

exposed as a fraud

Laws to reschedule marijuana on medical grounds. This can be charitably characterized as a boldfaced ploy by NORML to achieve their officially stated goals of increasing marijuana acceptance within the population (NORML=*normal*), and has nothing to do with the medical evidence per se.

The medical evidence

Regarding the question of marijuana in the treatment of glaucoma, Dr. John Bellos, director of the International Glaucoma Congress, recently summed up the state of research in this area in a letter to the editor of the *Chicago Tribune* on Sept. 29, 1978. He wrote the following in response to the rescheduling of marijuana by the Illinois state legislature:

"Gov. (James) Thompson signed a bill on Sept. 9 legalizing the use of marijuana for human medical treatment of cancer and glaucoma. As an

ophthalmologist, I am concerned that this legislation may give rise to unforeseen difficulties for the uninformed glaucoma patient.

"The legalization of marijuana for the treatment of glaucoma suggests that it is a valuable therapeutic agent. Though in some patients *marijuana may reduce the increased intraocular pressure caused by glaucoma, conventional remedies are far more effective*. Marijuana decreases intraocular pressure for only two hours, whereas conventional drugs are effective for eight, 12, or even 24 hours. The short-term effectiveness of marijuana lessens its usefulness considerably; for example, the intraocular pressure would be uncontrolled during sleep. Since glaucoma requires lifelong treatment, the exclusive use of marijuana would require that the patient smoke 'pot' for his entire life.

"Marijuana is also known to produce transitory side effects, including nystagmoid movements, impaired focusing, double vision, transitory loss of vision, corneal anesthesia, conjunctival infection, decreased tearing, and constriction of the pupils. In addition, marijuana may alter

Catholic Doctors Guild demands pot eradication

At the national conference of the National Federation of Catholic Physician's Guilds, held in New Orleans during the fall of 1978, the following resolution was passed.

Whereas, the illegal proliferation of marijuana and other mind-altering drugs has reached intolerable levels in the United States; and

Whereas, criminal elements in the nation of Colombia plan to harvest a crop of marijuana intended for the international drug trade; and

Whereas, the projected increase in supplies for the illicit drug market presented by the upcoming Colombian harvest poses an intolerable burden on the youth, parents, teachers, law enforcement personnel, as stated by Peter Bensinger, Administrator for the Drug Enforcement Administration of the U.S. Department of Justice, and on the general population, whose youth may be expected to be the marketing target of drug trafficking; and

Whereas, the means are available to eliminate this drug crop in Colombia; the government of Mexico, in cooperation with the Drug Enforcement Agency of the U.S. and the United States government, has chemically eradicated the bulk of that nation's marijuana and opium crops, causing a welcome disruption in the flow of dangerous drugs into the United States.

Therefore, be it resolved that:

The National Federation of Catholic Physician's Guilds calls upon the President and Congress of the United States to take vigorous and timely actions by providing technical and financial assistance to the government of Colombia, comparable to that given to the government of Mexico in 1976, to facilitate the chemical eradication of the projected October marijuana crop. This must be done in the interests of the mental and physical health of the children of America and the welfare of the entire world.

National Federation of Catholic Physicians Guilds