

Who's pushing Colombian drugs

The U.S. pot lobby, and in particular the Kennedy and Zionist lobby political machines, has played the critical role in setting up Colombia as the drugrunners' paradise it now is.

The Feb. 12 edition of *El Tiempo*, the largest circulation daily in Colombia controlled by Alliance for Progress architect and Rockefeller Foundation affiliate Alberto Lleras Camargo, featured an Op Ed saying: "Is it not a good indication that Edward Kennedy, who according to polls could be president of the United States ... has presented a judicial reform reducing the severity of the law and sentences against marijuana?"

This is no isolated endorsement of drugs, but part of a consistent public relations push within Colombia over approximately the last two years to convert the country into one huge pot field. Every step of the way, the Colombian drug advocates have relied on the actions of the U.S. pot lobby to buttress their arguments, coupled with the backing of the right wing of the Colombian military.

The subject of legalization was launched in the summer of 1977 in *El Siglo*, the newspaper of top Colombian oligarch Alvaro Gomez Hurtado. Relying on the fact that many U.S. states had already "decriminalized" marijuana possession, a series of articles by Gomez and various staff writers urged Colombians to take advantage of this by legalizing exports while keeping drug consumption illegal within the country. After all, they argued, the moral stigma is on the U.S. consumers, not Colombians. President Lopez Michelsen was not ready to go along, however, so in Decem-

ber 1977 Gomez's generals paid him a visit demanding unprecedented powers to "preserve order."

Simultaneously, Congressman Lester Wolff (D-NY) and Peter Bourne, then President Carter's Special Advisor on Drug Abuse, were engaged in leaking "information" that members of Colombian President Lopez's cabinet were involved in drug trafficking. Also named was the nephew of Julio Cesar Turbay, the presidential candidate Lopez had endorsed. When Lopez decided to fight back on this setup, the U.S. Embassy suffered considerable embarrassment when not a single shred of evidence could be found to prove the case.

Sabotaging paraquat

Defeated on this thrust, the U.S. pot lobby struck back with the Percy-Wolff amendment to the Foreign Assistance appropriations bill. Backed by National Association for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML) board member Sen. Jake Javits, Illinois Senator Charles Percy introduced into the Senate a bill to prevent U.S. assistance for paraquat spraying programs on the grounds that the herbicide could be dangerous to the health of U.S. marijuana smokers. Since the paraquat program had already done the job against Mexican marijuana, the bill was clearly aimed at sabotaging the successful use of paraquat to wipe out the marijuana crop in Colombia. When Percy's bill ran into trouble, Wolff came to its rescue by playing the moderate; he watered the bill down to the effect that paraquat could be sprayed only if it were mixed with a dye or perfume to

Organization promotes drug legalization

A document entitled "Colombia's Illegal Narcotics Traffic with the United States," written by a former intern of Larry Birns' Council on Hemispheric Affairs in Washington, makes the following assertions with regard to the drug problem in the U.S. and Colombia.

Legalization would mean regulation, taxing and control of marijuana coming into the U.S. It would mean eventual growth here and assure smokers of a high grade of marijuana. If the U.S. were to legalize marijuana then other countries could legalize it; take for example, Colombia. Then some of their many problems caused by the illegal narcotics traffic could be solved...

Marijuana profits are being spent by newly rich marijuana lords who have succeeded in making sound investments in purchases of homes, automobiles and real estate, and appear to be stimulating the economy ... The fact that marijuana earnings are escaping taxation

really smarts because this money could be used for law enforcement, road construction, and education.

Despite all of the corruption which has been described among high-ranking governmental officials and top bank executives, the honest officials among the bankers and coffee growers would like to see marijuana growth and exportation legalized in Colombia because of the economic benefits ...

...Evidence shows if marijuana cultivation and exportation were legalized, most of the associated problems like the loss of tax revenue on marijuana, smuggling, inflation, violence and corruption would appear solvable, because the growers and traffickers would legally be able to legitimize their occupations. And marijuana's eventual legalization here in the U.S. has good possibilities. If the U.S. legalizes marijuana, then Colombia would have no one pressuring to end marijuana cultivation and trafficking and would probably legalize it.