. The notion that marijuana is illegal so it must be dangerous is the driving rationale behind the ludicrous comments about marijuana above. The strategy of the NDEPB is to justify their increasing budget requests by turning drug education programs into law enforcement propaganda.

August 24, 1987

Dear Representative Ellis,
A LINE ON POT

Why is it that in most of the countries where cannabis has been used for centuries, the laws against use and dealing are the harshest in the world? Long before scientists ever got to work on the subject, law makers saw what this drug did to their populations. In Taiwan, Iran, Algeria, Turkey, smuggling or selling pot or hashish can bring long-term perison sentences up to 30 years. In Burma, Bolivia, India, Iraq, Kenya, and Turkey, you can be clapped into jail for two to 10 years for smoking pot. Why would such laws be made if the drug were so harmless?

The two main drug products of cannabis are marijuana and hashish. Marijuana consists of any part of the plant that has been crudely prepared for smoking, primarily by drying. Hashish essentially is resin from the plant.

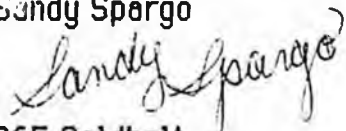
At a 1925 International Opium Conference, Egypt and Turkey refused to sign any international agreement about opium and heroin, unless delegates at the Conference agreed to put cannabis in the same "dangerous drug" category. And all the delegates from all the cannabis-using countries went along with this demand. These countries had seen what cannabis had done to their male populations. (Women in these nations never used the drug; nor did middle or upper class men.)

The U. S. signed the agreement with a shoulder shrug. After World War II the situation changed. Pot became part of the new life style of young people who called themselves "swingers." When scientists and medical doctors from 74 countries met in 1961 at a United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, the U. S. delegates signed the new cannabis law with enthusiasm. The decision of the 500 delegates--including some of the world's most noted pharmacologists--was unanimous.

They all agreed that "that the use of cannabis was dangerous from every point of view, whether physical, mental, or social." Furthermore, they all agreed that the drug should be forbidden, and that none of the 74 nations signing the treaty could make cannabis legal in their land.

International cooperation at the highest United Nations' level has been overridden by international cooperation at the lowest level. Ask our local police authorities. Ask those youth who buy it for themselves and for their parents. Where there is a demand, there will be a supply.

Sandy Spargo



965 Goldbelt
Juneau, AK 99801
586-2392 (w)

SOURCE: POT SAFARI, A VISIT TO THE
TOP MARIJUANA RESEARCHERS IN THE
U.S., By Peggy Mann, 1985

Dear *Representative Ellis,*

file

A LINE ON POT

Dr. Ethel Sassenrath is the only scientist in the world to have done studies on the reproductive effects of long-term marijuana use on female rhesus monkeys and their offspring.

Rhesus monkeys break down the marijuana molecule in a way similar to humans, and their reproductive systems are similar to humans. The endocrine system, which controls the menstrual cycle, is virtually indistinguishable between the human and the female rhesus monkey.

Dr. Sassenrath gave her monkeys only one of the 61 known cannabinoids in marijuana--the famous THC. She fed the THC to the monkeys in a cookie every day for three to five years. Each received a dose sufficient to produce the same concentration of THC in its blood that a human would have who smoked one joint a day.

Remember, the pregnant monkeys were fed only one cannabinoid--THC. A pregnant human would be exposed to all 61 cannabinoids in a marijuana joint, making toxicity presumably greater.

Results can be summed up in one startling statistic. The reproductive loss was 44 percent for the THC-fed mothers and 12 percent for the undrugged mothers. Ten to 12 percent is a normal birth loss in a monkey colony, resulting from injury, infection, and other ordinary causes. In the case of the THC mothers, birth loss occurred from early spontaneous abortion, fetal deaths, still-births, and infant death just after birth.

There was not one THC baby who did not have some subtle developmental abnormality in one or more systems (nervous, cardiovascular or urinary) and/or placental abnormality. **In human studies, radioactively-tagged THC has been shown to accumulate in the placenta.** It also crosses through the placenta; consequently, when the pot-smoking mother gets high, so, presumably, does her developing baby. None of the following abnormalities were found in the control baby monkeys or in any of the 80 rhesus babies from non-drugged mothers in the primate colony who had died during the same period:

1. Water on the brain.
2. Degenerative changes in cardiovascular structures, including the heart muscle and the umbilical vessels.
3. Acute kidney disorder in the recycling of the necessary parts of the nutrients of the blood, leaving only the waste.
4. Blockage of the canal through which the testes descend.
5. Dead tissue in the placenta.
6. Depletion of blood production of white blood cells in the lymph nodes to combat infections; depletion of the formation of red and white blood cells in the bone marrow--the center of cell formation.

MORE

Chris -
file,

ct. 18, '87

Dear Editor,

I recently read in your paper of Fairbanksans who would have the legislature criminalize the possession of marijuana. (At present, any sale or possession of more than the equivalent of one cigarette is already against the law). These are a few reasons given me by one legislator I know for why they have not done so:

1. Although it's fairly clear that marijuana is unhealthy, logic would have tobacco and alcohol outlawed first as both have proven to be far more damaging to health as well as more addictive. Prohibiting alcohol in the 20's was not a success.

2. Information given the legislature shows no cases in Alaska of violent crimes being committed under the influence of marijuana.

3. The Troopers and city Police force have been cut. They have told the legislature that if marijuana is criminalized they will not be able to enforce the law; it's too low a priority compared to more violent and damaging ^{cases that} demand their limited resources. That wouldn't cost us anything but do we want laws that are not enforced?

4. Marijuana is only one of hundreds of drugs that have harmful side effects. Drugs to soothe or to activate or to whatever are almost all a hazard to perfect health as well as serving their specific purpose.

5. Education has reduced the use of tobacco dramatically and with almost no rebellion. It is a great example of the best way to reduce the smoking of other hazardous substances. It would also permit the police to direct their efforts at the suppression of the trade in hard drugs and other activities that are more obviously criminal.

Sincerely,

Joan Koponen
Joan Koponen

710 Chena Ridge, Fairbanks, AK. 99709

Bethel Mar 30, 1987

Senator Jan Faiks
Alaska State Senate
Hess Committee
Box V, Juneau, AK. 99811

Dear Senator,

Your district has one of the highest violent crime rates in Alaska and the City of Anchorage has 21 unfilled police officer positions . The records show that when marijuana was prohibited, law enforcement spent about 20 percent of their duty hours in investigation, arrests and court appearances involving simple possession. It would appear that the officers preferred that non-violent pursuit as opposed to dealing with rapists and other crimes of violence.

The health hazards that you cited, from use of marijuana, can also be cited for use of tobacco and alcohol. The problem is not one of use but, rather, abuse. Please consider educational programs to deter abuse. Criminal sanctions merely enhance the problem.


Thank you for your consideration,

Vernon Keezer

cc to: Hess Committee, House of Representatives

VERNON KEEZER

Box 242

BETHEL, AK 99559

The Honorable Frank H. Murkowski
United States Senate
720 Hart Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

The effects of a new prohibition of the use and possession of Marijuana would be socially and financially disastrous to the State of Alaska.

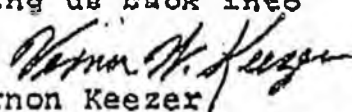
Hundreds of newly created "criminals" would be dumped into a court system that is already overloaded and would severely impair the ability of the courts to speedily and efficiently handle trials involving serious major crimes against the people of Alaska. Civil Rights litigation caused by overzealous search, seizure and investigative tactics on the part of law enforcement agencies, would further overload the system.

The increased cost in dollars to operate the courts and the costs of law enforcement man hours spent in investigation, arrests and court appearances cannot be acceptable in the light of our declining economy.

The social impact on Alaskans would be even more disastrous and have longer lasting negative effects than the financial impact. The first to suffer will be the children whom some prohibitionists claim they seek to protect. To jail a teenager is perhaps one of the easiest ways to corrupt and ruin his or her life. Surely we have not so soon forgotten the Ohio State R.O.T.C. and honor student who was incarcerated in a federal penitentiary in 1964 for the possession of one marijuana cigarette?

Under present laws, minors are forbidden the use or possession of marijuana and alcohol and tobacco, however, the common law of the land has left the responsibility to limit or deny the use of these legal drugs to the parents and guardians. By making any of these legal drugs illegal we travel back in time to the "roaring twenties" of alcohol prohibition and to 1937 when marijuana was made illegal for the first time ever to give law enforcement leverage against the blacks and hispanics who were the major if not only, users. The results of these prohibitions were the violation of the civil rights of hundreds of thousands and corruption of the judicial and law enforcement systems.

Please address your efforts, on our behalf, to the problems of abuse of legal drugs rather than thrusting us back into the Dark Ages of Prohibition.


Sincerely, Vernon Keezer
Fellow Alaskan.

Box 242
Bethel, AK 99559

cc to: Senators Jan Fakis and Paul Fisher, Senate Hess
Committee
Hess Committee, House of Representatives

POSITION STATEMENTS FOR MARIJUANA RECRIMINALIZATION

Which organizations represent voters who want to see marijuana made illegal in Alaska?

EDUCATIONAL

Alaska State Board of Education
Alaska Parent-Teacher Association
Association of Alaska School Boards
Alaska Association of School Governments/
General Assembly/39 high schools
Alaska Association of School Governments/
Student Leaders/passed unanimously by
60 Alaskan high schools
Alaska Assoc. of Secondary School Principals
Galena City School District
Galena City School District Board of Education
Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District
Kenny Lake High School
Kenai Peninsula Borough School District
City and Borough of Juneau School District
Juneau-Douglas High School Student Council
Anchorage School District
Northwest Arctic Borough School District
Wrangell Junior and Senior High School
Haines Borough School Board of Education

Political

1988 Republican Convention Platform
Senator Frank Murkowski/Alaska Congressional
Delegation
Alaska Municipal League

City/Borough/Municipality

City and Borough of Juneau
Municipality of Anchorage
City of Ketchikan
City of Galena
Togiak City Council
City of Saxman
City of Valdez
City of Haines
City of Togiak
Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly
City and Borough of Sitka
Petersburg General Hospital
City of Wrangell

OVER

Fathom Graphics

P.O. Box 1690
Cordova, Alaska 99574

Typesetting, Illustrating, Printing and Publishing
(907) 424-3116

April 8, 1988

Representative Nillo Koponen
Alaska State Legislature
P. O. Box V (MS 3100)
Juneau, Alaska 99811

RE: SB 32 Recriminalization of Marijuana

Dear Representative Koponen,

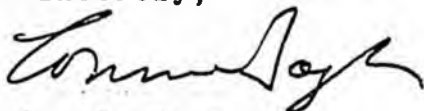
Please support the recriminalization of marijuana.

As an Alaskan employer, I see the damage marijuana can do. One of my most promising employees got hooked on it; it was amazing to see her learning curve drop off to nothing and then see her become unable to cope with what had previously been easy tasks.

It is hard to understand why Alaska would make such a dangerous, illegal to acquire drug, legal in our state. I urge you to correct this situation and vote for the recriminalization of marijuana.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Connie Taylor

cc: Representatives Johnny Ellis, Max Gruenberg, Dave Donley,
Bill Hudson, Randy Phillips, Alyce Hanley

PETERSBURG GENERAL HOSPITAL

and Long Term Care Facility

Phone: (907) 772-4291

P.O. Box 589

Petersburg, Alaska 99833

April 4, 1988

APR 08 1988

Johnny Ellis
Niilo Koponen
Co-Chairmen
House HESS Committee
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Gentlemen:

Thank you for your letter of March 18, 1988. I understand that Recriminalization of Marijuana is scheduled for teleconference hearings on April 13th and 14th. Please share this letter with the other members of the HESS Committee.

To me, this issue goes beyond right to privacy vs. harm to society. I look at it as a health issue. The enclosed literature that I share with you indicates that marijuana is a "drug". As such it should be controlled the same as other narcotics. Narcotics are controlled by the federal government thru the food and drug administration and for this reason the federal government has laws which prohibit the use of marijuana in the United States. I believe that Alaska still belongs to the U.S. and we should uphold the laws of the land.

I have a hard time seeing marijuana allowed in the homes of Alaska if there are federal laws which prohibit the possession of marijuana in any form in the United States. Isn't an Alaskan home a part of the United States? In addition how can Alaska citizens have marijuana in their homes without first breaking a law in getting it into the home and that includes seeds to grow plants? Marijuana in any form has to pass thru the streets, highways, or airways of the state, which is against the law.

Next, I agree that people do have a right to privacy in their own homes, to a point. However, we cannot do certain things there such as child abuse or assault of our spouse or criminal acts such as murder, rape, incest and other moral crimes without being arrested. I put marijuana in that category.

Next, you might want to talk to some newborn care nurses at hospitals such as Ketchikan or Juneau who will tell you that babies whose mothers have been smoking marijuana are more restless, cry more, and have drug withdrawal symptoms to varying degrees. On the other hand, they will

Johnny Ellis, Niilo Koponen,
Co-Chairmen, House HESS Committee
April 4, 1988

Pg. 2

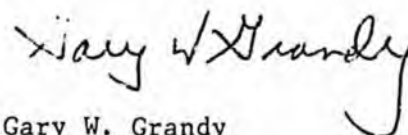
tell you that the most healthy and best behaved babies come from mothers who do not smoke marijuana, do drugs, or drink alcohol.

I believe that innocent newborns have a God-given right to start life without being in subjection to problems created by their mother's marijuana habit.

The enclosed literature speaks for itself to the fact that marijuana is a drug, is a health hazard and can damage your health. Therefore, as a committee interested in the health of the citizens of Alaska, I am convinced that you too will support the bills requesting the recriminalization of marijuana.

A year ago a petition was circulated in Petersburg requesting the support of recriminalizing marijuana. I believe that the majority of the citizens in Petersburg and Alaska support CSSB 32. Therefore, I solicit your vote in favor of this bill. Thank you!

Sincerely,



Gary W. Grandy
Administrator

Enclosures

A Drug That Can Damage Your Health

Although marijuana is less controversial and more socially acceptable than a few years ago, you still need to be aware of the facts concerning its use. Recently scientists have found that marijuana produces many more subtle effects as a drug than suspected even a few years ago.

What effect does marijuana have on your body?

According to research done at the University of California, smoking one "joint" has the same effect on your lungs as ten medium-tar cigarettes. Marijuana smoke contains 50 percent more cancer causing chemicals than cigarettes. Because it is inhaled deeply, then held in the lungs for several seconds, the risk of lung cancer for users may be at least as great as for cigarette smokers.

Effects of THC

Marijuana also affects your ability to think. Its intoxicating effects are caused primarily by a chemical called THC (tetrahydrocannabinol). The time it takes THC to affect the body can vary, but once it is introduced, things begin to happen.

THC travels in the bloodstream to all parts of the body. It impairs short-term memory, alters sense of time, and reduces the ability to do things which require concentration, swift reaction, and coordination, such as driving a car.



Unlike alcohol or nicotine, marijuana is not water soluble, so the body has trouble getting rid of it. Weeks after smoking marijuana, traces of THC can still be found in the body.

While all the effects of THC are not yet known, researchers believe that THC, like any foreign substance, taken into the body, causes or contributes to a range of long-term health problems.

Indications of Early Research

It may be years before all the remaining mysteries of marijuana are unraveled, but early research suggests that smoking marijuana causes:

- bronchial irritation and reduced lung capacity
- increased risk of lung cancer
- increased heart rate (which could induce a heart attack)
- lowered resistance to colds and the flu
- higher health risks to unborn children
- harmful dependence

Although marijuana has dramatic short-term effects, the real danger lies in the long-term subtle effects on the body. □

ALCOHOL
(beer, wine, liquor)

COCAINE
(coke, rock, crack, base)

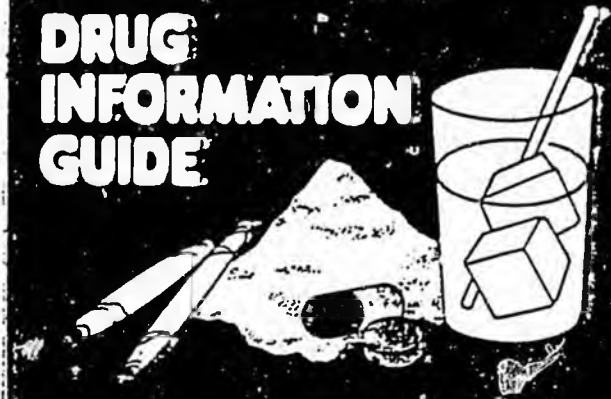
MARIJUANA
(pot, dope, grass, weed,
herb, hash, joint)

HALLUCINOGENS
(acid, LSD, PCP, MDMA,
Ecstasy, psilocybin
mushrooms, peyote)

← **DRUG
USED**

Belinda McFee
Drug Counseling & Evaluation Services
Durham, North Carolina 27701

DRUG INFORMATION GUIDE



PHYSICAL SYMPTOMS

Altered perceptions, red
Eyes, dry mouth, reduced
concentration and coordi-
nation, euphoria,
laughing, hunger.

LOOK FOR

Polluted papers, pipes,
dried plant material, odor
of burnt hemp rope,
roach clips.

DANGERS

Flu-like reaction, impaired
short term memory, ad-
diction.

Flushing, elevated
heart rate,
excitement, feel-
ing loved by

Smell of alcohol on
clothes or breath, intoxi-
cated behavior, hang-
over, glazed eyes.

Heart attack,
damage,
on, para-
nitis.
Addiction, accidents as result
of impaired ability and judg-
ment, overdose when mixed
with other depressants, heart
and liver damage.



EPIDEMIOLOGY BULLETIN

EPIDEMIOLOGY OFFICE
DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
STATE OF ALASKA
3601 C Street, Suite 540
P. O. Box 240249
Anchorage, Alaska 99524-0249

Myra M. Munson, Commissioner
Department of Health
and Social Services

Editor: John Middaugh, M.D.
Elizabeth Ward, M.N., Director
Division of Public Health

Bulletin Number 3

Week Ending January 23, 1987

HEPATITIS A OUTBREAK STRIKES ALASKANS

Between August and December 1986, 75 cases of confirmed hepatitis A were reported to the Epidemiology Office. Of these 75 cases, 41 (56%) were located in Anchorage, 17 (23%) in Fairbanks, 4 (5%) in Juneau, and 13 (17%) from seven other Alaskan communities. Of the 75 cases, 59 (79%) occurred in adults. These 75 cases represented a dramatic increase over the number of hepatitis A cases reported during the first half of 1986 and the last 3 years (Figure). In all, 104 cases of hepatitis A were reported in 1986.

- Of 41 cases among Anchorage residents, 37 were confirmed since October 4, 1986.
22 were male, 19 were female.
11 were Native, 30 were non-Native.
36 were adults, 5 were children.
- Of the 36 adults, 30 (83%) were between the ages 20 and 39 (Table 1).
- Of 22 cases fully interviewed for risk factors, 17 (77%) admitted drug use, either IV or marijuana; only 3 (14%) had children less than 6.
- Although eight small clusters of individuals with hepatitis A were identified, no common source was found.
- Of the 41 Anchorage cases, at least 21 lived in midtown or downtown. Other cases were scattered throughout town.

A similar outbreak of hepatitis A in the drug community was recognized 18 months ago in the State of Washington and is continuing. Several other states including Connecticut, Oregon, and Oklahoma have also reported outbreaks in this same risk group. Questions concerning parenteral transmission of hepatitis A through use of shared needles and IV drugs remain unanswered. Samples of marijuana provided to the Division of Public Health for testing have shown massive fecal contamination and may be implicated in transmission. Further investigation will be necessary to confirm this finding.

A major concern is that hepatitis A may be introduced into rural Alaska. Once established, the disease may be difficult to control, as it proved to be in the past.

It is imperative that all physicians and other health care providers request the proper serologic tests on all suspected cases of hepatitis. Hepatitis screening is available through the state lab. All physicians and other health care providers should immediately report, by phone, any suspected cases of hepatitis to our office so that we can interview all new cases.

(Reported by Ronald Boisen, M.D.)

Hepatitis A in Alaska, 1983 - 1986

N = 189

Table 1
Hepatitis A cases Anchorage by Age, Sex, Race
August - December, 1986
N=41



STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY

POUCH Y STATE CAPITOL
JUNEAU ALASKA 99811
907 465 3800

MEMORANDUM

TO: House Hess Committee
Attn: Chris

FROM: Cassie Russell *CR*
Representative Hanley's Office

SUBJECT: Additional Items for SB 32 file:

Please add the attached items to your file on Senate Bill 32, An Act relating to marijuana."

1. Letter from Ray Schalow dated April 15, 1988
2. Resolution #2947 & Resolution #88-038 in support of recriminalization.
3. Letter dated 4/9/88 from Gateway Human Services Advisory Board, Ketchikan, Alaska, in support of recriminalization.
4. Letter dated 4/11/88 from Alaska Board of Pharmacy, in support of recriminalization.

Thank You.

4-20-88

201 Galleon Drive
Anchorage, AK 99515
(907) 562-2662
April 15, 1988

Honorable Bill Hudson
Alaska State Legislature
P.O. Box V (MS 3100)
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Representative Hudson:

There is one issue surrounding Senate Bill 32, "An Act Relating to the Recriminalization of Marijuana" that has alluded public notice but could be catastrophic for our state and its ability to deal with the whole issue of substance abuse.

In 1986 Congress passed the Omnibus Drug Education and Rehabilitation Bill for which Alaska was allocated \$2 million. At the time, resources for those funds were limited and competition for dollars was intense. Congress and the administration looked unfavorably at Alaska and our liberalized drug laws and only after intensive lobbying by Senator Murkowski were the funds finally released to our state.

Now in 1988, the United States Senate has passed SB 2205 which provides emergency funding of \$3.6 billion that will insure the continuation of the 1986 programs. Alaska's share has been targeted at \$6 million. But resources are even more limited today and the pressure is intense in Congress to allocate monies to states that deal with the drug issue in a responsible manner. Parenthetically, the recalcitrance of our legislature to abolish the only liberalized drug law in the union has placed us in serious jeopardy of losing \$6 million in federal funds. These funds are urgently needed to combat our growing drug problem.

We take pride that our state is known as the "Last Frontier"; let us not be hoodwinked into being the "Last Fool-tier".

Sincerely,

Ray Schalow
Ray Schalow

Alaska State Legislature

SENATOR BETTYE FAHRENKAMP
CHAIRMAN, LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
CHAIRMAN, OIL AND GAS COMMITTEE
515 7TH AVENUE, SUITE 130
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701
OFFICE (907) 452-4882
HOME (907) 456-2899

WHILE IN JUNEAU
PO BOX V
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
CAPITOL ROOM 125
OFFICE (907) 465-3833
HOME (907) 780-6027

Senate

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Representative Johnny Ellis, Co-Chairman
House Health, Education and Social Services Committee

FROM: Senator Bettye Fahrenkamp

RE: SB 32, Relating to marijuana

DATE: February 24, 1988

Attached for your information are copies of all the correspondence I have received on SB 32 from my district. Since the beginning of this session, I have received eight letters, POM's, and telegrams. Only one expressed support for the bill. I hope this gives you some indication of how the people of Fairbanks feel about their constitutionally protected right to privacy.

If I can provide you with further information, please let me know.

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR FAHRENKAMP

NAME: GENE WILLIAMS

TITLE:

ADDRESS: 781 9 MILE HILL ROAD

CITY: FAIRBANKS

ZIP: 99712

FHCHE: 488-9008

BILL NO: SB 39

SUBJECT: REAL ESTATE COMMISSION/REALTORS

MESSAGE: HOW MANY TIMES MUST YOU HEAR THE FACTS BEFORE BELIEVING THEM. FACT -
MARIJUANA IS LESS ADDICTIVE THAN COFFEE AND TOBACCO AND LESS INTOXICATING THAN AL-
COHOL. HYPOCRISY IS ALWAYS MORE DANGEROUS THAN ANY SUBSTANCE BECAUSE IT
UNDERMINES THE REAL TRUTHS THERE ARE IN THE LAWS OF THIS LAND.

EOM-FZ

POMID: 07095740

DATE: 02/19/88

TIME: 09:57:40

LIONAME: FAIRBANKS LIO

COPIES: SENATORS

COGHILL

FANNING

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR FAHRENKAMP

NAME: LLOYD YSTENES, JR.
TITLE:
ADDRESS: 939 LATHROP ST., #3
CITY: FAIRBANKS
PHONE: 452-4396
BILL NO: SB 32
SUBJECT: PENALTY FOR POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA
MESSAGE: I WOULD LIKE TO URGE YOU TO VOTE AGAINST IT - TO KEEP IT LEGAL.
THANK YOU. ECH/MJO

POMID: 07083109
DATE: 02/19/88
TIME: 08:31:09
LIONAME: FAIRBANKS LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES SENATORS

BOYER	COGHILL
DAVIS	FANNING
FRANK	
KOFONEN	
MILLER	
DONLEY	
ELLIS	
GRUENBERG	
HANLEY	
HUDSON	
PHILLIPS	

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

SENATOR FAHRENKAMP

BROTHER TOM PATMOR
LEGISLATIVE ADVISOR
P.O. BOX 124
CLAM GULCH
N/R-

ZIP: 99658

JAPAN'S ATTEMPT TO ANNEX ANCHORAGE
DON'T TAKE TOM FINK TOO SERIOUSLY. HE MUST EITHER SUPPORT SEGREGATION
TOO HAIVE TO REALIZE THAT BUILDING A HIGH SCHOOL JUST FOR JAPANESE
IS JUST THE FIRST STEP OF A JAPANESE PLOT TO TAKE CONTROL OF THE WHOLE
ANCHORAGE, BECAUSE JAPAN LACKS SPACE TO EXPAND.

13083334
02/17/88
08:33:34
SOLDOTHA LIO

REPRESENTATIVES REPRESENTATIVES SENATORS

ADAMS	BARNES	ABOOD
BOUCHER	BOYER	BINKLEY
BROWN	CATO	COGHILL
COLLINS	COTTEN	DUNCAN
DAVIDSON	DAVIS	ELIASON
DOHLEY	ELLIS	FAIKS
FRANK	FURNACE	FANNING
GOLL	GRUENDERG	FISCHER
GRUSSENDORF	HANLEY	HALFORD
HERRMANN	HOFFMAN	HENSLEY
HUOSON	KOPONEN	JONES
LARSON	MARTIN	JOSEPHSON
HENARD	MILLER	KELLY
NAVARRE	PEARCE	KERTTULA
PETTYJOHN	PHILLIPS	KERTTULA
POUFCHOT	RIEGER	RODEY
SHULTZ	SPRINGER	STURGULEWSKI
SUND	SHACKHAMMER	SZYMANSKI
TAYLOR	ULNER	UEHLING
HALLIS	ZAWACKI	ZHAROFF

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR FAHRENKAMP

NAME: KIM SCOTT
TITLE:
ADDRESS: 1185 PUEBLO ST.
CITY: NORTH POLE
PHONE: N/R-

ZIP: 99705

BILL NO: SB 32
SUBJECT: PENALTY FOR POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA
MESSAGE: VOTE NO BECAUSE THE RIGHT TO POSSESS AND/OR GROW A SMALL AMOUNT
WITHOUT INTENT TO SELL FOR STRICTLY PERSONAL USE SHOULD NOT BE A CRIME.
MANY PEOPLE DO NOT DRINK BUT LIKE TO GO HOME AND SMOKE A JOINT INSTEAD.
THEY DO NOT STOP AT A BAR AND GET DRUNK AND CREATE A POSSIBLE PUBLIC SAFETY
PROBLEM. IT WOULD CREATE AN ALREADY OVERBURDEN COURT SYSTEM. EOM/110

ON TO
ON

PHID: 07081818
DATE: 02/17/88
TIME: 08:18:18
LIONAME: FAIRDANKS LIO

COPIES: SENATORS

HALFORD
KELLY
STURGULEWSKI
SZYMANSKI
ZHAROFF
BINKLEY
DUNCAN
FISCHER
HENSLEY
UEHLING
FANNING
JONES
JOSEPHSON
KERTTULA
FAIKS
RODEY
ELIASON
COGHILL
ABOOD

FEB 17 1988

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR FAHRENKAMP

NAME: DEL THORNGREN
 TITLE:
 ADDRESS: 758 ESTER LOOP ROAD
 CITY: ESTER ZIP: 99705
 PHONE: 479-2654
 BILL NO: SB 32
 SUBJECT: PENALTY FOR POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA
 MESSAGE: I AM AGAINST IT. EOM/HJO

POMID: 07135523
 DATE: 02/18/88
 TIME: 13:55:23
 LIONAME: FAIRBANKS LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES SENATORS

BOYER	COGHILL
DAVIS	FANNING
FRANK	
KOPONEN	
MILLER	

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR FAHRENKAMP

FEB 19 1988 NAME: GORDON THOMPSON
 TITLE:
 ADDRESS: 2755 ILIAMMA
 CITY: ANCHORAGE ZIP: 99517
 PHONE: 279-2554

BILL NO: HB 93
 SUBJECT: ESTABLISH SYSTEM OF RECREATION RIVERS
 MESSAGE: I SUPPORT HB 93. I AM A PRIVATE PILOT AND USE THE RIVERS AT LEAST
 TIMES A YEAR AS A RECREATIONAL RIVER. I SUPPORT THE BILL BECAUSE IT PRESE
 THE UNIQUE RECREATIONAL AREA WITH EASY ACCESS FOR THE MAJORITY OF ANCHORAGE
 RESIDENTS. I THINK THESE RIVERS ARE AN IMPORTANT ECONOMIC SOURCE. I WOULD LI
 TO SEE THIS CONTINUE.

