

**Robert G. Newman**, president of Beth Israel Medical Center in New York, and a leading advocate of the private dispensing of methadone to heroin addicts.

**Dennis Peron**, founder of the San Francisco Cannabis Buyers Club, which illegally provides marijuana to an estimated 6,000 San Franciscans, and a leading figure in the Soros-funded 1996 California ballot initiative Prop. 215, to legalize "medical marijuana."

### **The Cali Cartel gets in on the act**

In addition to the Americans, a number of international dope activists have been given the DPF cash awards, including leading soft-on-drugs prosecutors and law-makers from Canada, the Netherlands, Britain, Australia, and Germany. Perhaps the most flagrant instance of the DPF prize money being used to reward a prominent fixture in the drug cartels was the 1994 presentation of the \$100,000 Richard Dennis Drugpeace Award to Gustavo de Greiff, then the Prosecutor General of Colombia, and a notorious ally of the Cali Cartel. In a 1994 speech he delivered at a Drug Policy Foundation event hosted in Baltimore by Kurt Schmoke, de Greiff came out calling for drug legalization, lying that, "The profits are so large that it is a delusion to think killing or jailing major traffickers will make a dent in the drug trade. . . . In the end, the only solution is legalization, with regulations to control the market."

In early 1996, in the midst of the battle over whether the Clinton administration would withhold certification from the Colombian narco-regime of President Ernesto Samper Pizano, himself a leading figure in the international dope legalization lobby from the mid-1970s, *EIR* had the following to say about De Greiff:

"One week after Samper's inauguration, outgoing Prosecutor General Gustavo de Greiff ruled that there was no evidence to warrant an investigation of President Samper in connection with the 'narco-cassette' revelations. De Greiff's daughter, Monica de Greiff, had been a treasurer for the Samper Presidential campaign in its early days, and was herself later discovered to have ties with the Cali Cartel. Gustavo de Greiff, like Samper, an ardent advocate of legalized drugs, was named Colombian ambassador to Mexico. In August 1995, it emerged that de Greiff had been a business partner with the Cali Cartel's Gilberto Rodríguez Orejuela in El Dorado Airlines, in 1980, when Rodríguez was already identified as a drug trafficker. The former Prosecutor General is also being sought for questioning by the United States for his possible role in obstruction of justice, in a case involving a Cali Cartel hit man."

Isn't it time for the Internal Revenue Service, the Federal Election Commission and the Justice Department to each take a closer look at the so-called "charitable" tax-exempt activities of Soros, Dennis, and the Drug Policy Foundation? It might very well lead to one of the most fruitful racketeering probes in recent memory.

# **Drug legalization gets boost in U.S.**

by Scott Thompson

Numerous of George Soros's drug-legalizing minions have informed *EIR* and other journalists, that right now the billionaire speculator is reaching for his personal checkbook, to fund a new round of drug-legalizing referenda in the United States. According to Ty Trippit, one of Soros's Open Society Institute cronies, Soros will finance the drug legalization ballot initiatives out of his own pocket, so as not to jeopardize the 501(c)3 tax-exempt status of his multitude of foundations, by having them engage directly in politics. Trippit also confirmed that as many as 24 ballot initiatives to legalize Schedule I drugs may be put before voters in the November 1997 elections, and already, initiatives are well under way in Washington, D.C., Washington State, Oregon, and Arizona (again).

David Fratello, a spokesman for Americans for Medical Rights, a Soros-funded organization whose affiliate, Californians for Medical Rights, led the fight for a November 1996 initiative for "medical use of marijuana" which was more than one-third funded out of Soros's pocket, confirmed that there are numerous ballot initiatives waiting to go, if Soros provides the funds. However, Fratello refused to reveal what states were targetted until the ballot initiatives are well under way.

In November 1996, Americans were shocked to discover that voters in California and Arizona had passed Propositions 215 and 200, respectively. These initiatives said that a doctor could prescribe Schedule I (i.e., extremely dangerous) drugs to anyone, including children, for "medicinal purposes." While the California initiative limited prescriptions to marijuana, the Arizona referendum permitted the prescription of Schedule I drugs ranging from heroin to crack cocaine to LSD. Although the Clinton administration attempted to counter the Soros-funded propaganda blitz in the last two weeks of the campaign, up until that point, Washington, D.C. was caught napping. White House Drug Policy Adviser Gen. Barry McCaffrey (ret.) has made it clear that his office does not intend to allow that to happen again.

### **ACT-UP targets Washington, D.C.**

Now, with the active support of Soros's Open Society Institute's Lindsmith Center, the nation's capital has been targetted for pro-drug propaganda. In a July 22 article in the *Washington Times*, entitled "Does Marijuana Really Cure?" Manon McKinnon, a policy analyst with Jack Kemp and William Bennett at Empower America, wrote:

"A signature petition is being circulated to generate a ballot initiative legalizing marijuana for medical use in the

## McCaffrey denounces drug legalization drive

White House Drug Policy Adviser Gen. Barry McCaffrey (ret.), in a July 22 news release, announced that the Clinton administration will strongly oppose the Washington, D.C. ballot initiative to legalize the so-called medical use of marijuana. McCaffrey described the initiative, which is backed by George Soros, and organized by the homosexual activist group ACT-UP, as “the latest effort to undermine sensible drug-control policies designed to keep marijuana, cocaine, heroin, methamphetamines, and other dangerous substances away from the nation’s children.”

