

Drug legalizers hold 'Schmoke in'

Scott Thompson reports on the reincarnation of the Yippie movement as libertarian bankers, at the conference of the Drug Policy Foundation.

On Oct. 20-23 the Drug Policy Foundation (DPF) held its second International Conference on Drug Policy Reform in Washington, D. C. Behind the facade of the three-piece-suit, Ivy League-educated drug legalizers of the foundation, lurked the long-haired Yippies of the foundation's precursor, the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML).

Still, as speaker after speaker announced, the main purpose of this DPF gathering was to legitimize discussion of the legalization of such dangerous narcotics as marijuana, cocaine, heroin, and crack.

One hundred and fifty representatives from around the world therefore concentrated their efforts upon trading rhetorical arguments in favor of legalization, while also spinning libertarian schemes as to how a world would be governed where you could step into a corner store and purchase a dose of psychotropics.

The Drug Policy Foundation that sponsored the event was founded in 1987 with generous donations from Chicago commodities broker Richard Dennis and Mary Ann Snyder of the Chicago Resource Center. Its president, Arnold Trebach, has a doctorate of jurisprudence from an Ivy League college, and from head-to-toe he is a model of the cleaned-up apologists for the dope lobby.

His vice-president, Kevin Zeese, is a Virginia attorney, who recently brought a medical marijuana suit before the Drug Enforcement Administration, which argued that marijuana should be reclassified as a Schedule II drug that doctors could prescribe for treatment of cancer, glaucoma, etc.

Like the old-style, 1960s degenerates of NORML, however, several spokesmen for the DPF confirmed that this lawsuit is only the foot in the door for mass legalization of marijuana, which would invade the community through a variety of venues.

The board of advisers and directors of the DPF is a "who's who" of the new, cleaned-up model of the old NORML druggie, including:

- Richard C. Cowan: a Texas oil independent, who is associated with the Libertarian wing of the conservative movement. Cowan was a co-founder of William Buckley's Young Americans for Freedom (YAF), and he wrote the first piece advocating legalization of drugs in Buckley's *National Review* in 1972. In that year, Cowan began to work on a

volunteer basis for NORML. He insists that marijuana legalization (and especially its medical use) should be the wedge for legalizing the more addictive narcotics.

- Dr. Lester Grinspoon: a member of the Department of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School who has written affidavits for the DPF's medical marijuana suit.

- Ethan Nadelman, Ph.D.: a member of Princeton's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, is the liberal wimp who has emerged as the foremost apologist for narcotics legalization. Nadelmann has written several pompous pieces on the subject for leading Establishment journals.

- Wesley A. Carroll Pomeroy: founder of the Independent Review Panel of Dade County, Florida and a lifelong law enforcement officer. Pomeroy disgraced all police at the conference by calling not only for the legalization of every dangerous drug, but the creation of red light districts in major cities where addicts could get their fixes. Pomeroy argued that the War on Drugs has merely corrupted police—as all vice enforcement does—which appears to be pure projection of Pomeroy's moral degeneracy, since he policed Woodstock.

Scheuer: Let addicts kill themselves

Rep. James H. Scheuer (D-N. Y.), a member of the House Select Committee on Narcotics, was trotted out before the cameras to speak on, "The View from Capitol Hill: A Report on Drug Legislation in Congress." Scheuer tried to take the liberal, moral high ground by arguing that the recently passed drug bill focuses upon criminal justice, which, Scheuer argued, has never worked. Instead, he called for a "pragmatic approach" that would recognize that a law enforcement focus upon interdiction of supply is just not working.

Like NORML, Scheuer argued that marijuana is more benign than alcohol or tobacco. A pragmatic course would be to repeal prohibition of this drug, as happened with alcohol. Scheuer argued that once that occurred, there could be an education campaign like that for "safe sex" in the AIDS epidemic to stop the proliferation of marijuana abuse that might follow repeal.

However, when a journalist asked Scheuer point blank whether he favored legalization of marijuana, cocaine, and heroin, he sidestepped the issue. Scheuer said that he had

been in politics too long to take such a provocative stand. But, he might favor a system whereby doctors could prescribe these dangerous drugs to addicts.

Meanwhile, he would cap funds for law enforcement efforts—no doubt of great interest to the major narcotics traffickers in Scheuer's district—to concentrate efforts on his "safe drugs" education program.