POMID: 03151037
 DATE: 02/18/88
 TIME: 15:10:37
 LIONAME: ANCHORAGE LIO

COPIES: SENATORS

ABOOD
 BINKLEY
 COGHILL
 DUNCAN
 ELIASON
 FAKS
 FANNING
 FISCHER
 HALFORD
 HENSLEY
 JONES
 JOSEPHSON
 KELLY
 KERTTULA
 RODEY
 STURGULEWSKI
 SZYMAŃSKI
 UENLING
 ZHAROFF

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR FAHRENKAMP

NAME: LYNETTE CLARK
TITLE:
ADDRESS: 2521 OLD STEESE HWY
CITY: FAIRBANKS ZIP: 99712
PHONE: 457-1884
BILL NO: SB 32
SUBJECT: PENALTY FOR POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA
MESSAGE: SB 32 & HB 55: I AM STUDYING THE RESEARCH ON HB 55 AND SB 32
ILLS AND HOPE TO SEE A TELECONFERENCE SET UP ON BOTH THESE BILLS. I AM
ERY CONCERNED WITH CONTENT OF BOTH BILLS AND THE OBVIOUS INVASION OF AN
DIVIDUAL'S CONSTITUTIONAL PRIVACY. PLEASE SEND ME YOUR POSITION ON
OTH BILLS AND TELECONFERENCE DATE. EOM/HJO/C

POHID: 07152606
DATE: 02/01/88
TIME: 15:26:06
LIONAME: FAIRBANKS LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES SENATORS

- | | |
|-------|---------|
| DAVIS | FANNING |
| BOYER | COGHILL |
| FRANK | BINKLEY |
| | ELIASON |
| | FAIKS |
| | HENSLEY |
| | JONES |

*word to learn
from you
take your words
under
advice
Have your objection
did. Hope everything is
going OK.*

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR FAHRENKAMP

NAME: NANCY NEEL
TITLE:
ADDRESS: PO BOX 076606
CITY: WASILLA ZIP: 99687
PHONE: 373-5252
BILL NO: SB 191
SUBJECT: OUTFITTING IN THE FIELD; GUIDE LICENSE
MESSAGE: I SUPPORT SB191.THE INDUSTRY IN ALASKA MUCH LIKE COMMERCIAL FISHING
HAS BEEN WELL REGULATED IN PAST. BOTH LIMITED ENTRY FISHING AND EXCLUSIVE
GUIDE AREA CONCEPT HAVE WORKED WELL TO CONTROL HARVEST OF OUR RESOURCES.
UNREGULATED OUTFITTING CAN NO LONGER BE TOLERATED NOR CAN OUR RESOURCES STAND
THE INCREASED PRESSURE.

POHID: 14153744
DATE: 02/01/88
TIME: 15:37:44
LIONAME: MAT-SU LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES REPRESENTATIVES SENATORS

- | | | |
|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| ADAMS | BARNES | ABOOD |
| BOUCHER | BOYER | BINKLEY |
| BROWN | CATO | COGHILL |
| COLLINS | COTTEN | DUNCAN |
| DAVIDSON | DAVIS | ELIASON |
| DONLEY | ELLIS | FAIKS |
| FRANK | FURNACE | FANNING |
| GOLL | GRUENBERG | FISCHER |
| GRUSSENDORF | HANLEY | HALFORD |
| HERRMANN | HOFFMAN | HENSLEY |
| HUDSON | KOPONEN | JONES |
| LARSON | MARTIN | JOSEPHSON |
| MEHARD | MILLER | KELLY |
| HAVARRE | PEARCE | KERTTULA |
| PETTYJOHN | PHILLIPS | RODEY |
| POURCHOT | RIEGER | STURGULEWSKI |
| SHULTZ | SPRINGER | SZYMANSKI |
| SUND | SWACKHAMMER | UEHLING |
| TAYLOR | ULMER | ZHAROFF |
| WALLIS | ZAWACKI | |

NO RESPONSE REQUIRED

Jim

FROM:
AK FOR DRUG-FREE
YOUTH

Sb 32, a bill to modernize our state marijuana laws passed the Senate 15-3 on February 18, 1988.

This bill is now in the House HESS Committee chaired by Representatives Ellis and Koponen.

We have received assurances in writing from the following Representatives that they will vote for this bill when it reaches the floor:

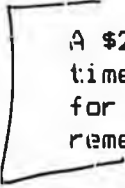
- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Ben Grussendorf, Speaker | Ramona Barnes |
| H.A. Boucher | Virginia Collins |
| Walt Furnace | Alyce Hanley |
| Bill Hudson | Terry Martin |
| Drue Pearce | Fritz Pettyjohn |
| C.E. Swackhammer | Robin Taylor |
| James Zawacki | Mike Miller |

Rep. Ron Larson and Randy Phillips responded that because of changes that may happen to the bill before it reaches the floor they are at this time uncommitted.

On Oct. 29, 1987 Rep. Fran Ulmer wrote to Rep. Martin regarding HB 55 asking to be a co-sponsor, and stating that she would work with Rep. Martin to get the legislation passed. However, on Feb. 9, 1988 in a letter to our office she stated that our form asking for a position was too narrow. She enclosed a copy of a letter to Sandy Spargo and Bobi Trani in Juneau, where among other things she stated that she favors a citation mail in bail approach for what she refers to as a "cookie jar criminal".

You could in fact refer to this as a cookie jar criminal for 4 oz. of marijuana would FILL most cookie jars. This 4 oz. of marijuana if it is the type with a THC content of 4% to 6% has a street value of aproximately \$1800.

Our position is that in order for Alaskan Society to stop using marijuana there has to be a strong deterrent to the use of marijuana.



A \$25 ticket or even a \$100 ticket as supported by Rep. Sund without any jail time penalty included is not, in our opinion, a strong deterrent. SB 32 calls for a MAXIMUM fine of \$1000 and/or a MAXIMUM jail term of 90 days. Please remember that judges rarely give maximum sentences.

A report of the council on Scientific affairs from the American Medical Association in December of 1980 stated:

The AMA has long opposed excessive and unrealistic penalties for possession of small amounts of this drug for personal use. Nevertheless, legislative action as designed to moderate penalties for possession should be such a nature as to discourage use and not to support misconceptions that marijuana is a harmless substance. The fact that marijuana may prove to have therapeutic value in medical practice does not indicate that it is a safe drug for recreational use. Legislators should keep in mind the primary need to give young people a clear message that marijuana use may be hazardous and is not sanctioned or endorsed by society.

FINES , ALTHOUGH MORE APPROPRIATE PENALTIES THAN PRISON SENTENCES WHEN APPLIED TO POSSESSION FOR PERSONAL USE, SHOULD BE LARGE ENOUGH TO CONSTITUTE A DETERRENT TO USE.

ALASKANS FOR DRUG FREE YOUTH
Executive Board

May 28, 1975

Page 495

9. CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

Right of privacy in the home must yield when it interferes in a serious manner with the health, safety, rights and priveledges of others or with the public welfare.

COMMENT: Consider passive smoking (inhalation of smoke by others near smoker) by spouse and children. Children learn by example - consider the education children get with marijuana use in the home.

14. CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

The right of an individual to do as he pleases is not absolute and it can be made to yield when it begins to infringe on the rights and welfare of others. (stated again on 509)

COMMENT: Adult may use money needed for family food and shelter for drug use and accessories. The user may be too impaired to care for his or her family and their basic needs.

19. HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

When there is substantial doubt as to safety of a given substance or situation of public health, controls intended to obviate the danger will usually be upheld. (Stated again on 510)

COMMENT: New information is now documented from many highly reliable sources substantiating the many dangers of marijuana, ie. Report of the Council on Scientific Affairs, American Medical Association, 1980.

Page 500

At some point, the states interest in safeguarding health, maintaining medical standards, and protecting potential life becomes sufficiently compelling to sustain regulations. One does not, the Supreme Court said, have an unlimited right to do with one's body as one pleases.

COMMENT: PLEASE REREAD THE LAST SENTENCE!

Page 505

Most marijuana available in the United States has a THC content of less than one percent.

COMMENT: THC content today may range from 4-10%.

Page 506

It appears that use of marijuana, as it is presently used in the United States today, does not constitute a public health problem of any significant dimensions.

COMMENT: This statement is now inaccurate. Marijuana use is a public health problem as declared by the World Health Organization, National Institute of Drug Abuse, National Federation of Parents for Drug Free Youth, Report of the Council on Scientific Affairs - AMA and everyone who works with the people impaired by marijuana use..

Page 510

64 We recognize that more potent forms of cannabis than marijuana are commonly used in other countries and are available on a limited scale here. However, studies of use patterns here do not indicate any great likelihood of a significant shift in use here to the more potent substances. If such a shift were to occur, then marijuana use could be characterized as a serious health problem.

COMMENT: Hashish is grown and smoked by many. This is a much more potent form of marijuana. Sensimilia can be refined to a THC content of upwards of 14%.

Page 511

The State has a legitimate concern with avoiding the spread of marijuana use to adolescents who may not be equipped with the maturity to handle the experience prudently, as well as a legitimate concern with the problem of driving under the influence of marijuana. Yet these interest are insufficient to justify intrusions into the rights of adults in the privacy of their own homes.

COMMENT: What is MORE important than influencing your children?

Page 511

We wish to make clear that we do not mean to condone the use of marijuana

COMMENT: WE HAVE CONDONED THE USE OF MARIJUANA. IT IS TIME TO REPAIR THE MISTAKE!

"IN VIEW OF THE EVIDENCE OF POSSIBLE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF MARIJUANA USE, THE SALE OF, OR OTHER TRAFFICKING IN MARIJUANA SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO STRINGENT PENALTIES AND VIGOROUS PROSECUTION." AMA SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS COUNCIL.

MAR 22 1988

Ketchikan, Ak.
March 21-88

Rep. John Sund.

Dear John,

Enclosed is more documented scientific social & monetary evidence addressing the importance of the marijuana issue.

John, we completely disagree with the proposal of a 'matt in bail' for marijuana possession. When $\frac{1}{4}$ oz of the type of marijuana that is produced in Alaska sells for \$1,000 wholesale & when the SB. 32 raises under 8oz. \$1,000.00 fines are ludicrous. We propose that the 1st offense of 1oz or less be a \$125 fine. Then the 8oz offender would at least pay \$1,000. (which would be $\frac{1}{2}$ the cost of 8oz. of marijuana sold wholesale). If you raise the fine, it would come a tony bit closer to paying for the cost of prosecution.

Also, John, you state that possession by people under 21 is illegal - the law says the legal age is 19 - I suspect the bill was written when in "our collective wisdom" we made alcohol legal at 19.

We urge you to request SB. 32 be wrenched out of the house HESS committee & sent to your judicial committee today!

Sincerely,
Samy Fran Lyons

The Ravin decision of May 28, 1975 states on Page 494 2.
Constitutional law:

"Once a fundamental right under State Constitution has been shown to be involved and it has been further shown that this constitutionally protected right has been impaired by governmental action - government must come forward & meet it's substantial burden of establishing that abridgement in question was justified by a compelling governmental interest."

In light of the above finding and the cost of drug abuse, both in dollars & human energies & of which marijuana is one of the most often abused drugs; how can we allow legal marijuana/

Alcohol & tobacco have been legal & accepted in our society since the founding of our nation. The sickness these two drugs have caused and are causing is well documented. But, since the 60's something is different. Suddenly crimes of all kinds, particularly violent crime is rampant. Teen pregnancies, teen suicides, teen accidents are epidemic. People presently in their 20's are part of this group. Infertile parents is another big concern. Broken marriages, sexual abuse, runaway & throw away kids, burgeoning mental health costs, jail costs and a desperate need for facilities to treat addicted minor children. What has been added or what is new in our society? MARIJUANA - Pot use became hot news in the 60's. LSD, PCP, cocaine followed quickly. Very quickly we acknowledged the dangers of LSD & PCP, but ignored cocaine until the end of the 70's. Society persisted in believing fallacy that marijuana is harmless. Just one case as an example of many. One 17 yr. old in 1972 started smoking pot because he was told - among other things - that it was harmless - certainly not addictive. Today he's a recovering addict. His drug of choice - Marijuana. We weren't listening or believing the truth about the drug in the 70's. We were denying that it was another "gateway" drug like tobacco & alcohol.

So what is happening today? First some history. In the many years before the 80's there have been alcohol & a few drug treatment programs. A.A. was the predominate self-help program & the Schick Shadel aversion treatment were the most common - profile of alcoholics & addicts generally was males 40 & over. There were very few N.A. (Narcotics Anonymous) or support groups for families of the addicts.

Today in Anchorage there are about 40 N.A. meetings a month. In Ketchikan there are two & three A.A. meetings daily and three N.A. meetings a week. There are Alanon meetings, parent support group meetings & adult children of Alcoholics (or addicts) every week. The total numbers of meetings is about 21 a week. The average number of people attending these various meetings (some people attend more than one meeting a week) is 274. Each meeting consumes about 1 1/2 hrs. of time which means 411 hrs. a week are consumed in our community each week for these people to maintain their sobriety & sanity. That's a lot of human resources & energy being diverted from various positive up-building community activities. It certainly takes away from our communities' collective energy & time to even contribute to elective offices, boards & commissions, all of which are positive ways to serve our fellowman.

Now to the actual cost of drug abuse & addiction in just three areas in our town. Our local 30 day residential treatment facility is over-flowing. The ages of the impaired follow the same trends as the A.A. & N.A. and are well documented. The impaired are beginning at age 18 instead of 40 and it's both male & female instead of just male. Today they are poly-drug users. In Methuen virtually all of the residents are involved with alcohol and marijuana and then to lesser degrees, cocaine, amphetamines, depressants, etc. What has happened? Marijuana is supposed to be harmless and besides it can only be used by people 19 & over in only the privacy of their own homes - yet we tax payers are now footing their rehabilitation bill in the local rehab house. That's quite a public effect for a supposedly private use.

In Methuen around 80% of all patients using our mental health facilities are abusers of one or more drugs. Again that facility is supported by tax dollars - PUBLIC MONEYS - another area. Today in our jail 85% - 90% of the inmates have significant drug (including alcohol) problems. Most of the arrest records done at the time of the crime, do not show drugs as being involved because tests were not done. These drug use figures come directly from the inmates through people working in the jail. People who are there to identify & help treat the inmates drug problems. Again, these inmates predominate drugs of choice are alcohol & marijuana. Guess who is paying the expenses for operating the jails? The taxpayers - the public!

Another area that the public is affected is insurance costs. Industrial accidents figures state that up to 20% of the work force are drug abusers & they consume 80% of private company's insurance moneys covering illness & accidents. Incidentally those insurance moneys generally do not include company moneys that cover employee assistance programs that pay for addiction or abuse rehabilitation. We all know the unbearably high costs of insurance. Drug abuse certainly is a major causative reason. We are all affected by drug abuse three times over.

It's obvious that marijuana, a new widely used drug, added to our society is changing our society in an insidious way. One example being that when marijuana & alcohol are used together - which is an extremely common behavior - the affects of the drugs isn't doubled, it's multiplied 4 or 5 times. Synergistic is the term used when the drugs are in the body at the same time. It's agreed alcohol is a serious problem, but it should be asked, "how do we know it's just alcohol?" It's easy to identify alcohol use - testing is simple - but we don't test for marijuana every time we test for alcohol; so, how can we say it's just alcohol? Alcohol & marijuana have been in existence for thousands of years, but the main thing that's happened in the last 20 years in our country is that the drugs are being used simultaneously along with any other drug that might be available - cocaine is in this category. Because we were duped into believing marijuana was harmless & non-addictive - our "drugged" state allowed people to believe that the even more spectacularly dangerous drug, cocaine was safe. Now in the 80's we have a growing cocaine problem.

To conclude: National cost figures for drug abuse are overwhelming and Alaska's drug abuse figures are even worse. What's different about Alaska? We accept marijuana as not very harmful and condone its' use by our law - therefore we are more sick than the rest of the nation.

How sad that each and every man, woman & child in our state is affected by drug abuse three times over.

In light of the Ravin decision law quoted at the beginning of this article - the state of Alaska has a legal & social obligation to investigate fully, whether by legislative or by legal search through the attorney general's office - to address the truth about marijuana and change our present statutes to classify marijuana as a dangerous health hazard to society and place the appropriate restrictions & consequences on this drug.

Frances C. Young
Ketchikan, Alaska

I have examined the findings reported in House Bill #56 and Senate Bill #32 of the Alaskan Legislature and have found them flawed and inaccurate. Here is a point by point rebuttal of the findings. Beginning sentences with apostrophics are direct quotes from the bills. References to the National Academy of Sciences refer to their publication Marijuana and Health which reports their 1982 study of marijuana related research. I have also enclosed other materials which are pertinent to the topic of recriminalization.

1) "THC, the mind altering ingredient in marijuana, is not soluble in water, but goes into the fatty tissues of the brain, testicles, ovaries, and other internal organs, and takes 30 days to be eliminated from the body;"

Actually, THC is broken down by the body soon after ingestion. It's metabolites stay in the body for up to 30 days, but these metabolites are non-psychoactive. Any toxicologist can confirm this. Urine testing advocates exploit the confusion between THC which is the active ingredient and is metabolized relatively quickly, and its metabolites (chiefly 9-carboxy-THC) which have no psychoactive effect but linger in the body for a month or so.

The following quote is from a recent article by Chemical & Engineering News (6/2/86). "Marijuana is the most commonly abused drug and the kinetics of its metabolism have been studied extensively. It is also an unusual drug in that it can be detected in urine for a long time. Very little of the original drug, Delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol or THC, goes into the urine. The chemical is absorbed from the blood into body fat tissue where it is eliminated as it is slowly metabolized. . . (metabolites) can be found in urine for longer than a month . . ."

The following quote is from a Center for Disease Control MMWR Report (9/16/83). "Studies involving humans indicate that 80% - 90% of the total dose of Delta-9-THC is excreted within 5 days - approximately 20% in urine and 65% in feces."

Most experts claim that the metabolites disappear 10 to 14 days after ingestion in most cases. Urine tests detect these metabolites, which is why the manufacturers are required to point out that they are tests to indicate recent use, not intoxication or impairment. If THC remained in the system for 30 days, and remained active, the urine tests would be marketed as a way to indicate impairment. They aren't.

2) "the buildup of THC in the body causes the user to smoke more marijuana to achieve the desired high and may result in loss of sleep, appetite, and initiative, as well as moodiness and depression;"

The "buildup of THC" is actually tolerance to the drug, a physiological response humans and animals have to any drug. It occurs not because of the THC buildup, but because of other complex biological factors.

There is no clinical evidence that marijuana causes schizophrenia. The National Academy of Sciences found that drug abuse was more often than not a symptom rather than a cause of mental problems. Illusions and hallucinations are often subjective phenomena influenced by an individual's mental state and the power of suggestion. Individuals susceptible to lapses in their grasp of reality will compound their mental problems with the use of alcohol, marijuana, or other drugs.

Marijuana users do not hallucinate. They do experience an alteration of their space perception, and an apparent enhancement of colors. These, combined with impairment of motor coordination, are reasons why marijuana should not be used while driving a motor vehicle. However, to call these effects of marijuana "hallucinations" is misleading if not untruthful. Individuals who take LSD hallucinate. Individuals detoxifying from alcohol addiction hallucinate. Hallucinate means the individual sees something that isn't there. Marijuana users do not hallucinate.

The National Institute on Drug Abuse's pamphlet, "Marijuana", is far from being the best source on marijuana's effects. However, it's claims are based far more on actual research than popular myths. It makes no mention of hallucinations, illusions, or schizophrenia resulting from marijuana use.

Marijuana's promise as a pain killer is referenced above. However, the dose required to render an individual oblivious to body signals such as pain far exceeds standard levels of use. A sufficient dose to accomplish this would also put the subject to sleep. It is unlikely that this presents any danger to the individual or to society.

6) "although it may take a heavy cigarette smoker as long as 20 years to develop lung cancer, one marijuana cigarette a day may cause lung cancer in three years;"

Marijuana is used daily by over 5 million Americans, according to the National Institute of Drug Abuse. Marijuana has been a popular recreational drug used by a large percentage of young Americans since 1965. There is no record of case histories to document this finding. If this finding were true, we would have millions of case histories of young individuals with lung cancer from marijuana use. The case histories don't exist because the statement is false.

The National Academy of Sciences decided that marijuana smoking and tobacco smoking can not be compared because the methods of ingestion differ so greatly. Marijuana smokers smoke far less materials a day than tobacco smokers (up to 2 cigarettes a day compared to 20 - 60), but they inhale the smoke far deeper into the lungs. On the other hand, many marijuana smokers use a waterpipe (or "bong") which filters out many, but not all, of the tars that contribute to lung cancer.

Claims that marijuana is more carcinogenic than tobacco are compelled by a logic that dictates that because marijuana is illegal (except in Alaska) it has to be more dangerous than tobacco (or in other cases, than alcohol). The claims are based on the undisputed fact that marijuana contains more tar than tobacco, but ignore the differences in ingestion and dosage that make comparisons inaccurate. Marijuana smoke is bad for the lungs, it does

contribute to the formation of lung cancer, and I am convinced that by the year 2000 we will begin to hear of case studies of individuals who have lung cancer as a result of long term marijuana use.

Nonetheless, it is not true that a marijuana cigarette a day for three years will cause lung cancer. I offer my own lungs and continued health as proof.

7) "THC affects eggs, sperm, sexual hormones, and the development of a fetus, and marijuana use may result in deformed or undersized offspring."

There are no documented cases of marijuana use causing a genetic deformity. I challenge anyone to provide one.

In April, 1984 Ralph Hingson delivered a paper at a NORML conference on "Effects of Marijuana Use on Pregnant Women". Dr. Hingson's conclusion was that marijuana use during pregnancy may result in a smaller birth weight for the fetus, but in an allowable range (similar to the smaller birth weight for babies from nicotine or alcohol using mothers.) NORML has been publicizing this since 1984. We regularly hear, though, from mothers who used marijuana during pregnancy who delivered babies of normal weight.

Laboratory tests have indicated that under some conditions, large doses of THC affect the eggs, sperm, and sexual hormones of rats and other animals. There is evidence that THC inhibits sperm mobility. However, the effects of marijuana on fertility seem to be negligible - as millions of marijuana smoking parents will attest to.

The National Academy of Sciences report affirmed that marijuana use has no effect on chromosomes or fertility.

8) "other physical reactions to marijuana include irreversible changes in the brain, sinusitis, pharyngitis, bronchitis, emphysema, increased heart rate, and decreased blood circulation;"

Marijuana use does not cause brain damage. NIDA recently announced proof that it does. My office contacted the researcher. His data actually suggested that a dose of 50 marijuana cigarettes a day for 30 years would not cause brain damage. What NIDA based their comments on was his finding that 136 marijuana cigarettes for 30 years would cause slight premature senilia. An individual would have to smoke a marijuana cigarette every 8 minutes for 16 hours a day, for thirty years, to suffer any brain damage - if this study is conclusive. The enclosed NORML press release cited above re: marijuana potency contains more details of this study.

Smoking contributes to lung and sinus problems, and marijuana smoking is no different. Marijuana does increase the heart rate and/or blood pressure in some individuals; NORML cautions against marijuana use by individuals with cardiovascular problems.

9) "other psychological reactions to marijuana include loss of memory; impairment in thinking, reading comprehension, and verbal and arithmetic problem solving; impairment of perception of distance and time; and anxiety, panic, paranoia, psychosis, and psychological dependence."

The symptoms mentioned accompany cessation of marijuana use in some individuals, not the buildup in the body. A majority of marijuana smokers experience no side-effects from cessation of use. If these symptoms indicate anything, they indicate the relative lack of serious side-effects from cessation of use, unlike those associated with alcohol and opiate withdrawal.

3) "it is possible for a human being to overdose from the use of marijuana, especially if it is used in conjunction with alcohol, because it increases the effects of alcohol;"

There is no record of anyone ever dying from an overdose of marijuana. It is one of the least toxic drugs known to man.

Raphael Mechoulam, who isolated the main ingredient of marijuana (THC) has edited Cannabinoids as Therapeutic Agents which includes an article by Marc Segal on Marijuana's potential as an analgesic. He reports that marijuana has promise as a pain killer because it is non-addictive and does not depress the respiratory tract (unlike opioids.) Marijuana's promise as a pain-killer is reported by the National Academy of Sciences, and by Roger Roffman in the book Marijuana as Medicine; its promise rests on the fact that finding #3 is essentially false.

Marijuana is a mild intoxicant, and as such should not be used in conjunction with other intoxicants. Whether marijuana increases the effects of alcohol, or complicates them, or just how one would subjectively describe the effects of mixing the two, is beside the point that multiple drug use provides multiple safety concerns. Marijuana, though, has far less severe cross-reaction with alcohol than barbituates or tranquilizers such as valium. Once again, a good toxicologist can provide confirmation of these points.

4) "the THC content of a marijuana cigarette 10 years ago was one percent, but is as high as 10 percent per cigarette today;"

Proponents of jailing people for marijuana use have been using this argument as if to suggest that marijuana is ten times more dangerous than it used to be. The premise that an increase in potency demonstrates an increase in danger is logically unsound. As with alcohol, consumers compensate for higher potency by consuming smaller doses. Anyone who counsels alcoholics will confirm that beer is no less dangerous than whiskey simply because it has a lesser potency.

The government has been trying to sell the increased potency argument for some time. The enclosed press release refers to a New York Times report in 1966 that marijuana had increased to an average potency of 3.5%, and that this was an alarming increase over the seventies. However, in 1980, The Times ran a similar story, only at that time they claimed that marijuana had an average potency of 4%. So, marijuana has actually decreased in potency, if you believe The Times.

5) "Marijuana causes schizophrenia, illusions, and hallucinations, including a dulling of the senses, creating the possibility that the user is unable to respond to body signals, such as pain;"

The Ravin decision of May 28, 1975 states on Page 494 2. Constitutional law:

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Page 3.
3/15/88

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Frances C. Young
Ketchikan, Alaska

Alaska State Legislature



House of Representatives House Judiciary Committee

P. O. Box V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811
(907) 465-4990

March 22, 1988

Ms. Lynda Adams
P.O. Box 7171
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

Dear Lynda:

This is in response to your letters to me, both dated March 13, 1988, dealing with the marijuana recriminalization legislation.

Waiver of bills is a prerogative of the chair or co-chairs of that committee. As you know, I already held a hearing in Ketchikan on HB 55 in the Judiciary Committee without actually having the bill in my committee. This was a substantial breach of the rules we operate under and I am not in a position to request a waiver of that bill.

Your criticism of the handling of documents you submitted to the Judiciary Committee at the October 24, 1987 hearing on the same topic is not warranted.

The committee "record" consists of the written minutes, the tape recording of the committee hearing, and the committee files for each bill in committee. After each two-year legislative session, the entire record is archived in the Legislative Library where it remains as the permanent record for the committee and is accessible to the public.

The material you submitted remains part of the official committee record. It was noted in the written minutes; your comments when handing out the documents are on the tape; the documents were sent to my Juneau office after the hearing and were filed in the appropriate committee files.

Lynda Adams
March 22, 1988
Page Two

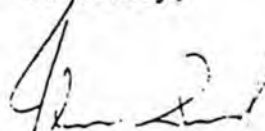
As a general rule, information on legislation in committee remains in the members' files until the bill is up for a hearing, at which time the files are distributed to the members. The documents you sent are still in the file.

Since we do not officially have the bill in this committee, it is appropriate to distribute the information at such time as the bill is referred and we have a public hearing.

However, I will see that copies of all the material you sent will be forwarded to the House HESS Committee.

I hope this adequately addresses your concern.

Sincerely,



John Sund
Representative

cc: House HESS Committee Members
House Judiciary Committee Members



WILLIAM G. KLEIN
CHIEF OF POLICE
108TH SESSION

WRANGELL POLICE DEPARTMENT

CITY OF WRANGELL, ALASKA
POST OFFICE BOX 531 • WRANGELL, ALASKA 99929
(907) 874-3304



March 4, 1987

MAR 5 1987

Senator Paul Fisher
Hess Committee Chairman
P.O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811 (Mail Stop 3100)

Dear Senator Fisher:

On behalf of this department and the concerned members of this community, I sincerely urge that all possible efforts and support be afforded to Senate Bill 32, Recriminalization of Marijuana, in order that said bill be brought to the floor of the Senate and House for a vote.

As an Alaska law enforcement officer for the past 21 years I can state without reservation that one of the greatest errors consummated by a legislative body was the decriminalization of marijuana. Not only is it in violation of Federal Law, its usage among the youth of this state has escalated like a malignant growth.

In all frankness, I must state that the time is long overdue for positive action on behalf of our elected officials to combat and control this statewide problem. Give law enforcement in the State of Alaska the weapons, in the form of realistic and effective laws, and we will do our part.