McCaffrey elaborated his opposition to Initiative 57, the “Legalization of Marijuana for Medical Treatment Initiative of 1997,” in a letter to U.S. Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C.), Financial Control Board Chairman Andrew Brimmer, Board of Education CEO Lt. Gen. Julius Becton, Mayor Marion Barry, and Acting City Council Chairman Linda Cropp. McCaffrey pointed out that the U.S. government demands strict standards of scientific analysis, before permitting any drug to be legally prescribed as a treatment for disease. “The weight of scientific evidence to date demonstrates marijuana is not a benign

drug. . . . Research shows that smoked marijuana damages the brain, heart, lungs, and immune system. It impairs learning, and interferes with memory, perception, and judgment. . . . Last month, the National Institute of Drug Abuse released two studies confirming that marijuana’s addictive mechanism acts on the brain in a manner similar to that of cocaine and heroin.” McCaffrey called on all District officials to join with the Clinton administration in mobilizing to defeat the referendum.

Even the Dutch government, which legalized marijuana and its retail sale at bistros, has acknowledged that the argument that marijuana is a “medicine,” is a fraud. Recently, Dr. Lousberg, the Dutch Health Ministry’s chief inspector for pharmacy and medical technology, forbade the prescribing of marijuana, in an open letter to doctors and pharmacists in the Netherlands. He said that there is “no scientific proof for the therapeutic application of hemp.” Earlier this year, the Dutch Health Council urged the health minister to ban the medical use of marijuana because of a lack of evidence of its medical benefits.

When one of the world’s most irresponsible nations, with respect to drug policy, comes out firmly opposing the idea of “medical marijuana,” the message ought to be clear: The “medical pot” issue is a hoax; it is a foot in the door for the latest round of drug-legalization treachery.

—Jeffrey Steinberg

nation’s capital. The sponsor of the petition, Steve Michael, is founder of the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT-UP), and that group is currently gathering signatures to put the initiative on the next city-wide ballot—perhaps as early as December. . . .

“The phenomenal irony! Mexico and Colombia must be splitting their sides. Surely if those countries’ combined drug cartels were to devise a one-step plan to turn America’s National Drug Control Policy into a global laughing stock, they could hardly do better than this. The initiative, so clearly in opposition to the Clinton administration’s announced drug control plan, is brewing in the front yard of the drug czar, the Congress, and the President.”

The provisions in ACT-UP’s “Legalization of Marijuana for Medical Treatment Initiative of 1997,” include:

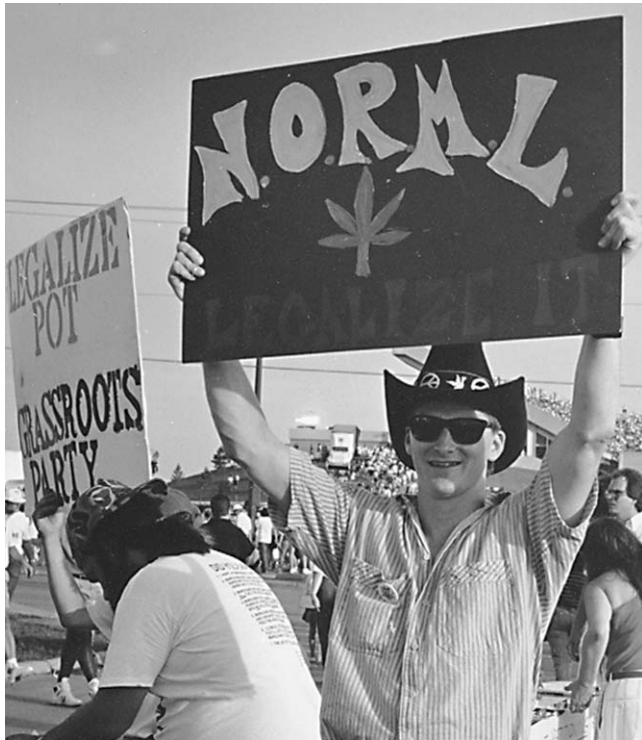
- “Legalize, for medical purposes, possession, use, cultivation and distribution of marijuana.”
- “Require the Commissioner of Public Health to propose to the D.C. Council a plan providing for distribution of marijuana to qualified patients enrolled in approved programs.”
- “Allow marijuana to aid in treatment of HIV/AIDS, glaucoma, muscle spasms, cancer therapy, and other serious illnesses.”

According to ACT-UP head Steven Michael, this homosexual AIDS activist group has been in negotiations with Soros to get funding for the initiative.