The mask dropped from Scheuer's liberal morality, when a journalist taped him in conversation with members of the foundation after his speech. The journalist was so appalled by Scheuer's attempts to suppress the statement, that he provided them to *EIR*. Scheuer said:

"No army on Earth is as powerful as an idea whose time has come. No one is running against me. I have a free ride. . . . My constituency would be eight-to-one or nine-to-one against decriminalization of drugs. If I had a chance to talk to each of them for 15 minutes, they'd be eight-to-one for it.

"You see, they don't like the urban destabilization. They don't like the crime. . . . I represent Bronx, Queens, and Nassau. When I go to Great Neck in Nassau, which is a very wealthy and well-educated community, and I talk about drugs, they holler out in unity: 'Legalize the stuff. Let them kill themselves. Legalize it!'

"These are wealthy people who don't like crime. They don't give a sh*** about the addicts. If they want to kill themselves, f*** 'em, let them kill themselves. They can kill themselves with tobacco. They can kill themselves with alcohol. Why should they be bopping me on the head and stealing my Porsche because we don't let them kill themselves with drugs? They can kill themselves with anything they want. They yell out: 'Legalize!' "

While Scheuer laughed after the above statements, he may have less fun explaining his statements to the ghetto mothers in his district whose children are increasingly being swept up in the crack epidemic.

Using AIDS to legalize drugs

Scheuer's hypocritical performance was matched by that of Baltimore Mayor Kurt Schmoke, a Harvard graduate and Rhodes Scholar, who was introduced to the conference as "a young man who has a bright future." Schmoke began by praising the DPF for its forum series on Capitol Hill, which has brought the legalization argument to legislators.

Schmoke's "moral argument" is that the present law has made criminals out of millions of people who have a disease. But acknowledging that his constituency, which is led by conservative black ministers, does not care about this problem relative to the horrors of drug addiction, Schmoke explained to the conference attendees how he had tricked these same ministers by using AIDS as the issue.

Schmoke said that the second largest number of AIDS victims in Baltimore can be found among intravenous drug users, and by hammering away at this issue he has won over the black ministers in his city to discuss a free needle distri-

bution program similar to the one Mayor Ed Koch unsuccessfully proposed in New York. Schmoke notified the conference that he is chairman of the Mayors Conference's committee on AIDS, and that he will also raise this issue in that forum.

Again and again during the question period, delegates tried to get Schmoke to go further. He said: "I must be careful not to say anything that makes it appear that I condone drug use." Put simply, Mayor Schmoke is such a hypocrite, he is scared that his constituency will stumble onto the fact that he is a bedfellow of the Yuppies of NORML and the Libertarian Party of "acid and abortion."

In questions later, Mayor Schmoke told a journalist that he does, in fact, favor "decriminalization," which would permit a doctor to give addicts their fix.

Smoke rings around the world

There was a large international representation at the conference with delegates from Latin American drug-producing countries, Europe, and even officials of the Dutch government whose drug legalization program was a model much praised by the conference. In one of the workshops, Dr. Luigi Del Gatto of the Radical Party in Italy announced his plans to create an International Anti-Prohibition League. Del Gatto said that such a league must be organized in time to intervene in the forthcoming elections of the European Parliament.

He projected that outside his own party, which last year elected a porn movie starlet who stripped in public—"La Cicciolina"—to the Italian Parliament, the main allies of such a movement would be the Green Party of West Germany. This pro-terrorist party, which was co-founded by former Nazis, has been the public leadership for the Soviet-steered "peace movement," which regularly attacks NATO military facilities in Europe.

This same workshop on International Drug Policy Reform also discussed how to take advantage of the planned, corporatist integration of Europe, which is to begin in 1992. It was suggested that with the assistance of the Dutch government, there might be an effort to legalize drugs throughout Europe on the Dutch model. But speakers from the Netherlands warned that at present, there is a great deal of pressure from West Germany, especially, for the Netherlands to re-criminalize drugs.

These European government officials admitted that the way they have gotten some of the pressure taken off is to bargain for easier rules in other areas of contraband. Specifically, they stated that the Netherlands has eased its laws on international arms-trafficking to appease the Belgians on the drug issue. Clearly, what is being discussed under the rubric of drug law reform in 1992 is a transformation of the European laws that would turn Europe into a "free zone" for drugs-and-arms trafficking, precipitating a renewed round of international terrorism in its wake and a further collapse of morality to the benefit of NATO's Soviet adversary.