Respectfully submitted,

William G. Klein
Chief of Police

WGK:rrk

cc: Representative Terry Martin
Senator Lloyd Jones
Representative Robin Taylor
Representative John Sund



The
University of Mississippi

LINDA
APAMS
A

Research Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences
Physical Sciences Research Division
School of Pharmacy
University, MS 38677
(601) 232-5324



September 14, 1987

Det. John McIntosh
Ketchikan Police Dept.
361 Main St.
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

Dear Det. McIntosh:

Attached is an analysis report of the marijuana sample #87-3673 you sent to our laboratory on June 19, 1987.

The material has a profile typical of drug-type Cannabis - high Δ^9 -THC (4.38) coupled with little or no CBD content. The average Δ^9 -THC for whole plant material is approximately 2.5%, well below the THC percentage of this plant.

If you have any questions or if we can be of service to you again, please let me know.

Sincerely

Carol T. Abel
Laboratory Supervisor
NIDA Marijuana Project

CTA/kkl

Enclosure

These are excerpts directly from the 1973 Ravin decision that are no longer valid and are reason it can be overturned.

Ravin v. State

Pg. 495

May 28, 1975

9. Constitutional Law

Right of privacy in the home must yield when it interferes in a serious manner with the health, safety, rights and privileges of others or with the public welfare.

14. Constitutional Law

The right of an individual to do as he pleases is not absolute and it can be made to yield when it begins to infringe on the rights and welfare of others. (Stated again on 509)

19. Health and Environment

When there is substantial doubt as to safety of a given substance or situation of public health, controls intended to obviate the danger will usually be upheld. (Stated again on 510)

500-

At some point, the states interest in safeguarding health, maintaining medical standards, and protecting potential life becomes sufficiently compelling to sustain regulations. One does not, the Supreme Court said, have an unlimited right to do with one's body as one pleases.

505-

Most marijuana available in the United States has a THC content of less than one percent.

506-

It appears that the use of marijuana, as it is presently used in the United States today, does not constitute a public health problem of any significant dimensions.

507-

Certain researchers cite evidence of an "amotivational syndrome" among long-term heavy cannabis users.....The National Commission concludes that long-term heavy users do not deviate significantly from their social peers in terms of mental functioning, at least to any extent attributable to marijuana use.....

Moreover, the Commission and most other authorities agree that there is little validity to the theory that marijuana use leads to use of more potent and dangerous drugs.

508-

The National Commission rejected the notion that marijuana is physically addicting. It also rejected the notion that marijuana as used in the United States today presents a significant risk of causing psychological dependency on the user.

political gossip, the daily crises, the delicious high that is obtained only at the center of the action. Like any lobbyist, he was first of all selling himself, and he took pains to develop his public persona of Mr. NORML, the cool and collected pot politician, party-giver and ladies' man. In fact, he had to an extent modeled himself after NORML's first financial patron, Hugh Hefner. But there was another, darker side to Stroup's personality, an angry side. He was angry in part at the drug laws and at a political establishment that, as he saw it, loved to guzzle its whiskey but denied his generation the right to enjoy its drug of choice. At another level Stroup was angry at his past, angry at a small-town Baptist boyhood in Dix, Illinois, that for years he had only wanted to escape. There was a certain Jekyll-and-Hyde quality to Stroup. If he could be charming and considerate, he could also be abruptly cold, self-righteous, and intensely critical of others, including his close friends and allies, if they did not match him in their dedication to the cause. This duality seemed to flow from the influence of two quite dissimilar parents: a father with a small-town politician's live-and-let-live attitude and a mother who was a devout Southern Baptist and not at all tolerant of the sins of the world.

In the fall of 1975 I was asked to conduct a *Playboy* interview with Stroup. By then the reform movement had scored some major victories. In 1973 Oregon had ended criminal penalties for smoking, and in the summer of 1975 five more states had done the same: Alaska, California, Maine, Colorado, and Ohio. NORML had provided national leadership to this burst of reform, by gaining publicity for the issue, by advising state legislators on what strategies and expert witnesses might be most effective, and often by paying the expenses for those outside witnesses to go to testify. Moreover, NORML had begun a far-ranging legal program, which involved both aid to individual defendants and court challenges to the constitutionality of state and federal marijuana laws, and to the federal government's ban on the medical use of marijuana. For many years the government had treated marijuana smokers pretty much as it pleased, but now NORML was rallying some of the brightest young lawyers in America to the smokers' defense.

As I studied the marijuana debate in preparation for my interview with Stroup, I began to think of it in terms of a war, a terrible civil war. I was struck by the parallels between this issue and the other great nation-dividing issue of the time, the war in Vietnam. In both

cases the political establishment had been hell-bent to convince young Americans of something they refused to believe: that they should go die in Vietnam, in one case; that they should not smoke marijuana, in the other. In the minds of many Americans the two wars seemed to have blended: The slippery little Vietcong in Southeast Asia had become the dope-smoking hippie at home, and it was somehow imperative that the government's armed forces search out and destroy him. The same mentality that could say we had to destroy a village to save it in Vietnam could argue that we had to send a college student to prison to save him from marijuana.

The marijuana war was being waged on one front as a military conflict, in which tens of thousands of police and narcotics agents busied themselves arresting millions of young people for smoking and/or selling the weed. But as NORML, the Marijuana Commission, President Nixon, Sen. James Eastland, and others began a national debate on the issue, it became increasingly a propaganda war, fought through the media, as the pro-marijuana and anti-marijuana forces battled for the hearts and minds of millions of nonsmoking Americans who would ultimately determine the outcome of the conflict in the political arena.

In 1976 I spent six months as Jimmy Carter's speechwriter and had an opportunity to view the marijuana issue from the perspective of a presidential campaign. If there is anything to be learned in a national campaign, as it moves endlessly from city to city, rally to rally, enclave to enclave, it is that America is an incredibly large, diversified, and potentially explosive nation, less melting pot than tinderbox. The divisions are all there—black and white, Protestant and Catholic, North and South, immigrant and blueblood—waiting for politicians to exploit them. Now to that list has been added the division between those who enjoy drugs and those who fear them. The issue had been exploited in 1972, when McGovern supported decriminalization and Nixon opposed it. Nixon's followers denounced McGovern as the candidate of the three A's—acid, amnesty, and abortion, marijuana having been transformed by political hyperbole into "acid," or LSD.

Fortunately, the drug issue was not exploited in the 1976 campaign. Carter had endorsed decriminalization early in his campaign. I had assumed he was motivated by a combination of intellectual honesty and political necessity: the former because he knew his sons had smoked, the latter because the issue was important to a lot of young

When Stroup arrived in Sacramento, Brownell took him around to meet several Democratic assemblymen, one of whom took him for an outside agitator and threw him out of his office, whereupon Stroup carried his lobbying campaign to Beverly Hills, where he rallied rich liberals to contact their assemblymen. The Playboy mansion was made available for lobbying efforts, a fact that reflected Hefner's intense interest in the legislation.

The second vote came on June 24. The Republicans invoked unit rule again. During two hours of emotional debate, Assemblyman Willie Brown, a black liberal, waved a hand-rolled cigarette and declared that people who smoked a few joints were not criminals. (He later said the joint was made of tobacco). John Briggs, the anti-gay, anti-pot leader, gave the Democrats a candid summary of his political strategy: "It's quite possible that in 1976 your platform will be 'Grass, Gays, and Godlessness.'"

The bill needed forty-one votes, and it got forty-two. In Brownell's eyes the heroes of the second vote were two first-term Democrats from conservative districts who voted no the first time but switched to yes on the second vote. One of them was Floyd Mori, a Mormon who neither smoked nor drank. The reformers had succeeded in convincing him that a vote against jail penalties did not amount to an endorsement of marijuana. The other convert was Richard Robinson, a former Marine officer in Vietnam who decided that as a matter of conscience he could not oppose reform, even if his vote was not needed and might harm him politically.

The bill's passage was denounced by Ed Davis, who said the legislature was favoring "pansies and gotheads" and urged Governor Brown to veto it. In fact, Brown postponed action on the bill until it was within hours of becoming law without his signature; then he signed it with a minimum of ceremony. Still, he signed it, and on the first day of 1976, California stopped putting people in jail for smoking marijuana.

A state agency later conducted a survey of the results of the new law in its first year. It found that arrests dropped from about eighty-eight thousand in 1975 to about ten thousand in 1976 (these were for possession of more than an ounce), and about forty thousand citations were issued for possession of less than an ounce. An estimated \$25 million in police and court costs was saved.

Finally, in the 1976 elections, there was a political footnote: None of the Democrats who supported the reform bill was defeated.

That spring, as the battle raged on in California, strange things were happening in Alaska.

The Alaska saga actually began in 1972, with two young lawyers sitting around one evening smoking marijuana and grumbling about the marijuana laws. The two lawyers in Alaska were about thirty years old, and their names were Robert Wagstaff and Irwin Ravin. Wagstaff was a native of Kansas City who had done his undergraduate work at Dartmouth. It was there, in 1961, that he first smoked. Marijuana was not readily available in those days, but Wagstaff was a jazz fan, and some black jazz musicians introduced him to the weed. He returned to the University of Kansas law school, then moved to Fairbanks, Alaska, where he became an assistant district attorney. It was in Fairbanks that he met Ravin, a native of Newark, New Jersey, and a graduate of Rutgers. Later they moved to Anchorage and practiced law together.

They also smoked marijuana, and as they talked that night in 1972, they agreed the legal and political climate in Alaska was such that a good test case, with the right client, could overturn the marijuana laws. But who would be that client?

That question was left unresolved. Then, a couple of nights later, fate intervened in the person of a Fairbanks policeman who stopped Ravin because a taillight was out on his car. It was a routine traffic violation. All Ravin had to do was sign the citation and go on his way. But Ravin decided the time had come to take a stand. Knowing he had a couple of joints in his pocket, he refused to sign the citation. That left the arresting officer no choice but to take him to the station. There he was routinely searched, the two joints were found, and the case of *Ravin v. Alaska* came to be.

Wagstaff and another lawyer, R. C. Middleton, filed a motion to dismiss the charges before trial, arguing that the state law prohibiting possession of marijuana was unconstitutional because it violated the right of privacy guaranteed by both the U.S. and the Alaska constitutions. In a sense, the issue was not so much legal as political. Reformers in other states had made the same right-of-privacy arguments and had always been turned down. But Alaska was not like



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March 27, 1987

Representative Terry Martin
P.O. Box V
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Terry:

On behalf of Boys & Girls Clubs of Alaska and its Board of Directors, I urge your continued support for House Bill ⁵⁵ AS. As you are aware, substance abuse among Alaska's young continues to prevail in alarming numbers. The recriminalization of marijuana is an important step the State must take to bring those numbers down.

Boys & Girls Clubs have addressed the drug and alcohol problem with today's youth and are developing programs aimed at education and service of needs related to substance abuse. The State of Alaska's recriminalization of marijuana will not only boost our efforts, but also the work of many other agencies, schools and private businesses throughout Alaska. Your participation is appreciated.

Sincerely,

David Choquette
David Choquette
Board Member

cc: David G. Kolesky, President



NORML — IZER

THE BIG CHILL: Alaska's Proposed Pot Law

By JON GETTMAN, NORML Director

(The following testimony was given to the Senate Judiciary Committee on May 1, 1987 during a public hearing on Senate Bill #32, which if passed would **recriminalize** marijuana use in the state of Alaska.)

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, citizens of Alaska: My name is Jon Gettman and I am the National Director of NORML, the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws. Founded in 1970, NORML is an educational organization dedicated to the review and study of marijuana use, marijuana laws, and their effect on our society.

The Marijuana Tax Act of 1937 marked the beginning of federal attempts to deter marijuana use by making it illegal. And here we are, 50 years later, living proof of prohibition's ineffectiveness, still discussing whether criminal penalties are appropriate for marijuana use.

Alaska has the respect and admiration of people around the world for its integrity on the matter of marijuana use. They are impressed by your dedication to the principle of privacy, which Justice Brandeis once remarked is the cornerstone of all our freedoms. We are impressed by Alaska because we know that your dedication to privacy is founded on a deep conviction to the ethic of personal responsibility.

Others, though, respect your laws because they are practical. They envy you in that respect, wishing the political climate in which they work would allow them to devote their time to more serious matters than debating adult marijuana use at home.

There have been repeated challenges to the policy of arresting marijuana users over the last 25 years that have discredited many of the old excuses justifying prohibition. The

emotional voices calling for the imprisonment of marijuana users come up with some new excuse every few years. The latest is that because marijuana is, on average, more potent today than ten years ago, it is somehow more dangerous; more subtle is the implication that this increase in its potency renders previous research irrelevant.

The claim is that the more potent marijuana of the '80s is a new, different drug than the one many adults tried in the '60s and early 70s. First of all, as with alcohol, marijuana smokers compensate for a higher potency by simply using less. Secondly, high potency marijuana has been on the market, so to speak, for thousands of years under the name hashish. Though hashish is manufactured from the resins of oils of marijuana, pharmacuetically it has a high level of THC. This claim is part of a long historical trend of believing that despite the discrediting of previous scare stories about marijuana, new evidence emerging from research will finally prove that marijuana really is as bad as "they" said it was. It is this historical context that causes me to treat these claims with more than a bit of skepticism.

The National Academy of Sciences conducted a review of all the literature about marijuana. The study was chaired by Arnold S. Relman, editor of the *New England Journal of Medicine*. Their report, *Marijuana & Health*, was published in 1982. There have been no new developments since that time to contradict their findings. Just as in a court of law, there are rules of evidence by which to evaluate research claims. Without exception,

the "dangers" of marijuana fail to satisfy those rules of evidence to the satisfaction of the National Academy of Sciences.

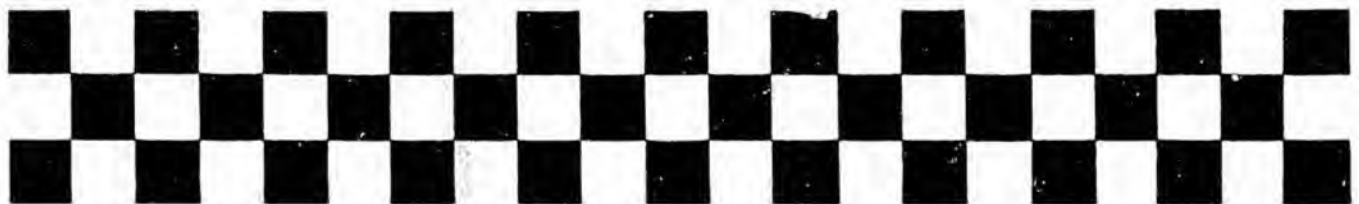
Let me address this bill pointedly. It is based on several "findings" that are without foundation. First of all, THC, the drug's active ingredient, does not, I repeat, does not lodge in the fatty tissues of the body for 30 days, as Finding Number One reports. Findings Number One and Number Two (which claims that this buildup cause "loss of sleep," "moodiness," and "restlessness") are simply wrong. THC is broken down by the body in a few hours, when the high associated with it wears off. It is the by-products of this chemical breakdown that lodge in the fatty tissues for several weeks. **These have no effect on the body whatsoever and there is not a single study that proves otherwise.** So there is no "buildup" of THC.

Finding Number Three, which claims "it is possible for a human being to overdose from marijuana," is also factually incorrect. Marijuana is one of the least toxic drugs known. You can not overdose from smoking marijuana. Furthermore, marijuana does not interact with alcohol, as other drugs do, and increase its potency. Any toxicologist familiar with marijuana will confirm this fact.

To the extent that marijuana and alcohol are both intoxicants, their use in conjunction, and to excess, would be irresponsible, and in some circumstances, dangerous.

Finding Number Four concerns the accusation that marijuana is more dangerous today because it is more potent. The "finding" also claims that marijuana averages a THC potency of 10 percent; actually, the average potency of marijuana these days is closer to 3.5

continued on page 28



arty
issue!

CHILDREN'S GUIDE TO GROW ROOMS

HIGH TIMES

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\$3.95
CANADA

JOURNEY TO
THE MIND'S
EYE

POT STING
IN HAWAII

THE 10 WORST
THINGS THAT
HAPPENED TO
POP MUSIC
BY JAMES MARSHALL





NO. 144 AUGUST 1987

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COVER PHOTOGRAPHY:

ELISABETSKY

MODEL:

SHARON M.

LIGHTS:

CAPTAIN WHIZZO

ON THE COVER: Sharon M. is the lead singer of *Black Light Chameleons*, a New York-based psychband (pictured left). Captain Whizzo's light show is visible to the naked eye at NYC's *Mind's Eye* Events (see feature).

PETERSBURG GENERAL HOSPITAL
and Long Term Care Facility

Phone: (907) 772-4291
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MAR 11 1987

March 5, 1987

Representative John Sund
Representative Robin Taylor
Senator Lloyd Jones
State of Alaska
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Gentlemen:

I appreciated the opportunity of sharing dinner with you and your spouses and talking about various legislative matters.

However, I did not feel inclined that evening to fully express myself on SB 32 "Recriminalization of Marijuana" but wish to do so at this time.

To me, this issue goes beyond right to privacy vs. harm to society. I look at it as a health issue also. For this reason I support Senate Bill #32. I listened to two hours of testimony on the matter on February 25, 1987.

I add some points that were not made in those hearings. First, people do have a right to privacy in their own homes, to a point. However, we cannot do certain things there such as child abuse or assault of our spouse or criminal acts such as murder, rape, incest, and other moral crimes without being arrested. I put marijuana in that category.

Second, I have a hard time seeing marijuana allowed in Alaska if there are federal laws on the books making it a violation to possess marijuana in any form in the United States. Along with this, how can an Alaskan citizen have marijuana in their homes without first breaking a State law in getting it into the home and that includes seeds to grow the plants? Marijuana in any form has to first pass thru the streets, highways, or airways of the State, which is against the law.

Third, you might want to talk to some newborn care nurses in hospitals such as Ketchikan or Juneau who will tell you that babies whose mothers have been smoking marijuana are more restless, cry more, and have drug withdrawal symptoms to varying degrees. On the other hand, they will testify that any mother who does not drink alcohol, smoke cigarettes, do drugs, or smoke marijuana have the most healthy and best behaved babies.

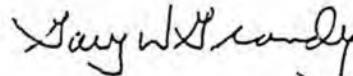
Representative John Sund, Robin Taylor
Senator Lloyd Jones
Juneau, Alaska

Page 2.

I believe these innocent newborns have a God-given right to start life without being in subjection to problems created by their mother's marijuana habits.

I will not repeat the many comments made in the hearings but I did hear a majority of testimony in favor of SB #32. I also believe that the majority of citizens in Petersburg and Alaska support SB #32. You will receive or the Hess Committee will receive a petition from people in Petersburg who support SB #32. Therefore, I solici your vote in favor of SB #32 when it reaches the floor of the legislature.

Sincerely,



Gary W. Grandy
Administrator

cc: Hess Committee - Recriminilization of Marijuana
Ben Grussendorf, Senator
Ed Malewski - Sitka Community Hospital
Frank Sutton - Mt. Edgecume Hospital

Incidentally, I have just learned that Senator Ben Grussendorf may attempt to retain SB #32 in Committee. Bluntly, that stinks and I resent any important legislation being retained in Committee. Politically, those actions can hurt legislators as the majority of people in a democratic society want those issues debated and voted upon.

BILL NO: HB 55
TITLE: "An Act relating to marijuana; and providing for
an effective date"
DATE: 3/4/87

The Juneau Police Department is supportive of this legislation.

The purpose of HB 55 is to recriminalize the possession of any amount of marijuana. By achieving this end a number of purposes will be served.

Increasingly it has been shown that the long term consumption of marijuana poses a health hazard of serious consequence. A number of medical studies substantiate this fact. It is necessary to reflect that the possession of any amount of marijuana will not be tolerated so as to reinforce the concept that health hazards do exist when marijuana is used. Marijuana has been targeted as the single best predictor of other future illegal drug use.

The present conflict that exists between current state and federal law tends to create confusion in the mind of the public. This conflict creates apathy on the part of the public and flies in the face of the need for consistency in the law. Disregard and apathy are most readily apparent in the minds of the young people of the community. This conflict also creates impediments in the discharge of local police responsibilities in addressing the problem of drug traffickers.

The relaxed attitude toward marijuana in Alaska creates in the minds of people that this is a state that condones this and other types of drug usage. It creates a marked placed for a substance that is legal here but illegal in all other states.

The recriminalization of marijuana would not, as some sources are concerned, create a large scale impact on the criminal justice system. The primary focus is and will continue to be on interception, interdiction and prosecution of drug sources. This is a demonstrated philosophy that provides cost effective results for resources expended.

Michael S. Gelston
Chief of Police
Juneau Police Department

MSG/ps6



CENTRAL COUNCIL
Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
320 West Willoughby Avenue • Suite 300
Juneau, Alaska 99801

February 23, 1987

Senator Paul Fisher
Chairman, Hess Committee
Pouch V - M/S 3100
Juneau, Alaska 99811

FEB 24 1987

Dear Senator Fisher:


I am writing this letter in support of Senate Bill Number 32 on the recriminalization of marijuana.

I believe this Bill will help stop some of the hypocrisy involved around the issues of substance/controlled substance use, whether it be in or out of a person's residence.

With all the problems our society suffers with the legal and socially accepted use of alcohol I cannot in any way accept or support the use of any other mind altering substance. Your support for passage of Senate Bill 32 is needed and will be greatly appreciated.

If there is anything I can personally do to assist the Hess Committee on this matter please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,


Brent C. Moody
Village Public Safety Officer
Program Coordinator

cc: Evelyn E. Myers, Executive Director
Representative Terry Martin

BCM:wb

TELEPHONE: 907/ 586-1432



Galena Police Department

P.O. Box 208 • Galena, Alaska 99741 • Telephone (907) 658-1303

February 24, 1987

The Honorable Terry Martin
Hess Committee
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Re: Recriminalization of Marijuana, Senate Bill 32

Dear Mr. Martin:

I am writing this letter to formally advise you that this Department thoroughly supports the above-captioned Senate bill pertaining to the recriminalization of marijuana; and to also solicit your support of the same, for the following reasons:

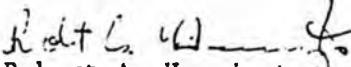
First, let me begin by stating that proper drug abuse education is probably one of our most effective overall means of combating the abuse of controlled substances. Our Youth and others are being taught that marijuana is a controlled substance which can produce harmful effects. To confuse this issue, the State of Alaska, first defines marijuana as a controlled substance, pursuant to Title 11 of the Alaska Statutes (Criminal Code); and then, within the same breath of the law, condones the possession of up to four (4) ounces of marijuana by a person within their own residence for their own consumption. How are our youth and others suppose to respond to what they are being taught, when they see others using marijuana in what is supposedly a lawful manner. This is not only contradictive, but also counterproductive.

Secondly, Law Enforcement has a difficult enough job attempting to deal with controlled substance abuse which involves those drugs that are strictly illicit. To interject a decriminalization law into the Controlled Substance Act, only serves to make their work that much more difficult and confusing. After attempting to deal with the same, certain Law Enforcement factions may begin to develop a disinterested attitude toward the enforcement of marijuana abuse, thinking if the State of Alaska doesn't care, why should we. Additionally, State Prosecutors are justifiably less than enthusiastic about prosecuting cases involving marijuana.

Finally, the State of Alaska has been receiving nationwide recognition through television talk shows where marijuana is the topic of discussion. On one such show, a guest emphasized several times that marijuana has been "LEGALIZED" in Alaska. The word: "DECriminalIZATION" was never mentioned. That little advertisement should give our tourist industry quite a boost.

In closing, this Department will appreciate any effort you may put forth in guiding Senate Bill 32 out of committee and to the floor of both the Senate and House for a vote.

Respectfully Submitted,


Robert A. Harrington
Chief of Police

san/RAH

ROTARY CLUB



MAR 9 1987

February 26, 1987

Senator Paul Fisher
Pouch V (Mail Stop 3100)
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Senator Fisher:

The Rotary Club of Valdez supports the City of Valdez Resolution No.8711 which urges the repeal of laws allowing for the personal use of marijuana.

Sincerely,

Patrick M. Shely
President
P.O. Box 307
Valdez, AK 99686

FBI National Academy Associates
Alaska Chapter



FEB 12 1987

February 9, 1987

Representative Terry Martin
Alaska State Legislature
P.O. Box V, State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Terry:

I received your letter of February 5, 1987, concerning the teleconference hearing on Senator Paul Fischer's bill to recriminalize marijuana and to be held on February 18, 1987.

Unfortunately, I will be out of the state, attending an Energy Security Conference and will be unable to personally testify. I have been very interested in this particular subject for a number of years and, as you are aware, I served as Vice Chairman of the Anchorage Crime Commission in 1984-85. This subject was one of our priorities then and it is still a current priority of the present Crime Commission members.

In 1985, we prepared an extensive review of information developed since 1976, when the existing law was passed. I was rather taken back that the Director of the State Office of Drug and Alcohol Abuse stated that there had been no new scientific information gathered since 1976 which would support the changing of the law. Obviously, this particular individual has not done the research that I have and I'm confident that there is substantial scientific evidence to support the health problem created by the use of marijuana.

One of the major arguments used to state that the law should remain the same is the amount of manpower and commitment that would be necessary in order to enforce any changes in the law. In my opinion, this is not an issue—the issue is the health problem created by the continuous use of marijuana and, equally important if not more so, the illusion it gives to our young people that marijuana in Alaska is legal and, therefore, its usage must not be harmful.

UNA
1986 Officers
Executive Board

Pat Wellington, 75th. President

President
1835 South Bragaw Street, MS 540 S
Anchorage, Alaska 99512

Secretary
PO Box 53
Willow, Alaska 99688
(907) 405-6313

Dean Bivins, 90th. Vice President, South Central
Dale Florian, 98th. Vice President, Northern
Ben Neff, 94th. Vice President, Southeast
Torb Macfield, 96th. Vice President, Alaska

Anchorage Chamber of Commerce

Crime Commission

February 25, 1987



Representative Terry Martin
Alaska House of Representatives
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Terry:

The Anchorage Crime Commission has endorsed the recriminalization of marijuana as one of its 1987 goals. The Commission enthusiastically supports your previously stated position on this issue.

The Commission's Public Opinion survey, conducted in the Anchorage area, indicated that there was a strong desire by the general public to change the present law.

This correspondence is to reiterate our strong support of this issue and request your continued support and endorsement of HB 55. We believe the passage of this legislation will be beneficial to Alaska and its citizenry.

We further request your support in enlisting other members of the State Legislature to help assure passage of this bill into law.

If the Anchorage Crime Commission can be of further assistance in this matter please contact me.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Harold C. Heinze
Harold C. Heinze
Chairman

A Committee of the
Anchorage Chamber
of Commerce

415 F Street
Anchorage AK 99501
(907) 272-2401



TONY KNOWLES
MAYOR

ANCHORAGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

4501 SOUTH BRAGAW STREET • ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99507-1599
TELEPHONE (907) 786-8500



RONALD L OTTE
CHIEF

March 13, 1987

MAR 18 1987

Senator Paul Fischer
Chairman, H.E.S.S. Committee
Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V (MS 3100)
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Fischer,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our support for Senate Bill 32 addressing the recriminalization of marijuana.

We believe that recent research may indicate that marijuana is more of a health hazard than originally thought. We believe that the legislature of the State of Alaska should take a serious look at recriminalization and hold hearings regarding its potential medical effects upon the populace. In addition, we believe that the youth of Alaska receive a mixed signal regarding the appropriateness of drug usage when marijuana is essentially legal in this state. In addition to that, we feel that the populace develops a scoff law attitude when the possession of marijuana is legal, but the purchase of and transportation of is illegal.

We urge that the recriminalization of marijuana be brought from the committee and addressed on the floor of the State Legislature.

If we can be of any further assistance regarding this issue or any other law enforcement related issue that you wish to call upon us for, feel free to do so.

Sincerely,

Del Smith
Del Smith

Deputy Chief of Operations

DS:d1



ANCHORAGE
SCHOOL DISTRICT

4600 DeBarr Avenue - Anchorage, Alaska

99504

AREA CODE 907-333-9561

2508 Blueberry Phone #276-1992

October 23, 1986

Ms. Alyce Hanley
Representative
1024 E. 6th Ave., Suite 200 A
Anchorage, Ak 99501

Dear Rep. Hanley:

I have enclosed for your information the names of the schools that were in attendance at the Alaska Association of School Governments fall conference held at Dimond High school. The list also contains the name of the student that was designated by their school to serve as the spokesperson on business items.

The students did finish the just say no flag and have made arrangements for the flag to be sent to Juneau and presented to the governor. The students also passed a resolution during their business meeting to support the establishment of Just say No clubs in schools, support for additional Drug Education Programs and unanimous support for repealing the current marijuana statute for the state of Alaska. I have taken the liberty of enclosing a copy of the resolution for you. I think it would be wonderful if you would present this resolution to the house for the students. Likewise, if you could recommend a senator, perhaps Jan Faiks, that would like to do the same in the senate, I would be interested in your recommendation.

Please let me know if it is possible for you to present the resolution on behalf of the students. If I can be of any further assistance to you, please let me know.