Already, ACT-UP has the support of Soros’s local drug-legalizing front groups, including the Marijuana Policy Project (MPP). Despite its work with Federal and state legislators ostensibly on more limited “medicinal use of marijuana” legislation, this group is also working hand-in-glove with ACT-UP, which some experts have called “the Weathermen of the AIDS activist movement.” A leader of MPP admitted that it had received almost all its funding from a grant from the Drug Policy Foundation, which has received some \$15 million from Soros, including all of the DPF’s grant money.

Soros likes to talk about an “Open Society.” Ironically, a trained psychologist diagnosed Michael as suffering from a paranoid personality disorder, when he refused to say through whom he was negotiating for funds with Soros, how many petitioners ACT-UP had, and whether allegations were true that ACT-UP was buying signatures from people in homeless shelters. All Michael would admit to, is that they had gathered one-quarter to one-third of the signatures they need.

ACT-UP’s activity also involves other prominent political figures. On Aug. 7, Charlie Rose revealed in the *Washington Times* that some very strange bedfellows are gathering



Activists from the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML) raise the flag for legal dope in Des Moines, Iowa, 1990.

around the “Get LaRouche” task force leader, former Massachusetts Gov. William Weld (R), to help win him confirmation as U.S. ambassador to Mexico. According to the *Washington Times*, Weld is getting the backing of ACT-UP, which is pushing for Weld because of his support for legalized marijuana when he was governor of Massachusetts.

### Arizona, all over again

Arizona’s Proposition 200, passed by a duped electorate in November 1996, was run by a group of Libertarians centered around the Goldwater Institute in Phoenix. Under the nominal leadership of Goldwater Institute then-Chairman John Norton, Goldwater Institute board member Sam Vagenas ran the show. And, Republican conservative stalwart Barry Goldwater applauded from the sidelines.

However, this is only half the story. Of the \$449,000 raised for the Arizona initiative, according to filings with the secretary of state, \$440,000 came from Soros’s pocket. Vagenas, who acts as a Soros hatchetman, was in regular contact throughout the ballot initiative with Soros’s hand-picked head of the Lindesmith Center, Ethan Nadelmann, who was a board member of the DPF, which also contributed polling fees.

After Arizona Proposition 200 passed, the Arizona state legislature reversed the decision that would have allowed two doctors to prescribe any Schedule I drug for “medicinal purposes.” Another Soros-associated front, the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, then argued before

a Federal judge that the tax stamps for illegal drug sales that the state legislature had also enacted, meant that even recreational drugs have now been legalized. Meanwhile, Vagenas, who claims that he had nothing to do with the NORML initiative, has gotten the Proposition 200 initiative put on the ballot again. In addition, he has gotten a second initiative put on the ballot, which states that the Arizona legislature had no right to reverse Proposition 200, if it were to be approved by the electorate a second time. This has created a stay in the Arizona state legislature ban until 1988.

Vagenas is also working with Tim Killian in Washington State, where sufficient signatures were recently filed to qualify a version of Proposition 200 for the ballot. The only difference from Proposition 200, according to Vagenas’s former boss, John Sperling, head of the University of Phoenix, is that instead of doctors being free to “prescribe” all Schedule I drugs, they could “recommend” their usage. Killian said that this wording is designed to find a loophole in the Federal law against such prescription. While negotiations for contributions are under way with Soros, one large contribution, from Sperling, has already come in. Sperling had been the second largest contributor to the campaign for Proposition 215.

According to Soros’s Lindesmith Center, petitioning is under way in Oregon for the Campaign for Restoration and Reformation of Hemp (CRRH), which is a multi-purpose referendum. Jim Better of CRRH explained to a journalist that the referendum would not only permit the production of highly potent marijuana for “medicinal purposes,” but it would also allow for the massive production of low potency hemp (marijuana) plants for a variety of purposes, ranging from fiber production, to use in diesel oil, to inclusion in a protein-based food supplement. Better claimed that hemp production is one of the greatest cash crops for farmers in the United States today, but that most of the fiber must be thrown away, because the crop is grown for illegal recreational use. He claimed that application was going to be made to Soros for funding for the referendum.

Already, members of the European Union, such as France, subsidize the growing of hemp for industrial use. And, the Home Office in the United Kingdom has begun licensing the growing of hemp, under the personal imprimatur of Queen Elizabeth II. In an article in the *Sunday Telegraph* on July 23, 1995, entitled “Opening the Stable Door to Grass That Is Greener,” the author wrote, “Hemp is a wonderful crop. Anyone could grow it. It’s almost addictive to watch it grow, three inches a day. It’s like a Triffid.” The article read in part:

“This is probably the most discreet world exclusive in the history of newspapers. The company involved would like to keep it low key indeed. Nevertheless, I can now reveal that for the last two weeks, as a trial only, horses in the Royal Mews at Buckingham Palace have been going to sleep every night on bedding made entirely of cannabis.”

The article reports that hemp is going to be used as an export crop, largely to the United States.