Also for your information, the Alaska Association of Secondary School Principals passed a resolution for repeal of the marijuana statute. Larry Graham would be the contact person for information about that resolution.

Thank you for your continued support of students & education.

Sincerely,

Teresa Johnson, Program Administrator

TJ:svr

cc: Dermis Johnson
St. Dir. AASG

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Alaska Association Chiefs of Police

625 C Street • Anchorage, Alaska 99501



March 26, 1985

Mr. George N. Nelson
Anchorage Crime Commission
415 F Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Mr. Nelson,

Our Association conducted its annual meeting on March 22, 1985 in Anchorage.

Legislation pending before the Alaska State Legislature was extensively discussed. The Association has identified several pieces of legislation that it feels merit support. Among those bills we will be commenting on to the Governor and individual legislators are four that we understand have been identified as priority legislation by your Commission.

These bills are as follows:

HB 178	Conspiracy
HB 179	Hearsay
HB 205	Juvenile Waiver
SB 165 32	Recriminalization of Marijuana

As stated previously, these bills were thoroughly discussed by the Association membership. The consensus was a directive to relay our strong support for passage of the legislation.

I understand that members of your Commission will be going to Juneau shortly to meet with legislators. Please feel free to make those legislators aware of our support for your legislative priorities.

If we can be of any additional assistance please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

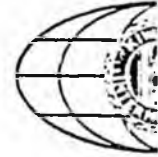
Del Smith

Del Smith
Secretary-Treasurer, ACOP

625 C Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99501



KIWANIS CLUB OF ANCHORAGE
P.O. BOX 101404
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510



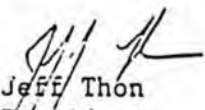
Anchorage Assembly

Whereas, it is a major emphasis of Kiwanis International to enrich the lives of our youth, and

Whereas, the Kiwanis Club Of Anchorage is currently participating in a nationally promoted activity of drug abuse prevention and education through the Just Say No Foundation, and

Whereas, the current laws in Alaska do not consider it a crime to possess certain combinations of controlled substances in certain amounts, which is counterproductive to our efforts in the Just Say No [to drugs] Program

Now therefore, be it resolved that the Kiwanis Club of Anchorage hereby encourages the Anchorage Municipal Assembly to adopt a resolution in support of changing our statutes to make possession of a controlled substance, other than by prescription, a crime.


Jeff Thon
President

KIWANIS RESOLUTION



GALENA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

GALENA, ALASKA 99741
PHONE (907) 656-1205

SUPERINTENDENT'S
OFFICE

January 7, 1987

Representative Terry Martin
P.O. Box V
Mail Stop 3100
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Representative Martin:

The Board of Education for the Galena City School District is appalled at the free uncontrolled flowing use of controlled drugs including marijuana.

We are aware of the detrimental effect that drugs have on the education of students who use drugs and that schools are held accountable for the learning that should take place. Therefore, it is very important that those negative effects on learning be eliminated.

One of the big reasons that larger and larger numbers of students are failing in school is the use of drugs and marijuana.

Our School Board strongly encourages you to support stricter laws on possession, sale and use. Further, we would ask for your support laws that will facilitate the arrest and conviction of dealers.

We appreciate your positive attitude and support.

Sincerely,

Carole C. Huntington, President
Board of Education

CCH/elb
069/87

cc: School Board Members
Galena City School District

GALENA SCHOOL DIST

MARCH 7, 1988

REPRESENTATIVE PEARCE:

I FIND YOUR RESPONSE TO MY PGM OF FEBRUARY 23 CONCERNING SB32 DISTURBING. AS WE BOTH KNOW, POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA IS PROHIBITED BY STATUTE LAW IN THE STATE OF ALASKA EXCEPT IN THE PRIVACY OF ONE'S OWN HOME. IF YOUR OVERRIDING CONCERN IS FOR CHILDREN, YOU WILL FIND SOLACE AS I DO IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT STIFF PENALTIES ARE PROVIDED FOR ANYONE CAUGHT CLOSE TO A SCHOOL GROUNDS WITH INTENT TO SELL MARIJUANA. YOUR CLAIM THAT WE HAVE LEGALIZED MARIJUANA IS SPURIOUS AND OBFUSCATED THE REAL POINT.

THE STATE CONSTITUTION WAS WRITTEN BY FREE MEN AND WOMEN FOR FREE MEN AND WOMEN, NOT TO SEND A SIGNAL TO OUR YOUNG PEOPLE OR ANYBODY-- ELSE. WHEN IT IS IMPLEMENTED, AS IT WAS IN THE RAVIN DECISION, WE SHOULD BE GRATEFUL THAT THE FRAMERS OF THE CONSTITUTION PROVIDED PROTECTIONS FOR PERSONAL FREEDOM AND CIVIL LIBERTIES AND NOT TRY TO SUBVERT THEIR INTENT.

IN MY OPINION, THE MOST IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO SEND CHILDREN IS THAT LIFE IS FULL OF DIFFICULT DECISIONS. THE LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS YOU PROVIDED WITH YOUR LETTER SUGGEST TO ME THAT SOCIETY IS READY AND WILLING TO EDUCATE ITS YOUNG CITIZENS AND HELP THEM LEARN TO MAKE GOOD DECISIONS. EDUCATION IS THE ONLY REAL ANSWER TO THIS PROBLEM. YOU CERTAINLY CAN'T DENY THAT CIGARETTE SMOKING BECAME INCREASINGLY UNPOPULAR AS THE PUBLIC BECAME AWARE OF THE SERIOUS HEALTH HAZARDS ASSOCIATED WITH ITS USE - ITS NOW "OUT OF VOGUE" TO BE A CIGARETTE SMOKER. I'M AFRAID YOUNG PEOPLE RESPOND TO WHAT IS IN OR OUT OF FASHION FAR MORE THAN THEY RESPOND TO WHAT IS OR IS NOT LEGAL. AS A MATTER OF FACT, ILLEGALITY JUST ADDS FUEL TO THE FIRE. DO YOU REALLY THINK MARIJUANA IS MORE OF A PROBLEM NOW THAN IT WAS IN THE LATE 60'S AND EARLY 70'S?

FINALLY REP. PEARCE, YOUR ASSERTION THAT THE HEALTH HAZARDS ASSOCIATED WITH CASUAL MARIJUANA USE ARE MORE SEVERE THAN THOSE ASSOCIATED WITH THE USE OF ALCOHOL LEAVE ME UNCONVINCED. I WOULD BE VERY INTERESTED IN SEEING ANY STATISTICS YOU HAVE SUPPORTING THIS CLAIM. I SUSPECT YOUR LITERATURE REVIEW IS BIASED AND NOT VERY THOROUGH. I HAVE BEEN A STUDENT OF MEDICINE AND A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER FOR MANY YEARS AND THERE IS NO QUESTION IN MY MIND THAT ALCOHOL IS A FAR MORE SERIOUS DANGER FOR THE INDIVIDUAL AND FOR THE SOCIETY.

I AM SIMPLY ONE OF YOUR MANY CONSTITUENTS NOT ASSOCIATED WITH A LARGE ORGANIZATION LIKE THE "IMPRESSIVE" LIST YOU PROVIDED WITH YOUR RESPONSE. I DOUBT ALL THE MEMBERS OF ANY OF THOSE GROUPS SUPPORT THE STAND - A TEACHER OR POLICEMAN WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY LOOSE HIS/HER JOB IF THEY ATTEMPTED TO FORM A COMMITTEE IN OPPOSITION. I AM NOT A DRUG USING FANATIC AND I TOO AM DEEPLY CONCERNED WITH THE WELFARE OF OUR CHILDREN - SO MUCH SO THAT I HAVE TAKEN THE TIME TO WRITE YOU AND URGE YOU TO RECONSIDER YOUR POSITION AND NOT SUPPORT SB32.

SINCERELY,

B. J. BOND, B.S., M.S., A.S.C.P



ALASKA COUNCIL ON PREVENTION OF ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE, INC.

March 29, 1988

Representative Johnny Ellis
House of Representatives
P. O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Johnny:

Because of the work we do at the Alaska Council on Prevention of Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Inc. and our mission I contacted all legislators this session with regard to CSSB 32. Your response was the most soundly based opinion regarding this complex issue.

As you know, my concern is the mixed messages we give our youth. If marijuana is illegal to sell, deliver, or possess in public or autos, etc. how does marijuana legally get into the privacy of the home? What kind of a message do we give our youth about the law? When the Anchorage Assembly heard testimony regarding this problem, many young people came forth sharing how their drug addiction began with the use of marijuana; several spoke of marijuana as their sole addiction.

It is discouraging that marijuana is not classified as a dangerous drug. During the past 14 years, of working in the field of substance abuse, I have seen the devastation of lives due to abuse and addiction. I consider action on this problem an important prevention strategy. Perhaps this bill is not the answer but I will not give up until one is found.

Thank you for your response and for allowing me to share my concerns.

Sincerely,

Bette O'Moor
Executive Director

file

BOM: jr



A United Way Agency

7521 OLD SEWARD HWY., SUITE A ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99518 (907) 349-6602

Palmer Police Department

423 SOUTH VALLEY WAY
PALMER, ALASKA 99645

PHONE: (907) 745-4811

JOHN L. McKIBBEN
CHIEF OF POLICE

February 24, 1987

Senator Paul Fisher
Chairman, H & SS Committee
Pouch V
Juneau, Ak 99811 (Mail Stop 3100)

Dear Senator Fisher,

I urge you to give your full support to the passage of Senate Bill 32, The Recriminalization of Marijuana.

I am aware that you have the power to kill this bill through inaction within your committee, and I ask that you not allow this to happen.

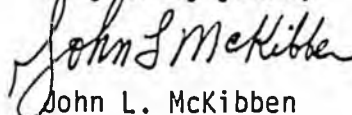
I feel that this bill has more support at the community level this year than it has ever had in the past.

From my personal point of view, I support this bill as a general statement of what our whole attitude should be about drugs, and not as a tool for law enforcement. To be quite honest, our agency was not very active in the arrest and conviction of marijuana users when it was against the law before. I know that if marijuana is recriminalized, my department will not actively pursue violators of this statute, however, I very strongly feel that the statement this law would make is of major importance to the youth of our state. Nobody should want their children to grow up with the idea that using drugs is O.K.

I have been actively discussing this issue with the various citizens groups in this community and the response has been strongly in support of recriminalization.

Thank you for any support you can provide in this matter.

Very truly yours,



John L. McKibben
Chief of Police

JLM/pb

cc: Senator Jay Kerttula
Senator Mike Szymanski
Representative Ron Larson
Representative Curt Menard
Representative Terry Martin
President ACOP Pat Shely

TOGIAK CITY COUNCIL

P.O. Box 99
Togiak, Alaska 99678
(907) 493-5820

February 25, 1987

Representative Terr. Martin
Alaska State Legislature
Fourth Floor
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Mr. Martin:

So recriminalization of marijuana is put for Alaska. It seems the private rights of some are more important than the future generation of Alaskans.

well, ok... Then now about if we look at the dope situation from a different approach. In Alaska, to sell alcoholic beverages, you must have a liquor license and in Canada you go to a state liquor store to buy liquor. Since marijuana is a drug, why not at least have it licensed so we can get it out of the hands of dope dealers and criminals.

Here in the village of Togiak, the kids pay \$10.00 for about \$.50 worth of marijuana in one tin, cigarette.

If the city here was selling the crud out of the clinic at the price of \$3.00 (\$1.00 cost, \$1.00 cit. tax, \$1.00 state tax) then the dope business could be taken out of the hands of the criminals and dope dealers who are ripping off all of us.

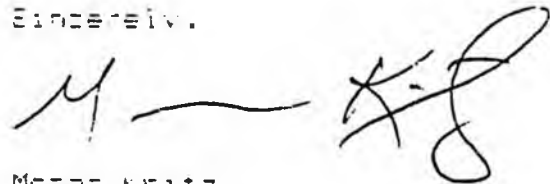
Representative Terry Martin, Page 2

Yes, all of us. They pay no taxes because they show no income. This also allows them to sit back on welfare, unemployment assistance, and food stamps so the state is already financing the cocaine business. Also, by charging such high prices for an addictive substance, our local economy is going up in smoke.

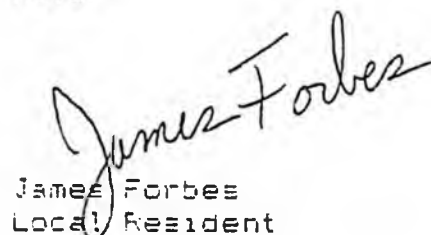
Another point which should be brought up is if the legislature is really concerned about people's rights is the quality of the marijuana. I think it should be tested for pesticides and other harmful pollutants. It should also be tested for impurities or more harmful drugs which may be mixed into the marijuana.

It seems to me if your legislature can't make marijuana illegal, the least you can do is make it a controlled substance which is controlled by the state just like alcohol.

Sincerely,



Moses Krutz
Mayor



James Forbes
Local Resident

April 12, 1988

.. Jim Nordlund -

.. Please include the enclosed for
.. tomorrow's HESS committee
.. meeting on SB 32.

Thank you
Tatiana Kottarov
Rep. Taylor's office.

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR

NAME: LYNDA ADAMS

TITLE:

ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 7171

CITY: KETCHIKAN, AK

PHONE: N/R-

ZIP: 99901

BILL NO: SB 32

SUBJECT: PENALTY FOR POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA

MESSAGE: TIME IS RUNNING OUT FOR THE YOUTH OF ALASKA IF YOU DON'T PASS SENATE BILL 32 OUT OF THE YOUR COMMITTEE SOON. THE VERY LEAST YOU COULD DO IS TO WAIVE SENATE BILL 32 OUT OF YOUR COMMITTEE NOW AND SEND ON TO JUDICIARY SO IT CAN BE VOTED ON THE FLOOR RIGHT AWAY. PLEASE!

POHID: 08101425

DATE: 03/14/88

TIME: 10:14:25

LIONAME: KETCHIKAN LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES SENATOR:

ELLIS
KOPONEN
SUND
DONLEY
GRUENBERG
HANLEY
HUDSON
PHILLIPS

FISCHER
JONES

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR

NAME: DANA LECORNU

TITLE:

ADDRESS: CIPT MOD D, 1300 E. 4TH

CITY: ANCHORAGE

PHONE: N/R-

ZIP: 99501

BILL NO:

SUBJECT: UNFAIR TRIAL

MESSAGE: THE LEGISLATURE IS PART OF THE CHECK AND BALANCE OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT, WHY ARE THEY CHECKING INTO A COURT THAT ALLOWS AN INNOCENT TO BE CONVICED IN AN UNFAIR TRIAL WHERE THE JUDGE, PROSECUTOR AND PUBLIC DEFENSE ATTORNEY DO SECRETLY CONSPIRE TOGETHER TO CONVICT AN INNOCENT MAN.

POHID: 03094040

DATE: 03/14/88

TIME: 09:40:40

LIONAME: ANCHORAGE LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES REPRESENTATIVES SENATORS

ADAMS
BOUCHER
BROWN
COLLINS
DAVIDSON
DONLEY
FRANK
GOLL
GRUSSENDORF
HERFMANN
HUDSON
LARSON
MENARD
NAVARRE
PETTYJOHN
POURCHOT
SHULTZ
SUND
ULMER
ZAWACKI

BARNES
BOYER
CATO
COTTEN
DAVIS
ELLIS
FURNACE
GRUENBERG
HANLEY
HOFFMAN
KOPONEN
MARTIN
MILLER
PEARCE
PHILLIPS
RIEGER
SPRINGER
SHACKHAMPEP
WALLIS

ABOOD
BINKLEY
COGHILL
DUNCAN
ELIASON
FAHRENKAMP
FAIKS
FANNING
FISCHER
HALFORD
HENSLEY
JONES
JOSEPHSON
KELLY
KERTTULA
RODEY
STURGULEWSKI
SZYMANSKI
UEHLING
ZHAROFF

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR

NAME: SUSAN BUTLER
 TITLE:
 ADDRESS: HC01 BOX 6050-D
 CITY: PALMER ZIP: 99645
 PHONE: 745-0988
 CALL NO:
 SUBJECT: UAA BUDGET
 MESSAGE: I SINCERELY URGE YOU TO SUPPORT U OF A BUDGET LINE 7 INCREMENTS
 UPPER DIVISION COURSES AT THE EXTENDED SITES.THE \$200,000 SHOULD BE IN-
 CREASSED TO \$350,000.

POPID: 14133521
 DATE: 03/18/88
 TIME: 13:35:21
 ORNAME: MAT-SU LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES REPRESENTATIVES SENATORS

ADAMS	BARNES	ABOOD
BOUCHER	BOYER	BINKLEY
BROWN	CATO	COGHILL
COLLINS	COTTEN	DUNCAN
DAVIDSON	DAVIS	ELIASON
DONLEY	ELLIS	FAHRENKAMP
FRANK	FURNACE	FAIKS
GOLL	GRUENBERG	FANNING
GRUSSENDORF	HANLEY	FISCHER
HERRMANN	HOFFMAN	HALFORD
HUDSON	KOPONEN	HENSLEY
LARSON	MARTIN	JONES
MENARD	MILLER	JOSEPHSON
NAVARRE	PEARCE	KELLY
PETTYJOHN	PHILLIPS	KERTTULA
POURCHOT	RIEGER	RODEY
SHULTZ	SPRINGER	STURGULEWSKI
SUND	SWACKHAMMER	SZYMAWSKI
ULMER	MALLIS	UEHLING
ZAWACKI		ZHAROFF

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR

NAME: SHARON WILSON
 TITLE:
 ADDRESS: MILE 4 NORTH TONGASS
 CITY: KETCHIKAN, AK ZIP: 99901
 PHONE: N/R-
 BILL NO: SB 32
 SUBJECT: PENALTY FOR POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA
 MESSAGE: PLEASE PASS SENATE BILL 32. I STRONGLY URGE PASSAGE OF THIS BILL.

POPID: 08134032
 DATE: 03/18/88
 TIME: 13:40:32
 ORNAME: KETCHIKAN LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES

SUND
 HANLEY
 DONLEY
 ELLIS
 GRUENBERG
 HUDSON
 KOPONEN
 PHILLIPS

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR

NAME: REBECCA A LONG

TITLE:

ADDRESS: P O BOX 344

CITY: TALLEKETA

PHONE: N/R-

ZIP: 99676

BILL NO:

SUBJECT: REP GRUSSENDORF'S LETTER

MESSAGE: I AGREE WITH EVERYTHING THE SPEAKER SAYS. FOR TWO YEARS THE SENATE GANG HAS BEEN HANDING HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS IN TAX BREAKS TO THE OIL MOGULS WHILE CUTTING BACK BASIC SERVICES AND RESOURCE PROTECTION OR THE REST OF US. I AM SICK OF IT.

POMID: 14133714

DATE: 03/18/88

TIME: 13:37:14

LIONAME: MAT-SU LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES REPRESENTATIVES SENATORS

ADAMS	BARNES	ABOOD
BOUCHER	BOYER	BINKLEY
BROWN	CATO	COGHILL
COLLINS	COTTEN	DUNCAN
DAVIDSON	DAVIS	ELIASON
DONLEY	ELLIS	FAHRENKAMP
FRANK	FURNACE	FAIKS
GOLL	GRUENBERG	FANNING
GRUSSENDORF	HANLEY	FISCHER
HERRMANN	HOFFMAN	HALFORD
HUDSON	KOPONEN	HENSLEY
LARSON	MARTIN	JONES
MENARD	MILLER	JOSEPHSON
NAVARRE	PEARCE	KELLY
PETTYJOHN	PHILLIPS	KERTTULA
POURCHOT	RIEGER	RODEY
SHULTZ	SPRINGER	STURGULEWSKI
SUND	SWACKHAMMER	SZYMANSKI
ULMER	WALLIS	UEHLING
ZAWACKI		ZHAROFF

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR

NAME: DR. ARTHUR WILSON, JR.

TITLE:

ADDRESS: MILE 4 NORTH TONGASS

CITY: KETCHIKAN, AK

PHONE: N/R-

ZIP: 99901

BILL NO: SB 32

SUBJECT: PENALTY FOR POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA

MESSAGE: PLEASE PASS SENATE BILL 32. THIS BILL SHOULD BE PASSED AS A POSITIVE ACTION--AGAINST ILLICIT DRUG USE.

POMID: 08133007

DATE: 03/18/88

TIME: 13:30:07

LIONAME: KETCHIKAN LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES

HANLEY	1
SUND	
DONLEY	
ELLIS	
GRUENBERG	
HUDSON	
KOPONEN	
PHILLIPS	

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR

DEAR: REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR

NAME: JEAN SCHULTZ
 TITLE:
 ADDRESS: 407 BUREN
 CITY: KETCHIKAN, AK ZIP: 99901
 PHONE: N/R-
 BILL NO: SB 32
 SUBJECT: PENALTY FOR POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA
 MESSAGE: PLEASE PASS SENATE BILL 32.

NAME: HOWARD GATES
 TITLE:
 ADDRESS: P O BOX 875561
 CITY: HASILLA ZIP: 99687
 PHONE: 376-7843

BILL NO:
 SUBJECT: U OF A BUDGET
 MESSAGE: I WOULD URGE YOU TO SUPPORT INCREASING THE U OF A BUDGET LINE 7 TO \$350,000. THIS FUNDING FOR UPPER DIVISION COURSES AT EXTENDED SITES AND A
 STUDENTS WHO DO NOT WANT TO DRIVE TO ANCHORAGE TO FINISH THEIR
 : SEE THAT THIS FUNDING IS INCREASED.

POMID: 08132847
 DATE: 03/18/88
 TIME: 13:28:47
 ORNAME: KETCHIKAN LIO

721
 /88
 :21
 U LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES

HANLEY
 SUND
 DONLEY
 ELLIS
 GRUENBERG
 HUDSON
 KOPONEN
 PHILLIPS

SENATIVES	REPRESENTATIVES	SENATORS
	BARNES	ABOOD
IER	BOYER	BINKLEY
J	CATO	COGHILL
INS	COTTEN	DUNCAN
JSON	DAVIS	ELIASON
EY	ELLIS	FAHRENKAMP
K	FURNACE	FAIKS
	GRUENBERG	FANNING
SEMDORF	HANLEY	FISCHER
MANN	HOFFMAN	HALFORD
ON	KOPONEN	HENSLEY
ON	MARTIN	JONES
RD	MILLER	JOSEPHSON
RRE	PEARCE	KELLY
YJOHN	PHILLIPS	KERTTULA
CHOT	RIEGER	RODEY
.TZ	SPRINGER	STURGULEWSKI
J	SWACKHAMMER	SZYMANSKI
R	HALLIS	UEHLING
ACKI		ZHAROFF

Handwritten marks and scribbles at the bottom left of the page.

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR

NAME: KENRIETTA CUSACK
TITLE:
ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 9047
CITY: KETCHIKAN
PHONE: 225-4481
BILL NO: SB 32
SUBJECT: PENALTY FOR POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA
MESSAGE: AS A HEALTH PROFESSIONAL AND PARENTS WE KNOW THE COST IN DOLLARS
AND HUMAN SUFFERING THAT MARIJUANA IS NOW CAUSING. PLEASE MOVE SB32 OUT OF YOUR
COMMITTEE NOW. THE USE OF MARIJUANA AFFECTS FAR MORE PEOPLE THAN
JUST THE USER. ITS NOT AN ISSUE OF RIGHT OF PRIVACY ANYMORE. THANK YOU.

ZIP: 99901

POMID: 08130150
DATE: 03/09/88
TIME: 13:01:50
LIONAME: KETCHIKAN LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES SENATOR

SUND JONES
ADAMS
GRUSSENDORF
BARNES
GOLL
DOHLEY
ELLIS
GRUENBERG
HANLEY
HUDSON
KOPONEN
PHILLIPS

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR

NAME: MIKE CUSACK
TITLE:
ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 9047
CITY: KETCHIKAN ZIP: 99901
PHONE: 225-4481
BILL NO: SB 32
SUBJECT: PENALTY FOR POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA
MESSAGE: AS A HEALTH PROFFESIONAL AND PARENTS WE KNOW THE COST IN DOLLARSAND H
MAN SUFFERING THAT MARIJUANA IS NOW CAUSING. PLEASE MOVE SB32 OUTOF YOUR COMMI
TEE NOW. THE USE OF MARIJUANA AFFECTS FAR MORE PEOPLE THAN
JUST THE USER. ITS NOT AN ISSUE OF RIGHT OF PRIVACY ANYMORE.THANK YOU.

PGMID: 08135408
DATE: 03/09/88
TIME: 13:54:08
LIONAME: KETCHIKAN LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES SENATOR

SUND JONES
ADAMS
GRUSSENDORF
BARNES
GOLL
DONLEY
ELLIS
GRUENBERG
HANLEY
HUDSON
KOPONEN
PHILLIPS

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR

NAME: KATHY BOLLING
TITLE:
ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 5958
CITY: KETCHIKAN, AK
PHONE: N/R-
BILL NO: HB 55
SUBJECT: PENALTY FOR POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA
MESSAGE: I ASK YOU TO SUPPORT HOUSE BILL 55 TO RECRIMINALIZE THE USE OF MARIJUANA IN OUR STATE. I WILL EXPECT MY LEGISLATOR TO SUPPORT THIS, AND KNOW MANY PEOPLE WHO FEEL THE SAME AS I DO ON THIS ISSUE.

ZIP: 99901

POMID: 08164134
DATE: 03/10/88
TIME: 16:41:34
LIONAME: KETCHIKAN LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES REPRESENTATI'IES

ADAMS	BARNES
BOUCHER	BOYER
BROWN	CATO
COLLINS	COTTEN
DAVIDSON	DAVIS
DONLEY	ELLIS
FRANK	FURNACE
GOLL	GRUENBERG
GRUSSENDORF	HANLEY
HERRMANN	HOFFMAN
HUDSON	KOPONEN
LARSON	MARTIN
MENARD	MILLER
NAVARRE	PEARCE
PETTYJOHN	PHILLIPS
POURCHOT	RIEGER
SHULTZ	SPRINGER
SUND	SWACKHAMMER
ULMER	WALLIS
ZAWACKI	

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR

NAME: JUDY SMITH
TITLE:
ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 7151
CITY: KETCHIKAN ZIP: 99901
PHONE: 247-8416
BILL NO: SB 32
SUBJECT: PENALTY FOR POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA
MESSAGE: THE MISUSE OF DRUGS KILLS MORE OF OUR KIDS THAN ALL OTHER CAUSES COMBINED. MARIJUANA RENDERS THE BRAIN FAR LESS CAPABLE OF LEARNING. THERE PERCUSSIONS ARE FRIGHTENING. I APPEAL TO YOU TO PASS SB32 SO THAT THE SUPREME COURT CAN ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF HEALTH HAZARDS OF MARIJUANA.

POMID: 08140220
DATE: 03/09/88
TIME: 14:02:20
LIONAME: KETCHIKAN LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES

SUND
ADAMS
GRUSSENDORF
HANLEY
GOLL
DONLEY
ELLIS
GRUENBERG
HUDSON
KOPONEN
PHILLIPS

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR

NAME: FRAN AND SAM YOUNG
TITLE:
ADDRESS: 537 TOWER
CITY: KETCHIKAN, AK ZIP: 99901
PHONE: N/R-
BILL NO: SB 32
SUBJECT: PENALTY FOR POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA
MESSAGE: DOCTORS AND SCIENTISTS SAY MARIJUANA DAMAGES THE BRAIN. IT MAKES
SMART PEOPLE AVERAGE AND AVERAGE PEOPLE DUMB. AS PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS, WE
BEG YOU TO HELP US MAKE A CLEAR STATEMENT TO THESE CHILDREN--THAT MARIJUANA IS A
DANGEROUS DRUG. MOVE SENATE BILL 32 TO THE RULES COMMITTEE NOW!

POMID: 08142227
DATE: 03/08/88
TIME: 14:22:27
LIONAME: KETCHIKAN LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES SENATOR

SUND JONES
ADAMS
GOLL
GRUSSENDORF
BARNES
HANLEY
DONLEY
ELLIS
GRUENBERG
HUDSON
KOPONEN
PHILLIPS

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR

NAME: GORDON DALE
TITLE:
ADDRESS: 900 BOUNTY
CITY: ANCHORAGE ZIP: 99515
PHONE: 345-0178
BILL NO: HB 340
SUBJECT: IMMUNITY FOR VOLUNTEER RESCUE GROUPS
MESSAGE: CONSIDER THIS IF YOU WILL. YOU HAVE STRAYED OUT OF THE SKI AREA
BOUNDARIES AND HAVE FALLEN INJURING BOTH LEGS. WOULDN'T CIVIL LIABILITY BE
LAST THING YOU WOULD WANT THE LOCAL VOLUNTARY SKI PATROL TO BE CONCERNED
AS A 17 YEAR SKI PATROL VETERAN, I HAVE BEEN THERE.

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR

NAME: BERT ROMO

TITLE:

ADDRESS: 320 BAWDEN

CITY: KETCHIKAN, AK

PHONE: N/R-

ZIP: 99901

BILL NO: SB 32

SUBJECT: PENALTY FOR POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA

MESSAGE: WE BADLY NEED AN INJECTION OF COMMON SENSE. PLEASE SUPPORT CHANGES
IN THE LEGALITY OF MARIJUANA, A VERY DAMAGING DRUG. SEE RECENT MEDICAL RESEARCH
AND DO NOT EQUATE MARIJUANA USE WITH DRIVING OFFENSES. DON'T ANTICIPATE THE
COURTS GIVING US A LAW.

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR

NAME: DUANE ANDERSON

TITLE:

ADDRESS: 4407 N. DOGWOOD

CITY: KENAI

PHONE: 283-9495

ZIP: 99611

BILL NO: SB 330

SUBJECT: ROSES INSTEAD OF THORNS

MESSAGE: RE: SB330-FROM THE KIDS, PARENTS, EDUCATORS AND SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS
OUR STATE---THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU.

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR

DEAR: REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR

NAME: LYNDA ADAMS

TITLE:

ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 7171

CITY: KETCHIKAN, AK

PHONE: N/R-

BILL NO: SB 32

SUBJECT: PENALTY FOR POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA

MESSAGE: PLEASE WAIVE THIS BILL OUT OF YOUR COMMITTEE AND ON TO THE JUDICIARY

COMMITTEE SO THAT THE BILL MAY GET TO THE FLOOR SOON FOR A VOTE. WE NEED THIS

PASSED NOW. THE STREET VALUE OF 4 OUNCES OF MARIJUANA IS \$1,800. TO

REQUIRE A \$25.00 MAIL-IN BAIL IS A JOKE!

ZIP: 99901

NAME: MIKE MCCORMACK

TITLE:

ADDRESS: 2830 CONCORD LANE

CITY: ANCHORAGE

PHONE: 243-7443

BILL NO:

SUBJECT: MARICULTURE

MESSAGE: I SUPPORT UPLANDS MARICULTURE FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS: 1. NEW SOURCE OF JOBS FOR ALASKANS. 2. DISCHARGE FROM FISH PENS TREATED BEFORE RETURN TO WATER MINIMIZING DANGER OF DISEASE TO WILD STOCKS. 3. THIS IS A NEW INDUSTRY WITH NEW MARKETS THAT DOES NOT COMPETE WITH EXISTING ALASKAN FISHERMEN AS THE FRESH FISH MARKET IS ALREADY DOMINATED BY FOREIGN MARICULTURE SALMON.

ZIP: 99502

ATORS

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PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR

NAME: JOSH MOORE, PRESIDENT
TITLE: MINER'S ADVOCACY COUNCIL
ADDRESS: PO BOX 82524
CITY: FAIRBANKS
PHONE: 479-4686

ZIP: 99708

BILL NO:

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSEMBLY APPROVAL OF SABOTAGE
MESSAGE: ALASKA'S ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNITY IS SINKING INTO THE ABYSS OF
FASCISM WHEN SABOTAGE IS ACCEPTABLE. ALASKA'S PLACER MINERS WILL CONTINUE
TO PURSUE TRUTH, JUSTICE, AND THE ALASKAN WAY OF LIFE IN A LEGAL AND MORALLY
CORRECT MANNER, THROUGH THE COURTS, THE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESS, AND IN
COOPERATION WITH STATE AND FEDERAL

PMID: 07122416

DATE: 02/16/88

TIME: 12:24:16

LIQNAME: FAIRBANKS LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES REPRESENT

ADAMS	BARNES
BOUCHER	BOYER
BROWN	CATO
COLLINS	COTTEN
DAVIDSON	DAVIS
DONLEY	ELLIS
FRANK	FURNACE
GOLL	GRUENBERG
GRUSSENDORF	HANLEY
HERRMANN	HOFFMAN
HUDSON	KOPONEN
LARSON	MARTIN
MEHARD	MILLER
NAVARRE	PEARCE
PETTYJOHN	PHILLIPS
POURCHOT	RIEGER
SHULTZ	SPRINGER
SURID	SWACKHAMMI
ULMER	MALLIS
ZAWACKI	

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR

NAME: BILL AND DANITA TRUDEAU
TITLE:
ADDRESS: 2275 5TH AVE.
CITY: KETCHIKAN
PHONE: N/R-

ZIP: 99901

BILL NO: SB 32

SUBJECT: PENALTY FOR POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA
MESSAGE: PLEASE SUPPORT SENATE BILL 32 AS IT COMES TO THE SENATE FLOOR.
PLEASE HELP IT MOVE TO THE HOUSE FOR PASSAGE TOO. FOUR OUNCES IS FAR
BEYOND A PERSONAL CHOICE ISSUE.

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR

DEAR: REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR

NAME: CHARLES SELMAN, PRESIDENT
TITLE: CHAIRMAN
ADDRESS: 811 DODDHOOD
CITY: ANCHORAGE
PHONE: 272-7700
BILL NO: HB 261
SUBJECT: IGNITION INTERLOCK DEVICES
MESSAGE: CATORAT AND RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION WISHES TO EXPRESS IT'S SUPPORT
ON HB 261.

NAME: MRS. MAXINE V. ROBERTSON
TITLE:
ADDRESS: RT.2, BOX 0
CITY: KETCHIKAN, AK
PHONE: N/R-
BILL NO: SB 32
SUBJECT: PENALTY FOR POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA
MESSAGE: STRONGLY URGE THAT OUR LEGISLATORS STAND UP FOR THE WISHES OF THE
PEOPLE AND PASS THE BILL RECRIMINALIZING MARIJUANA. WE ARE THE LAUGHING STOCK
OF THE OTHER STATES WHO HAVE TAKEN A STRONG STAND ON THIS ALREADY.

POMID: 03133039
DATE: 02/12/88
TIME: 13:30:39
LIONAME: ANCHORAGE LIO
TOPICS: REPRESENTATIVES

POMID: 08133357
DATE: 02/12/88
TIME: 13:33:57
LIONAME: KETCHIKAN LIO

GRUENBERG
BARNES
COTTEN
NAVARRE
SUND
ULMER

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR

NAME: DAN DINEEN
 TITLE:
 ADDRESS: BOX 876698
 CITY: WASILLA ZIP: 99687
 PHONE: 373-3216
 BILL NO:
 SUBJECT: TALKEETHA RIVER BRIDGE
 MESSAGE: ITS A GOOD IDEA FOR THIS BRIDGE. THERE HAVE BEEN MANY DEATHS ON THE
 RAILROAD TRACKS. IT'LL HELP THE ECONOMY ALSO.

POMID: 14133645
 DATE: 02/12/88
 TIME: 13:36:45
 LIONAME: MAT-SU LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES REPRESENTATIVES SENATORS

ADAMS	BARNES	ABOOD
BOUCHER	BOYER	BINKLEY
BROWN	CATO	COGHILL
COLLINS	COTTEN	DUNCAN
DAVIDSON	DAVIS	ELIASON
DONLEY	ELLIS	FAHRENKAM
FRANK	FURNACE	FAIKS
GOLL	GRUENBERG	FANNING
GRUSSENDORF	HANLEY	FISCHER
HERRNAGE	HOFFMAN	HALFORD
HUDSON	KOPONEN	HENSLEY
LARSON	MARTIN	JONES
MENARD	MILLER	JOSEPHSON
MAYARRE	PEARCE	KELLY
PETTYJOHN	PHILLIPS	KERTTULA
POURCHOT	RIEGER	RODEY
SHULTZ	SPRINGER	STURGULEW
SUND	SWACKHAMMER	SZYMANSKI
ULMER	WALL	UEHLING
ZAWACKI		ZHAROFF

RESPONSE REQUIRED

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR

NAME: PERRY AIKEN REEVE
 TITLE:
 ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 9411
 CITY: KETCHIKAN, AK ZIP: 99901
 PHONE: N/R-
 BILL NO: SB 32
 SUBJECT: PENALTY FOR POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA
 MESSAGE: I URGE YOU TO VOTE YES FOR SENATE BILL 32 IN CONFORMANCE WITH FEDERAL
 LAW. THE PRESENT POTENCY OF MARIJUANA AND ITS PROVEN PHYSICAL DAMAGE TO THE
 BODY MERIT OUR URGENT ATTENTION TO RECTIFYING THIS LAW.

POMID: 08134020
 DATE: 02/12/88
 TIME: 13:40:20
 LIONAME: KETCHIKAN LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVE SENATORS

SUND ABOOD

DEAR: REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR

NAME: PAULINE GREEN

TITLE:

ADDRESS: 2303 FIRST AVENUE (LWR)

CITY: KETCHIKAN, AK

ZIP: 99901

PHONE: N/R-

BILL NO: SB 32

SUBJECT: PENALTY FOR POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA

MESSAGE: VOTE YES FOR RECRIMINALIZING MARIJUANA, SENATE BILL 32, TO CONFORM WITH FEDERAL LAW TO RESTORE SANE LAW AND MORALS IN OUR STATE, REDUCE THEFT AND MURDERS, ACCIDENTS, MAKE OUR STREETS SAFE TO WALK AGAIN, AND SAFE ROADS TO DRIVE ON. MAKE ALASKA LIKE IT WAS BEFORE DRUG-FREE.

POHID: 08135128

DATE: 02/12/88

TIME: 13:51:28

LIONAME: KETCHIKA

COPIES: REP015FM

END



PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR

NAME: EILEEN MARMA
TITLE:
ADDRESS: 2034 FIRST AVENUE
CITY: KETCHIKAN, AK ZIP: 99901
PHONE: N/R-
BILL NO: SB 32
SUBJECT: PENALTY FOR POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA
MESSAGE: IT IS TIME TO MAKE MARIJUANA ILLEGAL. IT CAUSES DEVASTATING PROBLEMS
IN FAMILIES AND IN THE COMMUNITY. I URGE YOU TO VOTE YES ON SENATE BILL 32.

POMID: 08134905
DATE: 02/12/88
TIME: 13:49:05
LIONAME: KETCHIKAN LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVE

SUN

53

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR

NAME: JOHN HOLST
TITLE: PRINCIPAL, KETCHIKAN HIGH SCHOOL
ADDRESS: RT 2, BOX 104
CITY: KETCHIKAN, AK ZIP: 99901
PHONE: N/R--
BILL NO: SB 32
SUBJECT: PENALTY FOR POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA
MESSAGE: PLEASE, FOR THE SAKE OF OUR CHILDREN, SUPPORT SENATE BILL 32!!!

POMID: 08140612
DATE: 02/12/88
TIME: 14:06:12
LIONAME: KETCHIKAN

COPIES: REPRESENT.

SUND

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR

NAME: LAURIE MICHAEL
TITLE:
ADDRESS: RT.1, BOX 947
CITY: KETCHIKAN, AK
PHONE: N/R-

ZIP: 99901

BILL NO: SB 32
SUBJECT: PENALTY FOR POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA
MESSAGE: PLEASE FIGHT MARIJUANA AS STRONGLY AS YOU FIGHT ALCOHOL. ITS EFFECTS
ARE JUST AS DEVASTATING. I DON'T CARE TO MEET MARIJUANA USERS ON THE ROAD
ANYMORE THAN DRUNK DRIVERS, NOR THE NEGATIVE INFLUENCES IT HAS ON YOUNG PEOPLE.
PLEASE VOTE FOR RECRIMINALIZING MARIJUANA USEAGE - SENATE BILL 32.

POMID: 08141
DATE: 02/1:
TIME: 14:0:
LIONAME: KETCI

COPIES: REPR

SURD

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR

NAME: HERTA KIFFER
TITLE:
ADDRESS: 139 JEFFERSON
CITY: KETCHIKAN, AK ZIP: 99901
PHONE: N/R-
BILL NO: SB 32
SUBJECT: PENALTY FOR POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA
MESSAGE: PLEASE VOTE TO RECRIMINALIZE MARIJUANA AND THUS AGREE WITH THE REST
OF THE UNITED STATES.

POMID: 0814
DATE: 02/1
TIME: 14:1
LIONAME: KETCI

COPIES: 3EPR

SURD

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR

NAME: KATHLEEN FARR
TITLE:
ADDRESS: 706 BAYVIEW
CITY: KETCHIKAN, AK ZIP: 99901
PHONE: N/R-
BILL NO: SB 32
SUBJECT: PENALTY FOR POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA
MESSAGE: PLEASE RECRIMINALIZE MARIJUANA. IT IS AS HARMFUL AS ALCOHOL TO THE
ADDICTED AND THEIR FAMILIES.

POMID: 08141
DATE: 02/12
TIME: 14:14
LIONAME: KETCH

COPIES: REPRE

SUND

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR

NAME: MARTY JACKSON
TITLE:
ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 694
CITY: WARD COVE ZIP: 99928
PHONE: 225-9726
BILL NO: SB 32
SUBJECT: PENALTY FOR POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA
MESSAGE: MARIJUANA HAS NOW BEEN PROVEN TO BE FIVE TIMES AS DAMAGING TO
THE HEART THAN TOBACCO AND 4-5 TIMES AS DAMAGING TO THE LUNG. "RAVEN"
STATES PAGE 495 "WHEN THERE IS SUBSTANTIAL DOUBT AS TO THE SAFETY OF A
GIVEN SUBSTANCE OR SITUATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH, CONTROLS TO OBIVIATE THE
DANGER WILL USUALLY BE UPHELD". RECRIMINALIZE MARIJUANA. PASS SB32.

POMID: 08143851
DATE: 03/09/88
TIME: 14:38:51
LIONAME: KETCHIKAN LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES

ADAMS
SUND
HANLEY
BARNES
GOLL
GRUSSENDORF
DONLEY
ELLIS
GRUENBERG
HUDSON
KOPONEN
PHILLIPS

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR

NAME: LLOYD & SHIRLEY NAULT

TITLE:

ADDRESS: 1810 FIRST AVE.

CITY: KETCHIKAN

ZIP: 99901

PHONE: 225-3451

BILL NO: SB 32

SUBJECT: PENALTY FOR POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA

MESSAGE: PLEASE PASS SB32 AS WRITTEN OR STRONGER WORDING IF AMENDED. SELLERS OR PEDDLERS SHOULD HAVE A MUCH STRONGER DETERNENT PARTICULARY IF SELLING TO STUDENTS.

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR

NAME: JIM GOODMAN
TITLE:
ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 1108
CITY: DELTA JUNCTION, ALASKA ZIP: 99737
PHONE: 895-4274
BILL NO: SB 211
SUBJECT: CIVIL LIABILITY
MESSAGE: I ENCOURAGE YOU TO SUPPORT CSSB 211.

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR

NAME: PARISH COUNCIL, HOLY NAME CHURCH
TITLE:
ADDRESS: 433 JACKSON
CITY: KETCHIKAN, AK ZIP: 99901
PHONE: N/R-
BILL NO: SB 32
SUBJECT: PENALTY FOR POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA
MESSAGE: THE PARISH COUNCIL OF HOLY NAME CHURCH SUPPORTS THE MODERNIZATION
ALASKA'S MARIJUANA LAWS BY RECRIMINALIZATION OF MARIJUANA IN ALASKA AND URGES
THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE TO PASS SB 32.

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR

NAME: EDWARD HETZGER

TITLE:

ADDRESS: BOX 217

CITY: WILLOW

ZIP: 99688

PHONE: 495-6287

BILL NO: SB 56

SUBJECT: ANNUITY PROGRAM

MESSAGE: I APPROVE OF SB 56 AS IT IS NOW WRITTEN.

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR

NAME: BOB WATT

TITLE:

ADDRESS: RT.2, BOX 178

CITY: KETCHIKAN, AK

ZIP: 99901

PHONE: N/A

BILL NO: SB 32

SUBJECT: PENALTY FOR POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA

MESSAGE: IN MY OPINION IT IS NOT REALISTIC TO HAVE LAWS WHEREBY A PERSON CAN
A LITTLE GUILTY. ILLEGAL DRUGS, INCLUDING MARIJUANA, SHOULD BE ILLEGAL, PER
I STRONGLY SUPPORT THIS BILL AND URGE YOU TO VOTE IN FAVOR OF IT IN COMMITTEE
AND ON THE FLOOR. THANK YOU.

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR

NAME: EDNA KLEMME
TITLE:
ADDRESS: 11214 AURORA STREET
CITY: EAGLE RIVER ZIP: 99577
PHONE: 694-4016

BILL NO:
SUBJECT: COMMUNITY BASE SERVICES
MESSAGE: RESTORE 1.6 MILLION DOLLARS TO THE BUDGET AND ADD 2 MILLION DOLLARS TO
HELP PEOPLE ON THE WAITING LIST.

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR

NAME: MYRA STANTON
TITLE:
ADDRESS: 3017 FAIRVIEW AVE.
CITY: KETCHIKAN ZIP: 99901
PHONE: 225-3406

BILL NO: SB 32
SUBJECT: PENALTY FOR POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA
MESSAGE: PLEASE PASS SB32 TO RECRIMINALIZE MARIJUANA. I FEEL WE NEED TO
BECOME IN LINE WITH THE REST OF THE UNITED STATES, AND SEND A MESSAGE TO
ALL, THAT MARIJUANA IS HARMFUL TO THE HUMAN BODY. THANK YOU.

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR

NAME: CLYDE JOHNSON
TITLE:
ADDRESS: 2051 SEA LEVEL DR. #203
CITY: KETCHIKAN ZIP: 99901
PHONE: 225-3250
BILL NO: SB 32
SUBJECT: PENALTY FOR POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA
MESSAGE: PLEASE PASS THIS BILL FOR THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF ALASKANS.

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR

NAME: BOB NESTEL
TITLE:
ADDRESS: 16810 EAST STREET #2
CITY: EAGLE RIVER ZIP: 99877
PHONE: 694-4372
BILL NO:
SUBJECT: INSURANCE COMPANIES STORY
MESSAGE: IN THE MARCH 23, ANCHORAGE DAILY NEWS AND ANCHORAGE TIMES IS AN A
CIATED PRESS STORY CONCERNING 8 STATE ATTORNEY GENERALS FILING SUIT AGAINST

4/15/88

TELECOPY COVER SHEET

4 pages (not including this sheet) for the
House HESS Committee re SB 32 - Possession of Marijuana

From Helen Simmonds, via the Barrow LIO

Originals will be mailed to the Committee

✓ 4/15/88

We, the undersigned wholeheartedly agree the marijuana is a serious health problem and we are in support of seeing it illegal to possess in any amount. Therefore, we ask that the Alaska Legislature pass SB 32.

NAME

ADDRESS

Lily Hays	Box 143	BRW
Mark Hays	Box 1181	BRW
Burton Lefjord	Box 420	BRW
Ladie Redford	Box 424	BRW, AK
Della England	Box 449	BRW AK
Gene Brower	81	B. AK
Leslie Kiani	Box 435	BRW. AK,
David H. Okakok	Ex 523	BRW - AK
Nora Ann Kishor	Box 231	Barrow, AK
Roy M. Nageak	Box 354	Barrow, AK
Florian Nageak	Box 354	BRW
Cynthia N. Young	Box 710	Barrow
Rev. M. Budger	W.D. 530 Prohart Philadelphia, Pa.	
Pat O'Neil	Box 278	BRW
Sam Nelson	Box 355	Barrow
Jim Petroski	Box 1133	Barrow
C. Keweenaw		Barrow
D. Jagger	Box 526	Barrow
Carolyn H. Cunningham	Box 321	Barrow
Gene T. Young	Box 515	BRW
James M. Young	Box 101	BRW
Christa Spencer	Box 1254	BRW

We, the undersigned wholeheartedly agree the marijuana is a serious health problem and we are in support of seeing it illegal to possess in any amount. Therefore, we ask that the Alaska Legislature pass SB 32.

NAME

ADDRESS

Alberta Adams	313	Barrow, AK
Abel Mayhew	414	BRW, AK
Delores Salvayyak	104	Barrow, Alaska
Christina Lindeman	415	Barrow, Alaska
H. Cleman	6	Barrow, AK
Carl Muckpit Sr.	108	
Jean Nummik	161	
Nina Nayukok	75	
Marjorie Ahpik		DTG, AK
Marjorie Pannase		Nuqsut, AK
May Ahluwatsyah		Nuqsut, AK
P.O. of the Ahluwatsyahs		Box
Bates Adams		Box 313
Gilford Mongoyak		Box 404 Barrow, AK
Patrick H. Ahluwatsyah Sr.		Box 431 Barrow, AK
Amy S. Ahluwatsyah		Box 431 Barrow, AK
Rose Mongoyak		"
Rebecca Adams		
Sadie Kudralook		Box 543
Hawwete Hopson		
Carl Annis		Box 15 Point Hope, AK
Clifford Daniels		

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NAME

ADDRESS

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Arthur Neakak	Box 389
Rhoda Nungak	Box 112
Clouise Okakok	Box 892
Mildred Rector	Box 99 Kaktovik Ak 99747
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Ruth Spalook	Box 24 Barrow Alaska
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H. Etta Ekolook	Box
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Simon Akpit Jr.	Atkasuk
Ronald Joorak Sr.	Box 381 Barrow 99723
Thelma Joorak	"
Matthi Bartos	Box 177 Barrow Ak 99723
Russ Penelva	
Mr + Mrs Roy Ayagab	
Susie Kigvak	P.O. Box 32 Barrow
Daisy Elmanson	Box 1135-

We, the undersigned wholeheartedly agree the marijuana is a serious health problem and we are in support of seeing it illegal to possess in any amount. / C
Therefore, we ask that the Alaska Legislature pass SB 32.

NAME

ADDRESS

John W. Cairns	Box 246
Bernice Ahluwalia	Box 848
James C. Ahluwalia	Box 438
Ruth A. Ahluwalia	438
Paul Ahluwalia	1307
Cheryl Ahluwalia	
Gayle Cox	Box 702
Scott	Box 355
Stanley & Jeanne	Box 927
Kimberly Hunter	P.O. Box 309, Barrow, AK 99723
Harold S. Hunter	P.O. Box 3056
W. A. Hunter	Box 786

May 5, 1987

Senate Judiciary Staff Co-counsel

Attached is a copy of Marijuana and Health, the seminal study on marijuana in the U.S. Tabbed are pages with information that contradicts findings in CSSB-32. In many cases CSSB-32 overstates the findings in the study.

Also attached is information from the sponsor citing where he got the information for the bill's findings. The citation "original" refers to information gathered for Rep. Martin's original House bill. The first page of a memo prepared for Rep. Martin by House Researchy on his bill states "(a)s you (Rep. Martin) requested, I have not included any research which disputes the findings set out in the bill."

As you can see from even the cursory information, the findings in CSSB-32 are misleading, and some are completely incorrect. The research done on the bill did not include any information contradicting the sponsor's wishes, even if it did exist (which it does). Based on this alone, a law based on CSSB-35 will be difficult to defend against constitutional attack,

Ravin v. State, 494 P.2d 537 (Alaska 1975), set out the constitutional right of privacy under our Alaska constitution. To overcome Ravin as CSSB-32 purports to do, there must be

accurate findings justifying an intrusion into a private home.
CSSB-32 does not set out accurate findings. Thus, in
counsels' opinions, it does not meet constitutional standards.

Marijuana and Health

Report of a Study
by a Committee of the
INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE
Division of Health Sciences Policy

NATIONAL ACADEMY PRESS
Washington, D.C. 1982

18 (3) the buildup of THC in the system means that repeated
19 administration of even small doses may lead to an accumulation of the drug
20 higher than levels reached at any time after a single dose;

Aspergillus, a fungus, is a common contaminant of some cannabis (Llewellyn and O'Rear, 1977; Llamas et al., 1978). The spores pass easily through contaminated marijuana cigarettes and when smoked are presumed to enter the body.

CELLULAR TOXICITY

A variety of effects on cellular processes have been reported, usually based on studies of in vitro systems. The low water solubility of the cannabinoids and the need to add solvents and emulsifiers, along with a common tendency to use higher in vitro concentrations than occurs in living animals, makes interpretation of such experiments difficult.

In related studies, Δ -9-THC alters the actions of a number of intracellular enzyme systems. The biological relevance of these drug/enzyme interactions is still unclear at this time, but, together with the cytotoxicity, it suggests that Δ -9-THC is producing marked effects on cell membranes and intracellular processes.

Almost nothing is known of the molecular mechanisms by which cannabinoids produce their effects in cells.

TOLERANCE AND DEPENDENCE

Repeated administration development of tolerance results from two general

- Dispositional to concentrations at sites of drug metabolism or excretion
- Functional tolerance of the target cells.

FINDING
3

of habit-forming drugs leads to the development of drug resistance (Jones et al., 1971):

• lower drug
• cause of increased rates

of drug sensitivity of

Tolerance to most cannabinoid effects has been demonstrated both in animals and human beings (Jones, 1981). Tolerance can develop rapidly after only a few small doses. It disappears at an equally rapid rate for many effects, although after large doses in experimental animals some tolerance may persist for long periods (Jones, 1981). Systematic studies of tolerance loss have rarely been done. Many characteristics of tolerance to Δ -9-THC, particularly its pattern of rapid acquisition and loss, are similar to that occurring with opiates, nicotine, and cocaine (Jones, 1981). Most evidence suggests functional rather than dispositional means of acquiring tolerance.

The development of such tolerance to cannabis does not necessarily have health implications. However, if tolerance should lead to higher or more frequent doses, adverse consequences, e.g., respiratory effects, associated with higher usage could result.

3

21 (4) the buildup of THC in the body causes the user to smoke more
22 marijuana to achieve the desired high and may result in loss of sleep,
23 appetite, and initiative, as well as moodiness and depression;

Physical dependence, manifested by withdrawal signs and symptoms, can develop rapidly in animals and in human beings (Jones, 1981). The withdrawal syndrome is not life threatening. It is similar in many respects to the mild dependence produced by low doses of other sedatives. Withdrawal symptoms can include restlessness, irritability, mild agitation, insomnia, and sleep EEG disturbance.

Cannabis dependence does not mean the same thing as cannabis addiction. Dependence means only that a withdrawal syndrome can occur when drug taking is stopped. Addiction implies compulsive behavior to acquire the drug. The relationship between dependence and increased drug seeking or drug using is more theoretical than well documented, particularly in experiments with human beings. Given the appearance of tolerance and dependence with almost any psychoactive drug, it would be unusual not to find tolerance and dependence with the right dose and dosage schedule of cannabis. Good studies of the relationship of dependence, if any, to persistent drug use are important.

DRUG INTERACTIONS

Because cannabis often is consumed with other drugs, interactions can be expected. Other illicit drugs, tobacco, caffeine, alcohol, and over-the-counter or prescribed medications should be studied in combination with cannabis, because Δ -9-THC and its first metabolite are strongly bound to proteins in the plasma (Garrett and Hunt, 1974) and may interact with other drugs similarly bound. Cannabis and many other drugs share disposition by the hepatic metabolic enzyme systems, and there are possible interactions at the drug metabolism level. For example, drugs such as alcohol or pentobarbital can inhibit metabolism of Δ -9-THC by enzyme substrate competition. Or, if after a period of inhibition one drug is removed, the enzyme activity can increase so that faster than expected metabolism follows. If given simultaneously with other drugs, Δ -9-THC can slow metabolism of drugs such as theophyllin, antipyrine, ethanol, and pentobarbital (Benowitz and Jones, 1977; Jusko, 1979). Cannabidiol can also inhibit the metabolism of a variety of drugs normally metabolized by the shared hepatic enzyme systems.

Drug interactions also can occur by means of functional mechanisms. These can be additive, resulting in enhancement or prolongation of behavioral and psychological effects by cannabis when combined with other central nervous system depressant drugs, such as alcohol and barbiturates. Animals less tolerant to cannabis will also be less sensitive to other central nervous system depressants. This phenomenon is known as cross-tolerance. Drug interactions will be mentioned in subsequent chapters.

24 (5) it is possible for a human being to overdose from the use of
25 marijuana, especially if it is used in conjunction with alcohol, because it
26 increases the effects of alcohol;

It is generally agreed that smoking five or six 1-gram cannabis cigarettes daily is a large dose (Dornbush et al., 1971; Rosenkrantz, 1981). Because of the variability of Δ -9-THC content of cannabis available from street samples, it would be more appropriate to consider this heavy use. The definition of a low dose is more controversial. Some consider one marijuana cigarette a day to be a large dose. Others think even one cigarette a week is regular, frequent, and a high-dose.

With tobacco and alcohol, for which dose is easier to quantify, it took many years to establish what a small or large dose might be in terms of specifying doses that significantly increased the risk of various behavioral and health consequences. Even with those drugs, there is still disagreement as to precisely what a small and "safe" dose might be. There will be even more problems in specifying typical cannabis doses and predicting their likely health consequences.

In controlled laboratory conditions, ingested doses of more than 20 mg of Δ -9-THC generally are considered by both investigators and cannabis users to be large doses. Doses of less than 10 mg are considered small. Marijuana cigarettes containing more than 20 mg of Δ -9-THC seem to be a large dose, and those with 10 mg produce effects generally considered the result of a small dose. When volunteers were allowed to select their own self-determined smoked doses in controlled experiments, some smoked only one or two 20-mg cigarettes daily, while other similar volunteers smoked six to ten or more cigarettes per day. Variability in smoking patterns is great and not easily quantified; only broad range estimates of dose are possible.

GENERAL TOXICOLOGY

Delta-9-THC and related cannabinoids have very low lethal toxicity. That is, a very high single acute dose of Δ -9-THC is required to kill half of a population of experimental animals. This lethal dose for 50 percent of the animals is called the LD₅₀. The lack of well-authenticated cases of human deaths from acute Δ -9-THC or cannabis overdose is consistent with the experimental animal data. The lethal dose increases as the phylogenetic tree is ascended. The rat has an LD₅₀ of 40 mg/kg intravenously, in contrast to a 125 mg/kg in the monkey (Rosenkrantz, 1981). Death is usually due to cardiac dysfunction. Delta-9-THC appears to be the most toxic of the cannabinoids.

Studies of chronic cannabis administration to animals have demonstrated delayed lethality. Animals die after several days of a repeated high dose (Rosenkrantz, 1981). The reason for this pattern is unclear. It could be related to accumulation of Δ -9-THC or metabolites in tissues.

A 1-year chronic treatment of rats with lower doses of cannabinoids produced a pattern of toxicity consisting of weight loss, pulmonary pathology when the drug is inhaled, and slowly

4 (8) marijuana may cause schizophrenia, illusions, and hallucina-
5 tions, including a dulling of the senses, creating the possibility that the
6 user is unable to respond to body signals such as pain;

There is no clinical evidence that physical dependence plays an important role in persistent use of marijuana. Withdrawal symptoms would not be expected in intermittent users; however, daily round-the-clock users of high-dose marijuana may be expected to show some symptoms of withdrawal soon after stopping regular use.

Chronic Effects

Cannabis Psychosis

Cannabis psychosis refers to a chronic psychotic condition (out of contact with reality) reportedly seen in heavy marijuana users, but extending beyond the period of acute intoxication. Some authors have described a schizophrenialike picture with delusions and hallucinations, and others have stressed the existence of organic mental confusion. Most of the reports have come from observation of hospitalized patients in Asian and African countries (Asuni, 1964; Chopra and Smith, 1974; Thacore and Shukla, 1976). There are no reports in the North American literature. At this time, there is insufficient evidence to say that cannabis psychosis exists as a separate clinical entity (Murphy, 1963; Edwards, 1976).

"Amotivational Syndrome"

Clinicians coined the term "amotivational syndrome" to describe a characteristic set of personality changes seen in some daily users of marijuana (McGlothlin and West, 1968; Smith, 1968). The changes include apathy, loss of ambition, loss of effectiveness, diminished ability to carry out long-term plans, difficulty in concentrating, and a decline in school or work performance. As usually described, these changes are seen in frequent or daily users, and thus they may be considered a form of chronic intoxication. The term "amotivational syndrome" is not an official diagnosis, but there is agreement among many clinicians who treat young people that this constellation of symptoms is common. It may also be seen in nonmarijuana users, and daily use of marijuana is not always associated with loss of motivation.

The evidence presented for the linking of this syndrome with marijuana consists of case reports. For example, Baker and Lucas (1969) described the case of a man whom friends described as previously conscientious, capable, and effective; but after smoking hashish daily for 3 years, he changed into a person for whom use of drugs was a way of life and in whom a serious deterioration of social function was observed. Other reports consist of groups of cases with similar histories (Thurlow, 1971). The symptoms mentioned, in addition to loss of motivation, include falling grades, difficulties in concentration, intermittent confusion, and impaired memory. Some authors report improvement when use of marijuana is stopped (Kolansky and Moore, 1971, 1972).

EFFECTS OF MARIJUANA ON THE BRAIN

The most clearly established effects of cannabis are upon behavior. These effects, described in Chapter 6, indicate that major actions of cannabinoids are upon the brain. The ways in which marijuana alters the brain to produce its behavioral effects are not known.

Efforts to discover the causes of the behavioral effects have included studies on brain morphology, physiology, and chemistry to be reviewed in this chapter. Effects of marijuana on brain electrical activity and on brain chemistry have been measured, but their significance for brain function is not known because of our limited knowledge of brain-behavior relations. Marijuana causes temporary intoxication and results in changes in brain physiology and chemistry similar to those caused by other intoxicating drugs. Although these kinds of studies may ultimately shed light on the way marijuana produces its behavioral changes, they do not provide answers to important clinical questions. Does marijuana cause long-term changes in the brain that lead to chronic psychiatric or neurological disorders? So far, the studies reviewed below provide no convincing evidence for long-term changes because of use of marijuana.

BRAIN MORPHOLOGY

There is substantial controversy about whether marijuana causes changes in brain structure or in brain cells. Two studies have reported that marijuana produces changes in brain morphology. Both suffer ~~efficiently~~ from methodologic and interpretational defects that their conclusions cannot be accepted. Furthermore, other studies have not found changes in morphology.

#8

Gross Morphology

Data suggesting that use of marijuana causes brain atrophy were obtained by pneumoencephalography (injection of air into spaces in and surrounding the brain) on 10 users of marijuana who had sought medical attention because of neurologic complaints (Campbell et al., 1971). The size of the largest brain cavities (ventricles) was

7 (9) although it may take a heavy cigarette smoker as long as 20
8 years to develop lung cancer, one marijuana cigarette a day may cause lung
9 cancer in three years;

10 (10) THC affects eggs, sperm, sexual hormones, and the develop-
11 ment of a fetus and marijuana use may result in deformed or undersized
12 offspring;

However, extensive testing with Δ -9-THC using three established tests for mutagenesis failed to detect any mutagenic effect, or any effect as an inhibitor of DNA repair (Legator et al., 1976; Glatt et al., 1979; Zimmerman et al., 1978).

#10 Cytogenetic Effects

The numbers and kinds of chromosomes (structures in a cell nucleus that contain and transmit genetic information carried in DNA) are highly characteristic for a given species. Structural variation and changes in numbers of chromosomes may be evidence for genetic damage produced by drugs and other chemical agents. Unfortunately, the literature on the effects of marijuana on chromosomes is limited and conflicting. Studies suggesting that marijuana probably does not break chromosomes are fairly conclusive. There is less evidence that marijuana may produce aneuploidy (abnormal numbers of chromosomes) in some daughter cells during cell division.

Does marijuana cause chromosome breaks? The weight of the evidence from in vitro cultures of human cells and from in vivo animal and human studies is that neither marijuana nor Δ -9-THC causes chromosome breaks.

In Vitro and Animal Studies

Cultures of human leukocytes, exposed to different concentrations of Δ -9-THC, showed no increase in the incidence of chromosome breaks or gaps when compared to controls (Stenchever and Allen, 1972). Studies of golden hamsters given subcutaneous injections for 10 days of marijuana extract distillate containing 17.1 percent Δ -9-THC (Nicholson et al., 1973), and of beagle dogs trained to smoke high doses of marijuana (3 g/day/week for 30 months), showed no significant differences in chromosome gaps or breaks when compared with control groups (Genest et al., 1976).

Human Studies

Cytogenetic analysis of chromosomes from peripheral blood leukocytes and cultures of subjects exposed to marijuana smoking, marijuana extract, or synthetic Δ -9-THC revealed no increase in chromosome breakage attributable to these compounds (Nichols et al., 1974; Matsuyama, 1976; Morishima et al., 1979). Doses ranged from 20 mg Δ -9-THC per day to 12-16 marijuana cigarettes per day. Studies that have reported chromosome breaks or gaps in cell cultures of users of marijuana have largely been carried out on multiple drug users, and the breaks and gaps may be due to other factors associated with a life of heavy drug use (Gilmour et al., 1971; Herka and Obe, 1974). However, in a retrospective study on college students, chromosome breaks were found in blood cultures of 49 light (one or

Mice were given five daily intraperitoneal injections of Δ -9-THC, cannabidiol, or cannabinol at doses approaching or exceeding the LD₅₀ (the dose necessary to kill 50 percent of the animals). Thirty-five days after the last treatment, animals were killed and sperm were evaluated by scanning electron microscopy. Control animals had 1.5 percent abnormal forms. Animals that received LD₅₀ doses of the various derivatives had 2.4 to 5.0 percent abnormal forms.

10
 ↓ Only a few studies have examined the effects of cannabis on spermatogenesis (Huang et al., 1979). Marijuana was administered to rats in a smoke machine. After 30 days of exposure, marijuana smoke lowered the sperm counts in animals significantly, as did cannabinoid-free smoke. By 75 days, however, only the marijuana smoke group maintained a low sperm count. In the marijuana-treated group, there was an increased number of abnormal forms, particularly with an increase in dissociation of sperm heads and tails. In the discussion of this paper, the authors reported elevated serum FSH levels following marijuana exposure, but did not present data. They concluded that marijuana has a direct effect on the testis. A variety of in vitro studies support this suggestion (Jakubovic et al., 1977, 1979).

Marijuana and its derivatives also have been shown to be antiandrogenic (antagonistic to male hormones) (Purohit et al., 1980). Several constituents, including Δ -9-THC, can bind to the receptor for androgen. Marijuana also has been demonstrated to be estrogenic (like female sex hormones) in vivo, and recent studies suggest that these effects may be mediated via the estrogen receptor. These observations have been disputed by others (reviewed by Purohit et al., 1980). The ability to inhibit or mimic the action of sex steroids provides one mechanism by which these agents can produce their effects. There obviously are many others.

FEMALE REPRODUCTIVE FUNCTION

The effect of cannabis on female reproduction has been studied in rats, mice, rabbits, and monkeys. The work in rhesus monkeys is of particular importance, because of the similarity in the menstrual cycle among primate species, including human beings.

Human Studies

11
 ↓ There is only one study reported on the effects of marijuana on reproductive function in women. The work has appeared in print as a report of the proceedings of a 1978 symposium held in Mexico City (Bauman et al., 1979) and as part of the congressional record subsequent to testimony before a Senate committee hearing (Bauman, 1980). These publications do not provide details on methodology or on individual hormone values. Differences between the control and experimental groups, recognized by the investigators, could be of

importance; alcohol use, for example, was more frequent in the marijuana-using group. The study attempted to establish the endocrine (hormonal) profile and menstrual patterns of women who used marijuana on a chronic and frequent basis. Twenty-six women who used it at least three times a week for 6 months were compared with 17 women who had never used the substance. The number of cycles studied for each variable investigated is not clear from the publications. This difficulty notwithstanding, the report reveals no difference in plasma levels of LH and FSH between the two groups and no change in peaks and basal values of the female hormones estradiol or progesterone, the critical hormone levels controlling the process of ovulation. It would be expected that no major difference was found in the incidence of anovulatory cycles between the two groups. By combining anovulation and shortened luteal phase, however, the authors report a statistically significant difference in the marijuana-using group, which could be clinically important in causing subfertility. This evidence is, at best, only suggestive. The observation that testosterone levels in marijuana-using women are elevated is difficult to interpret in terms of clinical significance; apparently, the subjects did not report episodes of acne, abnormal hairiness, or other testosterone-dependent side-effects. According to the authors, serum prolactin levels are lower in marijuana users than in controls. The implications of this observation for fertility, lactation, or the development of breast cancer are not clear.

The absence of other studies on users of marijuana makes it difficult to draw conclusions on the implications of the data cited above. Several of the effects noted are different from the more extensive and experimentally controlled observations in rhesus monkeys and other laboratory animals. This situation calls attention to the urgent need for more comprehensive endocrine and gynecologic investigations of women who use marijuana.

Animal Studies

Administration of crude marijuana extract to rats or mice resulted generally in suppression of ovarian function and in various aspects of estrogen activity, such as uterine metabolism, weight, glycogen content, and levels of RNA and sialic acid (Chakravarty et al., 1975; Dixit et al., 1975).

The administration of crude marijuana extract for 30 days to rats and mice abolished the estrus cycle and caused a significant reduction in the size of the ovaries and in some primordial ova (Dixit et al., 1975). Intraperitoneal administration of Δ -9-THC to rats, appropriately timed, has also been reported to block ovulation (Nir et al., 1973). This effect of Δ -9-THC was exerted by suppressing the characteristic preovulatory surge of plasma LH. Other investigators have reported suppression also of plasma FSH and prolactin when Δ -9-THC is given just before ovulation (Ayalon et al., 1977). The substance was found to depress plasma concentration of LH in ovariectomized rats (Marks, 1973; Tyrey, 1978, 1980) and

rhesus monkeys (Besch et al., 1977). Asch et al. (1979) also showed in the rabbit, a reflex ovulator, that a precoital single-dose of Δ -9-THC blocks the postcoital LH surge and ovulation.

Administration of LHRF was able to bring about the release of LH in Δ -9-THC treated rats and rhesus monkeys (Smith et al., 1979). These results indicate a direct effect of cannabinoids at the level of the hypothalamus, part of brain important in reproductive hormone regulation. The ovulation-blocking effect of the cannabinoids was further investigated by Cordova et al. (1980). Natural and chemically modified cannabinoids blocked ovulation in rats.

Administration of Δ -9-THC to rhesus monkeys during the follicular phase resulted in prolonged periods of amenorrhea (absence or abnormal stoppage of the menstrual flow), absence of midcycle LH surge, and progesterone levels characteristic of anovulation (Asch et al., 1981).

BIRTH DEFECTS AND TERATOGENICITY

Because Δ -9-THC crosses the placenta it is a potential teratogen, agent that causes defects in the developing embryo. This effect could occur in either of two ways: (1) exposure to cannabis prior to conception could harm the sex cells (the ova and sperm), or (2) the fetus could be harmed directly during organogenesis. In addition, Δ -9-THC can be secreted in breast milk and, therefore, can be toxic neonatally.

Human Studies

The evidence for teratogenicity in human beings is very difficult to interpret. Although there is widespread use of marijuana in young women of reproductive age, there is no evidence yet of any teratogenic effects of high frequency or consistent association with the drug. There are isolated reports of congenital anomalies in the offspring of marijuana users, but there is no evidence that they occurred more often in users than in nonusers and in those cases there was coincident use of other drugs. Subtle development effects in offspring, such as nervous system abnormalities, and reductions in birth weight and height may indeed exist (Finnegan, 1980; Fried, 1980; Hingson et al., in press). Additional carefully designed, prospective studies should provide valuable information in this area.

Animal Studies

Crude marijuana extract and Δ -9-THC are teratogenic at certain doses in animals.*

*Bibliography available upon request from the Institute of Medicine, National Academy of Sciences.

13 (11) other physical reactions to marijuana include irreversible
14 changes in the brain, sinusitis, pharyngitis, bronchitis, emphysema, in-
15 creased heart rate, and decreased blood circulation;

In two cross-sectional national samples of high school students, surveyed in 1974 and 1978, Jessor et al. have found that not only are the patterns of association between use of marijuana and deviant characteristics similar in both surveys, but also that the strength of the associations, as reflected in the sizes of the correlation coefficients, are almost identical. The very same conclusions derive from analyses based on five successive cohorts of high school seniors, sampled at yearly intervals in Monitoring the Future (Bachman et al., 1981).

— Longitudinal studies of students aged 12-21 have done much to extend our understanding of the precursors of using various forms of drugs. Studies have been reviewed in detail by Kandel (1978a,b; 1980a; also see Appendix C) and document that many of the factors found to be associated with use of drugs at one point in time, such as low academic performance, crime, low self-esteem, depressive mood, rebelliousness, and other personality characteristics, precede the use of drugs (see in particular Mellinger et al., 1976; Jessor and Jessor, 1977; Johnston et al., 1978; Kandel, 1978a; Kandel et al., 1978b,c; Kaplan and Pokorny, 1978; Smith and Fogg, 1978; Wingard et al., 1979; Kaplan, 1980). Some of the predictive factors can be identified in childhood, such as aggressiveness with or without association with shyness (Kellam et al., 1980, in press) and rebelliousness (Smith and Fogg, 1978).

19
→ Other longitudinal studies also document that many of the factors found to be associated with use of drugs at one point in time, such as low academic performance, delinquency, low self-esteem, and depressive mood actually precede the use of drugs (O'Malley, 1975; Mellinger et al., 1976; Jessor and Jessor, 1977; Johnston et al., 1978; Kandel et al., 1978a; Kaplan and Pokorny, 1978; Wingard et al., 1979; Kaplan, 1980).

One study shows not only that certain behaviors predict use of marijuana, but also that drugs may aggravate or exaggerate certain behaviors. A cohort of high school students was followed at annual intervals throughout the four years of high school (Jessor and Jessor, 1977). During this time annual scores for various attributes were charted in four groups of students distinguished by differing drug histories: veteran users, who used drugs pre-high school; early initiates, who began relatively early in their high school career, i.e., between the first and second year of testing; late initiates, who began relatively late, i.e., between the second and the third year; and nonusers, who had not started to use marijuana at the last testing in the senior year of high school (Jessor and Jessor, 1977, 1978). These four groups of students differed on measures, such as general deviant behavior (a 12-item scale measuring frequency of involvement in stealing, fighting, property destruction, truancy, or other delinquent activities in the last year) or value on academic achievement (a five-item scale, measuring the value placed on the attainment of success in school work), at the beginning of the study. Scores predicted if and when students initiated use of marijuana. Those students already involved in use of drugs before high school scored highest on deviance and lowest on achievement motivation at

THE IMMUNE SYSTEM

The immune system functions in protecting the body against viruses, bacteria, and other infections. It also plays a major role in preventing the growth and dissemination of cancerous cells.

There have been reports that cannabis is immunogenic, capable of activating components in the immune system. These components include such cells as lymphocytes, some of which produce antibodies in response to invasion by a foreign agent, and macrophages, which can be stimulated by inflammation to ingest invaders.

Human Studies

There have been reports that cannabis interferes with components in the immune system in man. Antibodies will develop in response to marijuana in some people, along with an allergic response, while others develop antibodies without apparent allergic reaction (Liskow et al., 1971; Shapiro et al., 1974, 1976; Lewis and Slavin, 1975). However, the studies reporting these effects were not designed to determine which components of the marijuana are immunogenic and which are allergenic.

Studies of various aspects of the immune system in persons who were chronic users of marijuana have indicated mild decreases in activity of one or another component of the system; however, other investigators have noted no changes outside of the normal range (Gupta et al., 1974; Petersen et al., 1975, 1976; White et al., 1975; Lau et al., 1976; Rachelefsky et al., 1976; Silverstein and Lessin, 1976; Cushman and Khurana, 1977; McDonough et al., 1980). These apparent inconsistencies may stem from the variability in the amount of marijuana consumed among users in different studies and the differences in the immune system assays. Hashish, as distinct from marijuana, was shown to have a slight temporary stimulatory effect on immune system (Kaklamani et al., 1978; Kalofoutis et al., 1978).

Animal Studies

Number of studies have shown that Δ -9-THC and other cannabinoids cause immunological defects in rodents (Petersen and Lemberger, 1976; Lefkowitz and Klager, 1978; Lefkowitz et al., 1978; Preuss and Lefkowitz, 1978). The doses varied from 5 to 25 mg/kg (intraperitoneally) to 100 mg/kg (orally). At the higher doses there was a diminution of immune response, as measured by standard immunological assays. Delta-9-THC had the same effects on cells grown *in vitro*. Other cannabinoids also have been tested for their effects. Cannabinol, Δ -8-THC, and 1-methyl- Δ -8-THC had the same immunosuppressive effects as Δ -9-THC, but cannabidiol had no immunosuppressive effect. Immunizing rabbits with Δ -9-THC resulted in the production of antibodies (Chiarotti et al., 1980).

16 (12) other psychological reactions to marijuana include loss of
17 memory, anxiety, panic, paranoia, psychosis, psychological dependence, and
18 impairment in thinking, reading comprehension, verbal and arithmetic prob-
19 lem solving, and perception of distance and time;

2

USE OF MARIJUANA IN THE UNITED STATES

Epidemiologic studies provide information on the use of drugs in various subgroups of the population and on the changes in patterns of use over time. The epidemiologic approach is particularly useful in defining patterns of use of marijuana in American society and in describing and analyzing the behavioral and psychosocial antecedents and consequences of that use. One of the more difficult questions is whether particular behavior or effects that are associated with use of a drug are the consequences of that use, or whether attitudes, values, and behavior develop about the use of drugs to constitute factors that may actually lead to the use of drugs. One of the more useful epidemiologic study designs is a cohort study that follows the same individual with repeated observations at regular intervals over time. Such longitudinal studies have the potential for obtaining the most compelling evidence on the antecedents of known patterns of use of marijuana, as well as possible long-term psychosocial and biological outcomes for these individuals.

#12

The committee, with the help of consultants, sought answers in the epidemiologic literature to the following five questions:

1. What are important patterns of use of marijuana in the American population including special groups?
2. What are the general characteristics of users of marijuana?
3. What is the profile of a user of marijuana on a "daily" basis?
4. What is known about the antecedents of use of marijuana?
5. How is use of marijuana related to the use of other drugs?

The epidemiologic and survey literature have been extensively reviewed and the major longitudinal studies are summarized in a table in Appendix C. Much of our recent knowledge derives from two well-designed major, continuing nationwide monitoring efforts

*When placed in quotation marks, "daily" is used as defined by Johnston et al. (1980b), i.e., those individuals using marijuana 20 or more times in the preceding 30 days.

significant association with the precipitation of LSD flashbacks among five classes of abused drugs. Clinical studies also have provided evidence that marijuana precipitates a recurrence of the LSD flashback's experience (Holsten, 1976; Abraham, 1981).

The existence of flashbacks following use of either LSD or marijuana is entirely based on self-reports, because there are no distinctive physical signs or tests, such as EEG changes, to identify this condition. There is no current pharmacological explanation of the phenomenon, and data regarding dose and time parameters do not exist. Still, the reports by users are reasonably consistent. Thus, there is clinical evidence that use of marijuana by those who have previously used LSD increases the likelihood of recurrence of the LSD experience.

Effects on Preexisting Mental Illness

The only evidence available regarding this issue consists of case reports of patients who had recovered and apparently were doing well until they used marijuana. There is no information on the number of mentally ill patients who have used marijuana without complications.

The available data, therefore, do not prove that marijuana worsens mental illness. Still, there are sufficient numbers of uncontrolled clinical reports showing a temporal association between use of marijuana and return of mental symptoms, so that patients should be warned of this possibility.

Patients with a history of schizophrenia may be particularly sensitive to marijuana's effects. Four schizophrenic patients who were otherwise well controlled with medication suffered serious relapse of their schizophrenic symptoms following use of marijuana (Treffert, 1978). Other cases have been reported (Smith and Mehl, 1970; Weil, 1970; Bernhardson and Gunne, 1972). These all were cases in which marijuana was purchased on the street, so the dose and purity were unknown.

Patients with mood disorders have also been reported to show worsening of mental symptoms after use of marijuana. For example, four cases are known in which marijuana apparently precipitated a relapse of psychotic (hypomanic) behavior (Harding and Knight, 1973). Furthermore, depressed patients treated with Δ -9-THC have been observed to show a high incidence of dysphoric reactions (Ablon and Goodwin, 1974).

Effects Sometimes Reported By Users

Mood Changes

There is a general belief that use of marijuana alters mood. This property is one of the desired effects sought by many users. Investigators have described a number of variables that enter into the mood response to marijuana (Jones, 1971). These include dosage,

past experience, attitude, expectations, and setting. For example, individuals who used marijuana in isolation tended to be relaxed and slightly drowsy; in contrast, when the user was in a group situation, marijuana was associated with euphoria and lack of sedative effect (Jones, 1971). Further evidence that mood changes are not attributable solely to the pharmacological action of marijuana comes from a study that found that elevation in mood occurred immediately before use of marijuana and immediately after, but that mood was not correlated with other indications of the subjective level of intoxication (Rossi et al., 1978). Instead, mood was correlated significantly with the moods of others, whether or not the other persons were intoxicated.

It appears that preexisting mood can influence the decision to use marijuana. High school students who exhibit symptoms of depression are more likely than are others to begin using marijuana as well as other illicit drugs (Paton et al., 1977). There is some evidence that students use the drug as a self-prescribed remedy for their own mood problems, often reporting that they use marijuana as a means of psychological coping (Johnston et al., 1980; Kaplan, 1980).

A belief that marijuana can be used to alleviate clinical depression is not supported by other studies, including one in which Δ -9-THC was carefully tested as an antidepressant. It was given to depressed patients as an experimental treatment without success (Ablon and Goodwin, 1974) (see Chapter 7).

Interpersonal Behavior

Adolescents and young adults often report that they use marijuana to facilitate interaction in new social situations (Mirin and McKenna, 1975). In a survey of 704 midwestern undergraduate students, most reported that marijuana was a meaningful "tool of social bonding" (Linn, 1971). There seems to be a widespread belief that marijuana smoking has several facilitative effects, including enhanced social effectiveness, closer social bonding, heightened interpersonal sensitivity and empathy, and enhanced sexual pleasure. The subcultural lore on one of these measures of interpersonal behavior--sexual effects--has not been studied systematically either in surveys or in experimental studies. The effects on sex hormones are controversial (see Chapter 5). Studies in experimental situations have failed to show any enhancement of social interaction and, in fact, some decrements were noted (Galanter et al., 1974; Clopton et al., 1979; Janowsky et al., 1979). Data from natural settings rather than experimental settings are not available.

Effects on Aggression

Because marijuana users have been involved in delinquent behavior, a number of investigators have questioned whether use of marijuana enhances aggressiveness in human beings. There are specific concerns

Marijuana also has been found to produce an acute brain syndrome. This is a more severe mental problem consisting of confusion and loss of contact with reality. It lasts from several hours to several days and appears to be more likely to occur with higher doses.

Chronic effects of any drug are more difficult to assess than are immediate effects. The evidence that marijuana produces a chronic psychosis is not convincing. The possible role of marijuana in causing an amotivational syndrome is a matter of great concern. Apathy, poor school work or work performance, and lack of goals characterize a number of long-term marijuana users. But it has not been possible to determine how much is caused by use of marijuana and how much was antecedent; it seems likely that both factors (drug effect and self-selection) contribute to the motivational problems seen in chronic users of marijuana. Existing studies have produced conflicting results. None of the investigators has looked at effects on the very young daily marijuana user, who is regarded as potentially at high risk for damaging effects because of physiological and psychological immaturity.

There is clinical evidence that marijuana use by former LSD users may precipitate a recurrence of LSD-type hallucinations known as a "flashback." Other clinical evidence raises the possibility that marijuana use can worsen preexisting mental illness.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RESEARCH

The committee recommends the following types of studies.

- Systematic research on acute behavioral and psychosocial effects of marijuana should be extended to other age groups. There are virtually no data on prepubertal children, young adolescents, older adults, and aging persons.
- Studies of effects of daily use of marijuana on school children are greatly needed. These effects should include the learning of new material, physical, psychological, and social development, acquisition of coping skills, and tools of daily living.
- Systematic studies of long-term effects of marijuana are increasingly possible now that longitudinal studies have identified representative panels of persons known to be chronic heavy users. These studies should cover interactive effects of marijuana and other drugs on behavioral and psychosocial responses, especially interactions of alcohol and marijuana because of their frequency of associated use.
- Dosage effects should be restudied, taking into account the higher potency cannabis that is in current use. Further study is needed of the timing and depth of inhalation of cigarettes with standard doses of marijuana. More animal studies at varying doses are needed. In view of the long-term retention of marijuana in body tissues, further study is needed to see whether or not chronic users may have impairments of function even in the absence of an acute dose

#12

STATE OF ALASKA THE LEGISLATURE

POUCH Y - STATE CAPITOL
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
907-465-3800

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Copies of minutes listed below were originally included in this file. The minutes are available on the STAIRS database CMPR. In order to save space copies of minutes have not been left in the files.

Mary Van Nimwegen

SHESS	Feb. 18, 1987	3:38pm
SHESS	Feb. 18, 1987	7:10pm
SHESS	Feb. 25, 1987	7:07pm
SHESS	Feb. 27, 1987	3:30pm



Official Business

Alaska State Legislature

Senate

JIM/FYI

P.O. BOX V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

TO: Members of the House of Representatives

FROM: Senator Joe P. Josephson
Senator Bettye Fahrenkamp
Senator Ken Fanning

Joe P. Josephson
Bettye Fahrenkamp
Ken Fanning

RE: Recriminalization of marijuana

DATE: February 25, 1988

FE

Last week the Senate debated Senate Bill 32, and by a vote of 15-3 passed a bill that would recriminalize marijuana and allow imprisonment-- up to 90 days -- for the private use or possession of small amounts of marijuana in one's home!

As the three who voted against this bill on final passage (on reconsideration), we have grave concerns about this bill's invasion upon the Right of Privacy and the attendant issue of constitutionality.

We also have great concerns about incarcerating young, casual violators and mingling them with hardened criminals. Although it would seem this measure would increase the escalating prison costs, the bill carries a zero fiscal note.

We offered unsuccessfully two amendments. One dealt with reducing the allowable penalty for private home use of less than six ounces from 90 days in jail to a court appearance with possible fine. The other amendment would have disallowed jail time for a first offense of possession of an ounce or less in one's home, although the defendant in such a case would have been liable to a fine.

You will find three attachments that may aid you as the House begins its deliberations:

- partial transcript of Senate floor debate
- Anchorage Daily News editorial
- position statement of police associations.

Feel free to call upon any one of us if we can be of further assistance.

Senate Floor Debate on SB 32
February 17, 1988

Objection to adoption of HESS Committee Substitute

Fanning Madam President, the objection is just for clarification and an explanation. For those of us who were not here of the differences between the two bills.

Fischer The difference between the two bills, as we went through the hearing process, we knew that the section one, which I'll talk about later is the key to the bill when it comes to being upheld in the court. So the committee substitute tightened up on those findings so that we could make the case to win in the event it did get to court.

Objection has been removed. HESS Committee Substitute has been adopted and is before the Senate.

Fanning I would like a clarification from you if I could. We have a serious matter before us and prior to consideration of moving to third reading, I would like to request that specific members be allowed to discuss and question very specific sections of this legislation, as well as the legislation in general, for the purpose of determining whether or not certain amendments are useful and appropriate. I have some amendments prepared. I would like, if we could, that we can get a ruling.

Faiks You have the floor, Senator.

Fanning Being a little bit rusty on procedures and not having been here recently, I wonder if I could get an explanation from the Chair and perhaps of the sponsoring senator, as to what findings do in a bill. What their legal implications are, what the reason for them is and why we have before us a four page bill with 90 lines of findings and 10 lines of law, of which only 4 lines change current and existing law. I would appreciate just an update on what findings do and are intended to do.

Fischer The reasons you have the findings in there when you go back to the Ravin decision, there was a window left by the court that basically said, if in the future you do find evidence to the contrary to what we're saying today, then we'll look at it. The best example I can give is in 1975, keeping in mind this is 13 years ago, they based their decision on the THC content being 1%. We now know that that is not true. We know that it's anywhere from 10-20%. These

are the things that we're building so that in the event that this law would be challenged, we can go to the court and say this is what we're showing you, things have changed since 1975. We're in a new age, we're in 1988.

Fanning So it's my understanding that the findings in this legislation are specifically for court determinations and do not, of course, carry any letter of the law. Is that a correct interpretation from the Chair?

Fischer My personal opinion would be is that these are things that we can show are to be true. We can use medical evidence to show that they are true. We'll just pick one, number six, where we talk about the THC which I mentioned earlier. It's all going to depend upon who you're going to believe, I guess. I would rather believe the medical profession than any of my colleagues here, because I think the medical profession has a little more knowledge about medicine than we do individually. I also put faith in the National Institute on Drug Abuse. There's a report in 1980 which was only 5 years after the Ravin case, where they talk about the chemistry of marijuana. What they're saying is just as street marijuana has increased marketedly in potency over the last 5 years, keeping in mind this was 1980 when this was written, confiscated materials in 1975 rarely exceeded 1% THC content. By 1979, samples as high as 5% THC content were common. Hash oil, a marijuana extract unavailable a decade ago, has been found to have a THC content as high as 28% with more typical samples analyzed by University of Mississippi chemists ranging from 15-20%. I guess, even though I'm not from the South, I would concur with the Mississippi University chemists.

Fanning I thank the sponsor for the definition. I guess that was also my understanding that findings were things that could be proven and that substantial evidence would prove those findings. It's obvious, of course, in this case as the gentleman who just spoke mentioned, there may be considerable disagreement depending on who you're listening to or whose evidence that you take. But that being the case, I would ask the sponsor or others to explain specific findings. In the original bill, of course, there were ten. In the bill that is before us there are 14. So there must have been considerable new evidence in the time of the committee hearing. I would ask that since they relate specifically to health, how certain findings fit in. In order not to delay it, but to make sure that we get answers to specific questions, I have a question as to the relevancy of number one and how that is harmful. I have a question on finding number 5. The question on number 5 would relate to the fact that that finding, and I'll read it to the members: "It is possible for a human being to overdose from the use

of marijuana, especially if it is used in conjunction with alcohol, because it increases the effects of alcohol". If that is the case, part of my question is why we're not prohibiting alcohol since that seems to be the critter in question.

On #7 and #6, we're just given information relevant to the different contents of THC, perhaps the sponsor can clarify if the information you read was based on national studies or studies in Alaska. As we all know, we have a considerable different situation in Alaska relevant to marijuana and different sources of obtaining marijuana, much of which of course in Alaska is home grown. I would appreciate an explanation to that.

On #9 I really had a question with: "although it may take a heavy cigarette smoker as long as 20 years to develop lung cancer, one marijuana cigarette a day may cause lung cancer in three years". That finding, along with many others, is not absolute. It suggests, maybe. But it seems to imply that any heavy cigarette smoker is going to develop lung cancer in 20 years. Madam President, I think that we have obvious substantiation that that is not the case. In any event, it seems that the findings, while designed to be specific proof and evidence of general public health problems, relate in many instances to what are perceived individual health problems. So I guess, in my opinion, they seem to fall short of the mark.

I would also question how in number 14(b), and I'm questioning this legislative finding because, of course, I assume we find that if we vote yes today, I'm certain that many of the other members, including myself, have not been offered the evidence to substantiate many of the things in this legislation. But I particularly question under (b)(4) we suggest that over the last 3 years in the Anchorage School District (of course the bill was introduced last year so I assume it may refer to evidence of the previous three years) of the 230 students who have been suspended from school for possession or use of marijuana, 29% has indicated that marijuana is used by adults in their living environment. I may be jumping to conclusion, the sponsor can correct me in this instance if I'm wrong, that what we're doing here is saying that the fact that it is legal for adults to use marijuana in the privacy in their home is sending a bad message to our kids. I guess what that finding seems to say to me is that 70%, 71% of the people involved, of the kids involved, do not have usage of marijuana by adults. It seems to me that the findings prove exactly the opposite of what the sponsors would in fact be indicating.

The particular confusion, and perhaps I can get an explanation of 14(c) in contrast with the finding section prior to number 1. 14(c) states: "The legislature further finds that there is a legitimate and compelling governmental

interest, based on testimonial and scientific evidence, that the public health and welfare will suffer if personal use of marijuana even in small amounts is allowed." I really don't feel that the findings involved here, relevant to personal use, and that's all we're eliminating in the legislation is personal use in the privacy of one's home, is used. The findings don't relate to how that causes a public health hazard. Back in the findings before, we mentioned number 1, we don't speak of public health problems. In fact, we specifically say: "the legislature finds that marijuana use is a serious health problem for the following reasons" rather than a public health problem. I wonder if that was an intentional difference between personal, individual, public and serious health problems. Perhaps the sponsor of the legislation could help me out with all those questions. Thank you.

Fischer There was a whole lot of questioning by one member of the body. The only thing that is absolute, that I'm aware of, is that we're all going to die. I guess anything else is possible. So I don't look at anything necessarily being absolute in all cases. Getting back to the school, if 30% of the students, and this is from a letter that came from the district, are involved or are exposed to adults taking marijuana at home, then it's 30% too many. So I would like to see that 100% but you know, we don't have that.

The kinds of information that the Senator is asking for, and I usually don't do this, but this is just packed with medical information that can substantiate each one of these one by one. What I would suggest, if the Senator from around Fairbanks and in Fairbanks, if he has real concern about any of these, he might want to stop by the office next door to him, which the Senator from Soldotna is always playing music too loud anyhow that he keeps hearing. I thought maybe he heard me last night when I was talking about the bill itself. But I think some of the concerns that the Senator has are good personal concerns. But we as a body are saying this is what we find in the evidence before us.

The resolutions that came in .. on your desk there is a list of organizations. These folks have also done some of their homework and have come in and substantiated some of these. Although we didn't use these at all for any backing for the findings of fact. But when you look at some of these organizations, such as the Anchorage Crime Commission, students themselves, they're all saying the same thing. They're not saying anything different than what we've already said. Also when you get this kind of organizational support which is unbelievable without solicitation. Not one of these have I ever written to and asked them to send a resolution. It was spontaneous. They sent them on their

own effort. This really makes it more of a broad-based community support. These folks are saying the same thing. I have copies of all the resolutions from these various organizations. The only apology I have to the body is that I know I missed some. Because as they came in during the interim they either got waylaid on the way down or I misplaced them. But I feel sorry, I think there's a school board in Ketchikan, a Catholic school board, I don't know what it is, but I know they sent a letter in support of it. So we missed a lot of these. We're not saying something new. We're not trying to create some facts that aren't there - they are there. Individually, you may disagree. That's your privilege. What I'm saying is that we can substantiate through the material that all these things are in some document or are printed by experts. You may disagree with the expert and that's the privilege of anybody here in this body.

Josephson I have sent an amendment to the desk and I ask that the amendment be read. (see attached)

I move the amendment and I would like to explain to the body what it does. Let me say that with regard to the underlying issue, I think reasonable people can differ. I am satisfied that an overwhelming number of Alaskans want to see the possession or use of marijuana recriminalized. I think it would be inconsiderate of me to say that those people lack common sense, some of them have law enforcement experience, some of them have watched what is happening in Alaska since the Ravin decision. And I also cannot say to the Senate with any confidence that this measure before us is clearly unconstitutional, we have the Ravin decision. But after all in the issue of local hire, Madam President, I'm one who says let's try to recraft a bill and go back to the court and give them another chance. I can't with honesty say let's not do that on the issue of marijuana.

But I do think that there is no outcry and no justice for the proposition that people who possess small amounts of marijuana ought to go to prison. What my amendment does is to say that the private possession or use of marijuana under four ounces is a violation, for which a fine can be levied. Because if the idea is that we want to give people a message, a clear message, that marijuana use should be discouraged, I have no problem with that. But if the idea is that we want to take those people, throw them in the corrections system, mingle them with hardened criminals, I have a great problem with that.

Last May 12, I sent to my colleagues a statement about this and said I would be offering this amendment. I wrote that "by removing the threat of a jail or prison sentence for the private use or possession of small amounts of marijuana, the legislature can reduce the likelihood of a

court challenge in the first place, and reduce the court's concern about recriminalization as an invasion upon the Right of Privacy, in the second place."

Madam President, I believe that when the court gets this matter again, and it will, and there will be millions of dollars, let's be serious about this, spent at the trial level in getting experts on one side and the other. Probably the State will pay for both sides of that dispute. There will be an appeal to the Supreme Court. And when the matter goes back to the Supreme Court, the level of scrutiny or the level of concern that the justices have about what we are doing today will be much greater if the defendant is arguing that there is a potential loss of liberty for the private use of marijuana in the defendant's own home than would be the case under this amendment. If we can say to the court that the sanction involved under this amendment is a fine, I think the court's tendency to uphold the Legislature's action and respect the Legislature's action will be greater.

Members may recall that last spring we had a public hearing in the Senate Finance room. Mrs. Reagan spoke to us. Mrs. Murkowski spoke to us. It may be remembered that I specifically asked Mrs. Murkowski, who is a leader in this effort, about her feelings concerning incarceration. She replied that she expressed no strong feelings about that aspect. This is my interpretation but other members were there. I'm not literally quoting her, but she expressed no strong feelings about that aspect of the marijuana issue. She went on to say that if anything she saw no reason why incarceration penalty would be necessary. That was Nancy Murkowski's testimony at that time. We have a crowded correction system. I do not believe we should be burdening that system with private marijuana users who come out of a private settings with small amounts of marijuana.

So in summary, Madam President, I believe this is a friendly amendment that will strengthen the constitutionality of SB 32. It will reduce the likelihood of a successful constitutional challenge. It will reduce the impact of costs on the Department of Corrections. It will prevent the co-mingling in jails and prisons of youthful marijuana users with hardened criminals. It will increase support in both bodies, and in the other body where this bill has to pass. I think it is a friendly amendment. I think it is an amendment that should be adopted and I hope the Senate will adopt the amendment, Madam President.

Fischer I rise against the amendment. The Senator kind of gives the impression that anybody that has a small amount of marijuana under this bill is going to go to jail. That's far from the truth. There's no mandatory sentence, there's just maximal. In the opinion of a judge, it may be a \$25 fine. He's not obligated to give jail time nor is he

obligated to give any monetary fines. That's the flexibility within the system that makes it nice.

Madam President, just so we get an idea, that's equivalent to four ounces (shows jar). So if you think you can put four ounces in your hip pocket and walk away, you're mistaken. By the way, it's not marijuana, they tell me it's parsley. But I wouldn't know the difference anyhow. I think the other thing is, Madam President, all the people that have given these various endorsements were relating to SB 32 which did not have this language in it. Everybody knew, this has been in the Legislature for 3-5 years, I think maybe the first time down I did it. Nothing has really changed other than the findings of fact because as time goes on we know more scientific evidence comes forth that makes the findings of fact even stronger. But it has been around for a long time and we're not getting the support from the folks saying, hey, we want it this way or that way. They like it the way it is. That's why I object to the amendment.

Josephson That's the problem. Because people who say this is a good bill say, but we really aren't going to punish people or we're really not going to spend any money to enforce it. That's why I think the Senator from Fairbanks and I and others have some concern about this as to whether this is going to be received in the public mind as a genuine effort or not. If we're really not intending to put these people in prison, then why don't we clear that up right now and say that and avoid that possibility. This body in the past, and I might say my friend from the Kenai Peninsula in the past, has not always been willing to say we just admire the discretion used by judges and we will exceed to their good judgment on a case-by-case basis. I mean this body has often said that we are going to have to monitor what judges do and put perimeters around what judges do. I think this is an appropriate case to do that, to put those perimeters around them.

I reiterate that the adoption of this amendment will strengthen the chances of this bill: a) reaching the other body, b) being signed by the Governor, and c) being upheld by the court. That is the truth of the matter and I think this is a good moderate step.

As far as the other proposition that these agencies or individuals who endorsed the bill have not endorsed this amendment, that's an argument that says we can never change a bill on the floor of the Senate. I think that that is not a proper argument to make. If the Senate sees wisdom in the amendment, the amendment should be adopted. I urge the adoption of the amendment.

Halford Question to the sponsor of the amendment. Does this mean that subsequent convictions or a serious of convictions always carry the penalty of a violation and never escalate?

Josephson I think it does but if the Senate has a proposal on that, I would entertain it. I think that you are talking here about the right of privacy for personal use in the home. It is my position that we should not incarcerate people for that use. But we can send a message. The argument has been that what is needed to discourage the use of marijuana is a message. I believe that. I think law is normative. I think the passage of law does affect behavior. I think that when we passed civil rights laws in this country, people respected one another more. I believe that the passage of legislation will reduce marijuana use. I'm not arguing that it is not effective. But I'm saying the message will do that, you don't need to send people to prison along with that.

Halford The reason I asked the question is that it's often a possession violation that can be proven when there is obviously intent to do something else. The four ounce provision, particularly when the potency and values have gone up, allows a lot of room for other actions which are not simply possession in the home for private usage. Yet the only conviction you may be able to get because you have to prove intent in the other convictions, is that possession is conviction. So if we're establishing a system that allows a serious of possession convictions all to be violations, then I think we're breaking up the continuity of the statutory scheme.

Josephson Madam President, I am not an expert in this matter but I don't think you're going to get much inference of the sale because you have four ounces of marijuana in your home. But if there are circumstances that give rise to that inference, there ought to be prosecutions. I don't think I'm changing anything in that respect. I just want to keep that casual user in his or her home out of the prison system.

Fanning Madam President, I find myself in a quandary relevant to this particular amendment and don't know whether I'm supportive of it or not ... point of constitutionality, when the challenge comes that it will give merit to the legislation. Without this amendment, I feel that the courts will find, as I have in this analysis and as we've discussed, that this Legislature has not had a hearing, the back-up material is in the basket of one senator. The members of this body today are finding out more and will find out more than has been exposed to the Legislature. So

I think that this amendment would really strengthen this legislation from the standpoint of a potential constitutional challenge.

Additionally, the point relevant to mixed signals which will undoubtedly come up in the future and the point relevant to correctional information, and we'll ask later, I'm sure, of the Finance Committee of the fiscal notes that we're talking about. The difference between fining someone and having the potential of sending them to jail, and obviously sending them to jail, has to have substantive fiscal impacts on this State. Madam President, in 1989 dollars corrections estimates that we've spent \$44,500 a year on an individual incarcerated in this State. That's \$109.59 per day. For members of this body, to argue if they do, that there will be no increase in correctional costs if we pass a law that criminalizes 20,000 or more Alaskans, then we're either saying that the prosecution or law enforcement officers or the judges are not going to pay attention to it. Otherwise there obviously is going to be a very substantive fiscal impact.

So from the standpoint of the fiscal impact and the standpoint of the constitutional arguments involved in this, it makes me wonder, if we adopt this, what type of an honest message we would be sending. If we don't adopt it, then in fact I think it would be interpreted correctly that the legislation before us, without amendment, is an infringement on rights that's beyond what the court requires for proving that the health hazard allows the State to go in and invade the privacy of our homes, as was the findings of the Ravin decision. So I guess I'm in a quandary. I think that it's a healthy amendment. It's positive. I think it's the message that most Alaskans want to receive. But I don't think I know how I want to vote on it. Thank you.

Halford I'd just like to read for the members the definition of a Class B misdemeanor. Class B misdemeanors which characteristically involve a minor risk of personal injury to a person, minor offenses against property interest, minor offenses against public decency or order, or minor offenses against public health or decency. That's what is provided for in this bill. The penalties are substantially less than some would advocate for crimes like using someone else's guide area or a number of property crimes across the State.

Jones Madam President, I hear some concern for the privacy of those who are using the substance within their own home. I think we ought to think about the people who are subjected, the young people that are subjected to the use of this by others in the home. They also have a right and in many cases it isn't protected. I think this bill is a big step in doing that. I'd like to read a couple of things

from the Supreme Court decision, the Ravin decision, that might help the Senator from Fairbanks make a decision. In that case, the findings were and it's stated: "When there is a substantial doubt as to the safety of a substance or situation of public health controls to obviate the danger will usually be upheld." Another quote: "no one has the right to do things in their own home which will affect others adversely." I just hope that helps in making up their decision.

Josephson When the issue came up in the Alaska Supreme Court about whether the State was responsible for providing defense counsel, the court's focus of attention was on whether the penalties involved the possible loss of liberty. A risk of the loss of liberty. It doesn't matter whether that's for 10 days, 30 days, 90 days, or a year. There is a significant interest in protecting the right of liberty. And we want it that way. Remember, if you turn down this amendment, you are giving the people who will challenge SB 32, if it is enacted, another arrow in their quiver. You are inviting stricter scrutiny of your legislation. You are risking, in my judgment, to a greater degree than with the amendment a decision that this enactment is unconstitutional because you are putting people's liberty at risk for what they do in the privacy of their own home. That is the choice before you. If you want to strengthen the constitutionality, that's why the Senator from Fairbanks is perplexed about this, then the amendment should be adopted. It is also good policy. I believe that if you went to the people in Alaska who said they want marijuana recriminalized and you asked them the next question, if your son or daughter had less than four ounces and was using it in the privacy of his or her home, do you want your son or daughter to go to prison. I believe the answer would be no. I want the message given, I want a penalty, but I don't want my youngster mixed up with felons in the Department of Corrections. And that is what this amendment stands for.

Fanning Just briefly, as I understand it, the Senator from Anchorage was explaining what this bill would do, what a Class B felony is, but he stopped when he got to the \$1,000 fine or the 90 days in jail.

Fischer One thing we can't forget is the street value of this is \$1,120. It's not a small matter, we're talking \$1,120 if we're to go out here in the streets of Juneau. It might be higher in other areas of the state. But that's the street value here in Juneau.

Kerttula The President of the Senate has allowed very broad reaching, which I think you should. I think the House yesterday on a very controversial measure spent five hours. I doubt the Senate intends to spend five hours but it may spend half that amount of time on the subject.

I just want to say a particular element that should go into the total concern that we have here about this legislation. I don't know if anyone else is on the floor today that voted on the present act in the books. I know I voted against it. I probably am fairly happy that the questions asked Gary Hart during the period may not been asked many of us. But I don't ever remember and I'm absolutely certain that I've never had anything to do with smoking marijuana, much like Senator Fischer. I don't think it was a problem with people in our age group, there wasn't any peer pressure or anything, so it's fairly easy for me to raise my right hand and make that statement. So I voted against the present act and I've never used marijuana.

I do want to state though, because Judiciary does have some small responsibility. If you're really trying to overcome present legislation and the constitutional interpretations, I think I should at least inform you that in deciding Ravin vs. State of Alaska, the Alaska Supreme Court noted that the Alaska Right to Privacy which is specifically annunciated in our State Constitution, does not overcome any state interest in stopping people from smoking marijuana in their own home. The court focused on the fact that the State could not show health concerns that were significant enough to justify intrusion into a person's home. In a later case then dealing with cocaine, however, the Supreme Court did find the justifications in .. and held that the right to privacy did not cover cocaine. It was a serious hazard in many ways. This is a key point and I think it's very important if we're considering this bill.

To overcome Ravin v. State, there must be accurate findings, accurate findings to justify an intrusion into a private home. The findings in this bill are overstated and in some instances are wrong. For instance, it says that marijuana may cause schizophrenia. We have fairly recent, into the middle 1980's, 1982 report here that says there is insignificant evidence, and this is medical findings, to say that cannabis psychosis exists as a separate clinical entity. I'm frankly opposed to the use of cannabis, but I also have been somewhat an observer of the process. We're talking about a constitutionally correct piece of legislation, if possible, as Senator Josephson says you've been poking away at various issues whether it's local hire, whether it's this, to find a constitutionally acceptable bill. Well, I have a piece of material here that states, and this is the Terry Martin. In Terry Martin's efforts, the work came up during the hearing process in HESS and there was a lot of testimony taken, but on the other hand, this is a direct statement from the legislative analyst to the attention of John Manley to Representative Martin which says: "As you've requested, I have not included any research which disputes the findings set out in the bill". There is heavily two sides to this issue and a lot of medical fact.

I think if you adopt the present act, and I'll probably vote for the act as a matter of fact, but I don't think you're going to find, it's not going to stand the constitutional test with these particular findings as they're written up.

Fanning I am speaking to the amendment. I think I have made my mind up on it and I'd like to speak in favor of it. I think there's probably at least one thing that all of us in this body would agree on and that is that this nation's drug laws and policies have not been working well. On that simple statement I think almost all Americans agree. During the 78 years since the passage of the Harrison Narcotics Act, heroin has become a national menace and it's use has spread to the middle class in the suburbs after a third century of escalating penalties against marijuana and anti-marijuana propaganda. Marijuana has reached an unprecedented peak of popularity, as is pointed out, by the way, in the findings in this bill. The increase in Alaska since we passed our laws in 1982 further restricting it. Barbiturates which a generation ago were thought of as sedatives useful for calming and for sleep, have become thrill drugs as well as have amphetamines.

Contrary to popular belief and perhaps the belief of some members of this body, the most important institution in Alaska, as was pointed out in a recent Governor's report and in America, is the family, not the legislature.

I think most young folks realize that since we've enacted tougher drug laws in 1982, usage in Alaska is on the increase. Prohibition does not work. So what our response is in this bill is that since usage is up, let's pass this law and increase usage.

The Senator from Kenai will find that that parsley mistaken for marijuana in his jar, after passage of this act, the value will not be \$1,100. The value after we've created a black market may well be in excess of \$5,000.

Prohibition, trying to keep drugs away from people began in 1914 and has remained the dominate theme of anti-drug legislation and it's not successful. We've learned that in 1920-33, relative to alcohol, it's not working today with marijuana or cocaine or any of the other illicit drugs. Nor is prohibition likely to be beneficial in the future.

The amendment before us would, in fact, be beneficial. It would send a message. It would send a message of education to our young people rather than a message of prohibition. I think, Madam Chairman, what we have here before us, if we fail, in modifying the legislation is deja vu from yesterday. We have findings that have about the same amount of pertinence that as the whereas' in yesterday's ANWR's resolution. They are inaccurate. They don't solve the problem. The court's going to throw them out.

Privately, a Senator asked me if I had suggested that I did not think there was public hearings on this legislation. I want to clarify that for the purpose both of this amendment and for the sake of the legislation. I did not suggest that. I do think, however, it is interesting to note and I'm certain that the courts will note the rather curious course that this bill has taken through this body since it's introduction. The bill was introduced on January 19, 1987. It was referred to two committees. The chairman of the first committee on February 16 moved and asked unanimous consent that the five-day notice and publication of notice hearing rule be waived. Hearings were held in that committee. The second committee of referral waived the bill. The Finance Committee heard the bill and decided that all the agency's financial implications were apparently accurate. Yesterday on the floor we also discussed appropriations and fiscal bills and we decided that even a \$600 suggestion by a state agency meant that there must be a substantive fiscal implication. Today we have agencies that have recommended \$500,000 would have to be spent if we spent nothing in our correctional institutions! If there was no increase cost. I would urge the members of the body to seriously consider the amendment. To vote yes for the amendment and to get involved in solving our drug problem in Alaska through education and through methods that do work rather than through prohibition which we've proven does not work.

Fischer I feel compelled to respond to the message, I guess, that there wasn't adequate public hearings. The reason we had the first hearing is because we wanted to incorporate people who were here in Juneau who wanted to say something on it. But let me say this, we had four hearing on this particular bill. Two went statewide teleconference, not only that but they were held in the evening. Which meant that people in the evening had a crack at it when most of us down here don't do that. You know, we have them during the day when John Q. public, the guy that supports this, can't afford to testify. So we did have plenty of hearings. And also, not to defend the Judiciary Committee, but I think the Senate needs to know that at that time, Senator Kerttula, Senator Josephson and Senator Halford were all members of the HESS Committee.

Kerttula I never indicated that the Senator didn't have public hearings in any way and he's correct. I saw him sit before the microphone for hours taking testimony. That was one of the reasons that Senate Judiciary decided not to continue in the same vain. He did take a great deal of testimony. I do have a question of Senator Josephson through the Chair, if I may. Senator Josephson, you're a distinguished and very competent lawyer. You know very well

that you're a very valued member of the Judiciary Committee, very important member. The question I have is, have you thought out a methodology that could respond to the Finance Chairman's question of ever increasing penalties for the possession that you initiated here as an amendment and the amendment is now before us. It seems to me that that might be appropriate as an amendment to the amendment, if you had thought that out at this time.

Josephson Through the Chair, I thank the Chair of the Judiciary Committee. I don't thank the Chair of the Finance Committee (laughter). Madam President, I hadn't thought about that, but there are ways it could be addressed. The amendment making private possession of less than four ounces a seventh degree offense of misconduct could apply only to first convictions, for example. I haven't had time to address that, I would certainly regard an amendment to the amendment as friendly, if it were offered for that purpose. In practical fact, I don't think you're going to find much repeat violations at that level. So I think it's kind of a non-problem. But that would be acceptable to me. You understand that my focus is on that person, ordinarily a young person, who is convicted on the first occasion for using in the privacy of his or her home. That is the person I don't want to see go to prison.

Hensley Madam President, I'm sitting here agonizing over the subject matter. I haven't spent a great deal of time listening to the arguments or the hearings on the legislation. I'm real concerned about the message that we are going to give if we adopt this amendment with respect to the legal permission to maintain a stash of this material at home. I don't know all the legalities of the issues. But I've got children aged 13, 11, 8, and 4. I sure as heck don't want to see them being incarcerated. On the other hand, I haven't heard any redeeming .. placed on this material on the floor. We've heard all the negative aspects. But I am concerned about my children and the exposure that they might have to this substance. Whether or not it leads to cocaine and all these other things, I suspect that that's a possibility.

I notice that in the sheet here of organizations that encourage the recriminalization of marijuana, we have both our school district as well as our borough that have passed resolutions encouraging that. I know that our institutions are spending a lot of money trying to deal with problems in society. I'm not so sure that this material, this substance that we're talking about contributes to that. It may well do so. I would say that it would be nice to be able to count on people to maintain their self-discipline to not utilize harmful substances. I think if we could get people to do that, that would be half won. But unfortunately,

somehow or another, people aren't taking care of themselves. I think we're all human. We all have our weaknesses. But I would say that so far as the message that we are going to try to convey to the people of this State, that perhaps the strongest message is to say you can't have it legally. Consequently, I'm going to vote against the amendment.

Abood I guess what was really bothering me on this is on the last page, page 4 on line 12. Let's talk about a scenario for a moment. Let's assume that you have at your living room window at dusk a plant that looks like a marijuana plant. It's a beautiful plant, I'm sure you've all seen it. ... But at any rate, it says that "refuses entry into a premises for an inspection". Now if this cop drives by and he sees that and he says uh-huh. Just as you're taking it to the kitchen to water it, and he says uh-huh, there's marijuana in that house and I'm going in there and I'm going to arrest those people. That bothers me because you don't have to have a warrant. You just say, if you don't let me into your house at this minute, you're going to fall under the law and that's breaking the law and you're in real trouble. Is that what this thing is going to do? Read it.

Josephson To respond to the Senator from Kotzebue's remark. That really troubles me to hear those comments because first of all we are giving a message against the law, the penalties. We're not legalizing it, we're recriminalizing it. So the message is given. But I want to say this, through the Chair to the Senator from Kotzebue, if I were the Senator from Kotzebue, I would be darn worried about passing this bill without my amendment. Because historically, historically when you give judges latitude as to who goes to jail and who doesn't, who pays the fine and who doesn't, there is a disparity of treatment between his constituents and mine. And the Senator knows that. And that is the problem! If the Senator says, I don't want my children to go to jail, he darn well better think about the fact, and the data shows this, I hope the situation has changed, but this Legislature has had to come down here, and as I said before put perimeters on judges because we thought that there were discrepancies, discrimination, disparities in the way one person got treated and another person got treated. It is absolutely unsensible to me that we could have a situation where one child or one young adult gets slapped on the wrist by Judge A but another one gets sent to the penitentiary. That is what we're talking about and I want to avoid that kind of disparity.

So I hope that the Senator will reconsider his position because I want to treat everybody equally and the only way I know how to do that, Madam President, is to say that it's a violation to use it in your home and nobody is going to lose

liberty. As I've said before, the result will be that this legislation will have a better chance of being upheld in the courts than without the amendment.

Amendment #1 failed the Senate by a vote of 2-16. Senators Fanning and Josephson voted for passage.

Fanning Madam President, continuing discussion, as you allowed under second reading. Could we by chance get an explanation from the Finance Committee, we have five different fiscal notes here that there are obviously some tremendous discrepancies among them and I think it's important for all of us to understand what the true impacts of what we're voting on and what the implications of the legislation are because I think some people might vote differently if they are convinced that, in fact, the fiscal notes are zero, as I understand they recommend so. I'd appreciate an explanation if we could.

Binkley We did hear the bill in Senate Finance, as was mentioned by the Senator from Fairbanks. There were several different fiscal notes from different agencies. We did pass out a Finance Committee zero fiscal note on the bill. It was based primarily on the information provided by Public Safety, which of course is the lead agency in beginning any cost associated with this legislation. In their backup from the Commissioner, I'll just read part of their backup here. It says "although passage of this legislation would undoubtedly deter some people from possessing small amounts in the home because it would be illegal, the enforcement efforts of the Alaska State Troopers probably won't change much from its present status. That being concentration on suppliers and dealers. Passage of this legislation would, however, bring Alaska's marijuana laws in line with federal laws as well as marijuana laws in other states." As a result of that, they felt that there wouldn't be any additional expenditures of funds and we felt it was appropriate if there would not be any, in that case, that we pass out a zero fiscal note.

Fanning Just on that same note, I guess that I would ask of the same gentleman, I can understand that the troopers would suggest that there would not be any change in their habits. However the legislation, of course, suggest that 4% of the population of Alaska is currently involved in this usage which would be illegal after passage of this bill. So I guess maybe they'll be doing arrests after hours or so forth. But there are several other agencies involved besides just the troopers. I guess the signal we're sending and if it's a clear one, that's fine, the troopers feel that they will not have to work any differently and therefore there would not be any increase in their costs. However, I

would assume that that would not mean from them that there would not be any arrests. If there are arrests there obviously would be, as was suggested by the Office of Public Advocacy in the Administration, a fiscal note which is rather extensive, \$164,000. There would be a fiscal note in the Department of Law relevant to prosecution, \$237,000. They must have used some figures to come up with this somehow. And then, unless all of those folks are found not guilty, some of the judges, I assume, would use the penalty of incarceration of at least up to 90 days. So I would like to get a clear reading, if it is a reading, of the Finance Committee, of the zero fiscal note that there will, in fact, be no fiscal note and no additional folks put in jail, and no additional requirement by the Department of Law for prosecuting attorneys.

Binkley Of course one of the purposes and hopes by this legislation that there will be an effect that people will, because of the penalties associated with them, will not of course break the law. And that, of course, is one of the desired effects of passing the statute. However, we did feel in Finance Committee within the existing agency's budgets, as you mentioned the Public Defender's Agency, the Department of Law, the Office of Public Advocacy, that they had the resources within the existing budgets to handle any additional caseload that may result from the enactment of this law.

Josephson I predict that that is simply not going to be the case. You're going to have to have experts come in and talk about these findings on both sides, probably brought in from other places to sit in courtrooms and undergo cross-examinations. It's going to be a major case. There is no way that a responsible public defender could advise someone charged with a violation of this bill to plead guilty or plead no contest. The obligation would be clear to advise your client that there is a likelihood that the bill would be held to be unconstitutional and we have to test it all the way up to the Supreme Court of Alaska, at least. So there will be costs to it and I think we need to be realistic about that. Unfortunately, because of the rejection of the amendment, the costs will be much greater.

Binkley Well again, Madam President, these agencies already have fairly large budgets, they have the money and the resources available within those agencies to handle any additional caseloads that may arise from this.

Kerttula Of course, the Office of Public Advocacy last year asked for substantial supplements.

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CSSB 32 (HESS) passed the Senate by a vote of 17-1. Senator Fanning voting in opposition.

Senator Josephson gave notice of reconsideration.

Senate Floor Debate
SB 32

February 18, 1988

CSSB 32 (HESS) taken up under reconsideration.

Senator Josephson requested the measure be placed in second reading for the purpose of an amendment (see attachment).

Josephson First, I want to thank the Chair and the Senate for your and it's patience. This amendment was drafted at my request this morning by Mr. Chenoweth of the legal office. I asked him to do two things. First, to provide an amendment which makes a misconduct involving a controlled substance an offense in the seventh degree only in the case of a first offense. In the colloquy that we had yesterday the Co-Chair of the Finance Committee asked what about a repeated offender. This amendment takes care of that problem. This amendment says that if you've never been charged with possession of marijuana before and you are in your home, and the amount is less than an ounce, then you keep out of the corrections system and you pay a fine for that. So that's the first thing it does.

The second thing that it does is it relates to a one ounce possession. Yesterday we saw the mason jar with parsley and we were all impressed about what a big mason jar that was. This amendment says that if you have that much marijuana in your home, there might be, there might be the possibility of incarceration. But if you have an ounce or less, in the privacy of your home as a first offender, you will be treated with a violation and you will not go into the correction system.

I might say, that with the permission of the senior senator from Fairbanks, she pointed out to me that in the position statement, Madam President, of the Alaska Chiefs of Police Association, the Alaska Peace Officers Association and the FBI National Academy Associates concerning legislative proposals before the 15th Alaska State Legislature, published in January 1988, a month ago, at page three of that report, this is what the people who deal with this problem say, and some of them are in the gallery. If you want to stand at ease and talk to Ann Newell of the Police Department and ask her about this, she'll confirm what I'm telling you.

They wrote: "Our three organizations know of no police department that would undertake an intensive enforcement effort against persons possessing small amounts of marijuana, if possession would be recriminalized. Frankly, there are more urgent needs to be addressed. Therefore, we would support a citation, mail-in bail approach, as is now used for most traffic infractions. The APOA (Alaska Peace Officers Association) is more interested in consistency of our laws, and sending a clear message about marijuana to our youth, rather than a harsh enforcement program."

I'd like to point out that Senator Fanning, Senator Fahrenkamp and I, have actually gone beyond what the Peace Officers Association say we ought to do. They speak to a mail-in citation program. We say you'll have a court appearance and fine you and we'll treat you as a violator. But we agree with them that we should keep these people, who are first offenders, out of the correction system. So I think our amendment is reasonable, it's balanced, it will help the constitutionality of this bill, if the bill is passed and goes to the Governor and is signed. It strengthens the program. It sends a message. It cuts the cost. It's a good amendment and I hope the Senate will adopt it. I move the amendment.

Fischer The objection centers around, we talk about mixed signals and I don't know if this body knows but right now it still is federal law that any amount of marijuana, any amount, is subject up to a year imprisonment and \$5,000 fine. The way the bill is written now, it still gives the court discretion. You may get a situation, I don't think anyone wants to see a kid in jail. I sure don't. I don't think anybody here does. But you may have a situation where there are other circumstances, in addition to that marijuana, which may be a reflection that the judge may want to give this kid a day or two in jail. But I don't perceive, and if they're not going to, if the law folks aren't going to all .. to try to make it work, at least the message is there, that we are somewhat similar, we're not contrary to federal law.

Oregon has a law, everyone says gee, Oregon is a neat place to go, they have a law now that under an ounce it's just \$100 fine. They are now trying in Oregon to get a stiffer penalty by the Legislature. They see what's happening in Oregon. Not only that, in Oregon back in 1986 they went to the people for pot legalization and came out 3-1 against. That was a referendum where 780,000 people said that they don't want to see it legal. Only 280,000 said they did. I don't think there's much difference between the folks in Oregon and the folks in Alaska.

Josephson First of all Madam President, we're not talking whether or not marijuana should be recriminalized. This body voted yesterday overwhelming to do that. That is not the issue presented by the amendment. Nor is the issue what happens if you are on a federal enclave. If someone from Alaska drives onto Elmendorf Air Force Base with marijuana in his or her car, that person ought to know that there are federal rules that apply.

What we're talking about is the privacy of your own home, your own dwelling. There's a slogan that that place is your castle. There is a privacy amendment which the people of this State adopted and voted for. That's what

lead to the Ravin case. The people's vote for the privacy amendment. Oregon may not have that clause. Maybe in Oregon the people didn't vote for a privacy amendment. I was here when this Legislature submitted the privacy amendment to the people. We forget that it was a referendum of the people that gave rise to the amendment that the court interpreted. So the issue of what is going on in Oregon is immaterial. The issue of the federal situation is immaterial. I hope we don't get to the point where we just ape the federal government and don't adept to the realities of the Alaska situation. I think we should follow the Peace Officers recommendation and adopt the amendment.

Fahrenkamp Madam President, the former speaker pretty well covered what I was going to say other than in Section 22 that was passed in 1972 by the referendum by which he talks gave this right to privacy to the State of Alaska. It was by the people of Alaska. We're talking about two things here. We're talking about marijuana which everybody wants to send a message that we don't condone. But we're also talking about the privacy of the home which the people of this state absolutely said they want. We are different from most every state in the union. There are three of us as states who have this amendment. If what we want to do is change this amendment, then what we should be looking at is a change to our Constitution that will make this type of legislation legal. As it is today, we have a point by point rebuttal of every point on this law that says it will not meet the constitutional test. We have the Ravin case in which they've taken each point in this legislation and gone through it to say it will not be upheld in court. We are passing legislation that will strictly go straight to court. And we know that as we pass it. So what we are doing really, if we do not pass this amendment, we're diverting enforcement monies that could be used for serious crimes to crimes that are invasion of privacy of the home. That's what this amendment is trying to do. I urge it's approval.

Abood I want to be sure I get this straight in my own head. Let's assume that for a moment that a high school kid is caught with marijuana on him. You know we got it in the schools. I think the enforcement ought to start there, real enforcement. Now this bill, without the amendment, states that if this child is arrested, even if it's planted on him, you might say, maybe he's in trouble with some of the other kids in school, who knows, that that child is going to be picked up and he's going to have to go to jail. If he's a minor he's going to go into the correctional institution for doing that. Am I correct in that assumption? The bill the way it is now?

Josephson I'll try to do this winging it. First of all, if you're talking about a minor, you're talking about the juvenile system and that's not the adult system. The difference is, as Senator Fischer said yesterday, under SB 32 without the amendment that is pending or which was offered yesterday, it does not necessarily follow that the offender who is arrested and convicted will go to jail or to prison. But the possibility exists and it will be a case-by-case judgment for the judge to make that decision. I argued yesterday that given the experience with situations where we offer judges latitude in what they do, we often have found problems with that. I think we will find problems in the way marijuana offenders are treated. Some will get a slap on the wrist and some will serve a lot of time. What we're trying to do is avoid giving the judge that option. But this amendment only applies if it's less than an ounce, in the privacy of the home, and is a first offender. We're trying now, in this amendment, to keep out of the system a really small class of people. Not your dealers, not your repeated offenders who have prior violations and not the people who have a lot of substance in their possession.

Aboud Well then by using that philosophy, I guess then that we could save a lot of money if I had gone along, or anyone else had gone along, with Mr. Kibbey's (sp?) suggestion that we not give jail term, 72 hours in jail, for the first offenders of drunk driving. So I find myself caught between these things. In one sense and one part of what the Senator from downtown Anchorage has brought up, I can agree with a portion of that. But I can't agree with the total philosophy of using first time offenders. I think we're talking about the privacy of the home and I'm all for that. What we do in our home is our own darn business. But when you're taking the first offenders and making it easier on them, we can do that with the drunk driving law, too. And none of you would put up with that for five minutes, as evidence of the upheaval of the people when Mr. Kibbey attempted to knock out the 72 hours in jail for drunk driving for first offenders. That's who we're trying to stop to begin with. Perhaps if our penalties are sharper for the first offenders, we may not get to the second offenders. So again, that particular philosophy bothers me so I'm not sure I want to vote on it.

Fahrenkamp Madam President, in response to the former speaker, it would be very difficult for any drunk driver to be driving in the home. We're talking about the home! Now if we are really after drug and alcohol abuse and we are carrying out the intent of this legislation, then alcohol we know is just as bad as marijuana. What are we going to do, say ok, if you're having a drink in your home the police

have a right to arrest you and put you in jail. That's comparable with this, not driving while drunk. None of us wants to see drivers drunk on the road. It's too dangerous for the health of others.

Fanning With all due respect, I must point out to my distinguished colleague that the analogy was not a very good one. What we're talking here about, drunk driving has always been a violation. It just happens that today small quantities of marijuana in the privacy of your home are legal. Without the amendment, this bill would make any quantity illegal. The amendment will also make any quantity illegal. The difference is that the amendment makes any quantity illegal but the penalty is a violation not a potential for a \$1,000 fine or up to 90 days in jail, depending on the discretion of a judge.

I think the mixed signal that we send, if we don't adopt the amendment is that some of 20,000 users are going to be sent to jail and it's not going to cost anything. Now Alaskans know better than that. We in this Legislature know better than that. The mixed signal we send if we don't adopt this amendment is that we're passing a law which the police officers have said they are not going to make a concerted effort to enforce. That's a mixed signal. If we pass this amendment, we send a more clearer signal.

The substance of the Ravin decision as has been stated was that the Legislature, in criminalizing marijuana, has not offered sufficient evidence that marijuana was harmful and therefore it did not justify denying Alaska citizens the right to privacy in their homes. Now the Legislature is attempting to do this through the bill what it didn't do previously.

Do the facts now support the invasion of privacy? Do the findings in SB 32 substantiate that marijuana is a dangerous substance, so dangerous as to permit the State to deny us one of our most significant constitutional rights? I don't think so.

After all, there are two sides to every question. The findings the HESS Committee has chosen to include are obviously only those that support the bill's conclusions. There are other facts, Madam President, contrary to those used to support the bill. They should have been included if we were truly examining facts of marijuana and the effects of it's usage in our society. I think it is interesting to note that a member of the other body, as was pointed out yesterday, requested research on this bill last year and specifically directed the researcher to leave out information contrary to the foregone conclusions. The court is going to take note of that.

What about our basic right to privacy in our homes, Madam President? We agree that to a certain point, the State has a compelling interest to enter a person's home, if

a crime is being committed, if a murder is about to take place, or if a child is being abused. None of us would argue that the right to privacy should keep the police out. But what we're talking about here is smoking marijuana. It's an entirely different activity. Although smoking marijuana may be harmful to individual self, most users know this if it is, just as those who use alcohol and tobacco know the harmful effects of those substances. Some marijuana users, of course, dispute the degree of harmfulness. And others chose to ignore whether it's harmful or not but that doesn't give up the State license, in my opinion, to violate the basic constitutional right of those Alaskans. I urge the adoption of the amendment.

Kerttula Point of information. We have a vision of three or four storm troopers running up the door and breaking in. You know, as a matter of fact, my memory of the Ravin decision is it had everything to do with an automobile. As a matter of fact, I believe it was an automobile that was apprehended in some parked area, that's my memory of it, not a home. Just for a point of information.

Halford I think that is correct. It was a van. As I recall, you can get prosecuted in your home for drunk driving, that's what motor homes are (laughter).

Josephson This amendment which takes certain people out of the correction system only applies to people who are not in a public carrier or in a public place or in a public street or sidewalk. So, come on guys, we're not talking about highway use or cars. We are talking about the home situation. Now it may not be an unrealistic thing to fear, thank God, in this great State, that we have storm troopers knocking on doors. Willy nilly. But you may have officers calling at your house to serve a subpoena or to perform an investigation or to respond to a domestic argument in the home. That is the kind of thing that will bring people to your door. The siting of marijuana under this language without the amendment will lend to exposure to incarceration if that is what you want.

Now the Chair of the HESS Committee mentioned Oregon. He said they reduced the penalty to \$100. Well, with this amendment, we will have a penalty that is ten times greater than in Oregon. Ten times greater! A penalty of \$1,000 plus 90 days in jail. This amendment should be adopted.

Fischer There was mention earlier by my colleague from Fairbanks, to the immediate right. The inference is that marijuana is legal. It is not legal in the State of Alaska, even up to four ounces. It is still illegal by federal statute. So don't play games with the kids and this is what we're doing. It is not legal and we could argue forever

that it is in the State of Alaska but it is not according to federal law. I think we do have also a federal law in the federal Constitution that if we're talking about quantities, let's just take Texas, for example, and let's take the other extreme. If you're caught in Texas with over five pounds of marijuana, trying to sell it, it's up to life. They don't fool in Texas. The other thing is, as far as privacy of the home, it doesn't extend to cocaine and it doesn't extend to other kinds of drugs. So all we're saying here is let's make a clear message to kids, as to everybody, that we're not going to tolerate. Give the court some flexibility. A judge is not going to give a first time kid time. He's going to give him maybe a \$25 fine or \$35 fine. But the discretion has to be there.

Jones Madam President, I hear a big concern here about putting kids in jail. You know, I hear the other side of it. I keep hearing that judges are too doggone lenient with these offenders with drugs. They go into court and the first thing you know they're back out on the street again. We had an incident in Wrangell. I heard from the people in Wrangell that they were mad as heck that the magistrate there let a bunch of people out when they, the people in Wrangell, thought should have been in jail. So I hear the other side of it, all the time, about, hey, the judges are too lenient. I see nothing wrong with SB 32 the way it stands and I haven't heard anything from the police officers in my communities, in Petersburg, Wrangell and Ketchikan, saying they have a problem with SB 32 the way it was passed yesterday. I'm going to vote against this amendment. Thank you.

Amendment #2 failed the Senate by a vote of 3-15 (with Senators Fanning, Fahrenkamp and Josephson voting in favor).

Josephson Madam President, yesterday I voted for this bill in final passage. I'm not going to do that today. I'm not going to vote for this bill today. I'm going to be proud not to vote for this bill today. I should have voted no yesterday because what the Senate is doing is adopting a bill that is likely to be unconstitutional. You can go home and you can be proud of your vote because you're voting your conscience, just as I'm voting mine. But in a few years when that court decision comes down, the public will look at this and say we made a mistake. We should have taken a more moderate approach towards this.

The pros, the positive things about this bill that I like are that it may reduce the consumption of marijuana, which I'm against, and it may send a message to people which we want to do.

But the negative part about it, the unrealism of the fiscal notes, absolutely unrealism about the fiscal notes.

The problems that the Senator from Fairbanks mentioned about unconstitutionality, the disregard for the privacy amendment, which the people voted for, because they have a sense of the sanctity of their own home. The unreasonableness of the penalties that you are imposing in this bill as you have it today. Unreasonable penalties. After all, we're not talking about someone on a highway who is endangering someone else. We're talking about someone, as the junior Senator from Fairbanks said, who is making a private decision about his or her own body in the privacy of his or her own home. I think the penalties are poor and I think they weaken the opportunities for a constitutional approach to the problem. I cannot vote for this bill in this form. I hope that the House improves it, perhaps they will, perhaps we will get a bill back from the House that will be acceptable and that I can vote for. But I'm voting no today.

Fahrenkamp Madam President, I'm very much against drug abuse. I taught school. I've seen the results of it. We have very strong laws to protect our kids in school. We have very strong laws, not enforced, this is going to be another one, not enforced. The sponsor of this bill says people won't put them in jail. How do we know that? We've passed too many bills here that we have seen the results of the intent of the Legislature and what's happened. If this bill were speaking to a violation, I could support it. But I cannot support a bill that will allow people that will go into the homes, give kids records for life, that we voted not to expunge, that will stay with them for the rest of their life. Frankly, I'm very grateful that my kids are raised, that they don't have to be raised up in this type of a climate where they are experimenting, making a mistake that will be with them for life. Even if they go to the military, they can't become a captain or officer. I think we're just not thinking through what we're doing here as we violate by writing a law or passing a law that we know is in violation of the constitution, that has been judged so by the Supreme Court. I have here from our legal, from our Attorney General's office, absolute reports. I did not ask them to have a favorable report, in my opinion. I was trying to get the opinion of the courts on whether or not this bill was constitutional. It does not hold up. It does not meet the test. I cannot support it.

Fanning Thank you Madam President. I'm sure it comes as no surprise that primarily because of the unconstitutionality, in my opinion of this legislation, that I again am going to vote no on the bill. I would like to just briefly point out that I think other members of this body must agree there is some question about the question of the constitutionality because there's another piece of

legislation that's apparently introduced in this body, and if it were accompanying this, I think it's a good idea. That's the one that suggests, by the same sponsor of this legislation, that the right of people to the privacy is recognized and shall not be infringed as stated in the Constitution, the Legislature shall implement this section. The right of privacy does not extend to the unlawful possession or use of cocaine, heroin, marijuana, or other controlled substances. That's a constitutional question that could be placed before the people of this State. And then like the people in Oregon, the citizens of this State, if they wanted to change the Constitution, would have the opportunity to do so. That is not contained in this legislation, it doesn't accompany this legislation through the body. For that reason, and for several other reasons, I am going to vote against the legislation.

I am, Madam President, convinced that all members of this body, including myself, are seriously concerned with the excessive use of drugs, including marijuana in this state. I think it's appropriate at this time to acknowledge my appreciation to the body for participating fully in the discussion on this very comprehensive issue and for good debate on the issue. I know it's an issue which many people feel strongly about. I think it's healthy for us and for all Alaskans. I'm appreciative of the body even though I think you're making a terrible mistake.

Josephson I just want to close by saying one more thing. You've been very patient, the whole body has been. But something hasn't been said about this issue in the last couple of days. If we really want to curb drug use, we better realize that we can't do it by a zero fiscal note of the bill to punish people. We better realize that what we need is a massive education program, we need recreation programs, we need to fill people's time with constructive socially useful programs, we need jobs, we need education. We need to explain to people that when they smoke marijuana or ingest cocaine, they are contributing to dictatorships in Panama and Columbia and countries like that, creating instability around the world. That's the kind of program that we really need. That's the kind of message we really have to give. One thing that disturbs me is that as we talk about how we're going to solve the marijuana problem by SB 32, we're not really addressing the real causes of boredom and frustration and poor self imagining. Some approach through the criminal justice system is certainly part of a complement, if it's a good constitutional approach, to a complement of measures that you can take. But the real answer doesn't lie here, the real answer is going to lie in our classrooms, in parent training, in health care, in early intervention for children in need. That's where the problem is going to be solved and not in SB 32.

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CSSB 32 (HESS) passed the Senate by a vote of 15-3 with Senators Fahrenkamp, Fanning and Josephson voting against.

Alaska State Legislature

SENATOR PAUL FISCHER, Chairman
SENATOR JOE JOSEPHSON, Vice Chairman
SENATOR LLOYD JONES
SENATOR JAY KERTULLA
SENATOR RICK HALFORD



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Senate Committee on Health, Education and Social Services

April 9, 1987

To: Senator Jay Kerttula, Chairman &
Members of Senate Judiciary Committee

From: Senator Paul Fischer

Subject: SB 32, Recriminalizing Marijuana

The Senate Health Education and Social Services Committee has held extensive hearings on the marijuana issue. The Committee held 4 public hearings including 2 statewide teleconferences. A total of 85 people testified of which 50 testified for recriminalization and 29 against. Six people gave us their undecided philosophical reflections. The written testimony and POMs have been overwhelming in favor of recriminalization.

Throughout the course of our hearings, it became apparent that the first section of the bill, "Legislative Findings", was going to be the emphasis and heart of the bill. We must draft a law that is capable of persuading the Courts that the detrimental effects of marijuana override the Constitutional questions to the right to privacy laid out in the *Ravin* decision. We do not have a right to privacy with respect to cocaine, LSD, or heroin for obvious reasons. The Senate HESS Committee found, that some of these same reasons now apply to marijuana based upon new scientific evidence that was not previously available during the *Ravin* decision. The conclusions of this new evidence is listed in the first section of the bill entitled "Legislative Findings". Further information substantiating these findings can be found in an accompanying memo and reference materials in my office.

The CS offered by the Senate HESS Committee incorporates these new findings in a convincing and compelling format that will both aid in the bill's passage and State's defense in court if the new law should be challenged.

Attached please find the minutes of our Committee hearings.

Alaska State Legislature

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State Senate

STUDIES & MATERIALS AVAILABLE IN SENATOR FISCHER'S OFFICE

<u>Study/Article/Publicatio</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Author</u>
1) Gateway Drugs	1984	Robert L. DuPont Jr. M.D.
2) Presidential Newsconference Transcripts	Aug, '86	Ronald Reagan
3) Ravin Decision	1975	Judge Rabinowitz
4) Marijuana & Health	1982	New England Journal of Medicine
5) Clinical Toxicology of Cannabis	1983	Forest S. Tennant M.D.
6) Clinical Syndrome of Marijuana Dependence	Apr, '86	Forest S. Tennant M.D.
7) Attorney General Opinion State of Pennsylvania	Nov, '86	Roy Zimmerman
8) Legislator's Survey on Recriminalization	Oct, '86	Anchorage Times
9) ACLU Position Paper	Feb, '87	Alaska Chapter ACLU
10) Marijuana Study compilation of 19 different studies	nov, '85	Anchorage Crime Commission
10a) Aircraft Accident Report	Apr, '85	National Transportation Safety Board
b) Marijuana; A Headmaster's Perspective	Jun, '80	Various Canadian School Principals
c) A Whole New Ball Game	Mar, '82	Robert Dupont, M.D.
d) Death On the Highways	1981	Peggy Mann, from the Saturday Evening Post
e) Health Consequences of Marijuana	Mar, '80	William Pollin, M.D.

<u>Study/Article/Publication</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Author</u>
Anchorage Crime Commision Report cont.		
f) Retarding Reproduction	Feb., '83	Dr. Carol Smith An interview
g) Biological Effects of Marijuana	Mar, '84	Connie & Otto Moulton Drug Abuse Newsletter
h) Why I changed My Mind About Marijuna	?	Robert DuPont, M.D. Listen magazine
i) Marijuana Reconsidered	Feb, '84	Helen C. Jones
j) Our Most Dangerous Drug	1980 ?	Dr. Harvey Powelson
k) FDA's Marijuana Recommendations	Jun, '82	Food & Drug Admistration Docket # 82N-0182
l) Cannabis: Adverse Effects on Health	Jan, '80	John B. McDonald Addiction Research Foundatio Toronto, Canada
m) Respiratory Status of 74 Habitual Marijuana Smokers	Nov, '80	Donald Tashkin, M.D. & Bertrand J. Shapiro, M.D.
n) Narcotic Information Bulletin #1-80	1980	Manj
o) Marijuana & the Brain	1980+	Robert J. Heath, M.D.
p) Marijuana & Reproduction	1982	Smith & Asch, Ph.D. & M.D. The American Council On Marijuana
q) The Marijuana Controversy	1981	Carlton E. Turner, Ph.D. The American Council On Marijuana
r) Marijuana: The Myth of Harmlessness Goes up in Smoke	?	Peggy Mann, Saturday Evening Post
11) Drug Report	Mar, '85	Ak. Dept of Public Safety
12) 10 Startling Facts About Marijuana & Brain Damage	1983	David Goodman, Ph.D.
13) Marijuana Update	Mar, '87.	Donna J. Hymes, R.N.
14) Minutes of Anchorage Municipal Assembly on Marijuana Resolution	Dec.9, '86	Municipal Clerk

<u>Study/Article/Publication</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Author</u>
15) Accomplishments of the National Campaign Against Drug Abuse	Sept, '84	The White House
16) Bibliography of Adverse Effects of Marijuana, over 100 articles	Apr, '85	Alaskanet/Dialog Computer Search, File= "Medline"
17) Marijuana & Health, 8th Annual Report to Congress	1980	National Institute on Drug Abuse
18) The Purpose of Pleasure	1983	Robert A. Hawley
19) Marijuana Alert	1985	Peggy Mann
20) Marijuana & Public Health An Analysis of 4 Major	Dec, '82	Sidney Cohen, M.D. Drug Abuse Newsletter
21) Various Marijuana Articles	1980+	Peggy Mann, Saturday Evening Post & Readers Digest
22) Marijuana: A Crude Drug with a Spectrum of Under-appreciated Toxicity	Apr, '84	Richard H. Schwartz
23) PharmAlert - Marijuana Effects on Sperm and Testosterone	1982	University of Maryland School of Pharmacy
24) Levels of Processing and Acute Effects of Marijuana on Memory	1980	Susan M. Bellmore Lorren L. Miller
25) Health Questions about Marijuana	1983	U.S. House Select Committee Narcotics Abuse and Control
26) Marijuana Warnings: New Evidence Against the Soft Drug	Sept, '80	Milan Korcok Canadian Medical Association
27) Miscellaneous Copies of Various Drug Abuse Newsletters and pamphlets.		