

Australia Dossier by Allen Douglas

Establishment pushes dope

The real pushers are in the boardrooms of the banks, casinos, and other financial institutions.

In its April 24 issue, *EIR* carried an interview with Luke Cornelius, the National Secretary of the Australian Federal Police Association, in which he stated that the annual drug trade in Australia was worth \$7 billion. "Somehow that black money is becoming incorporated into the legitimate financial institutions in Australia," he said. "It is a sure bet . . . that every financial institution in Australia, either unbeknownst to it, or with its turn-a-blind-eye approach, is happily dealing in, and engaging in transactions which involve tainted money."

New evidence compiled by *EIR* underlines how very true that statement is: Top banking and corporate officials are openly pushing for drug legalization. Let's take a look at some of the personnel involved.

In 1996, Lyndon LaRouche's associates in the Citizens Electoral Council defeated a drive by the state of Victoria's premier, **Jeff Kennett**, to decriminalize marijuana, which would have opened the floodgates for other states to follow. Now, the same financial institutions which sponsored that earlier drive are at it again, aided by the Queen's own dope pusher, George Soros. The headquarters of this new drive is once again Victoria's capital, Melbourne, and its political front-men are Kennett and Melbourne's Lord Mayor **Ivan Deveson**.

Australia already has the highest per-capita consumption of marijuana in the world; if the present legalization drive succeeds, drug usage will soar, and the cash registers will be ringing in Melbourne's banks and casinos, as Australia's youth stick needles in their arms and blow their

brains with super-potent marijuana.

Though the Victorian Parliament defeated Kennett's decriminalization bill in 1996, he has *de facto decriminalized anyway*, through Victorian police chief Neil Comrie's establishment of a "trial" program in Melbourne in which those caught with marijuana are merely "cautioned." This "experiment" is expected to be the model for the nation as a whole, particularly because the police commissioners for all the states, led by Comrie, have officially endorsed Soros's pro-drug "harm minimization" scam as their strategy.

As for Lord Mayor Deveson, a longtime executive for General Motors, and a board member of the Commonwealth Bank during 1991-96, he has been holding town meetings to push the establishment of legalized heroin injection rooms, even though a similar push in the federal capital of Canberra was vetoed by Prime Minister John Howard last year. Deveson has set up a committee to "study" the issue, whose outcome is already predetermined. According to Wendy Shaw, Deveson's coordinator for the committee, that study is being overseen by two prominent Melbourne institutions: the **Australian Drug Foundation (ADF)** and the **Macfarlane Burnet Center for Medical Research**, both of which are fanatically pro-legalization, and are heavily funded by precisely those financial institutions which will profit from legalizing dope.

The ADF was founded in the boardroom of the ANZ Bank, whose former chairman, **John Gough**, installed Kennett in power in 1992. It is

financed by virtually all of Australia's major banks, including the **Commonwealth Bank** and the **Reserve Bank**, as well as by prominent family trusts and private foundations. Chief among these latter two categories are the **Queen's Trust**, which is personally financed by Queen Elizabeth II (and whose official patron is Prince Charles); the **Pratt Foundation**, of Richard Pratt (who is worth \$1.8 billion); and the \$100 million **Ian Potter Foundation**, named for the late London-tied financier Sir Ian Potter. Until recently, the chairman of the ADF was **Brian Hamley**, a member of Kennett's Economic Advisers council and the chairman of the Victorian Financial Institutions Commission.

As for the oh-so-prestigious Macfarlane Burnet Center, whose founder and present deputy director, **Dr. Nick Crofts**, is trotted out whenever the press needs an authoritative pro-dope statement, its single-largest contributor is **George Soros**, the Daddy Warbucks of the world drug-decriminalization drive. Through the New York-based Lindsmith Center, which he chairs, and the American Drug Policy Foundation, of which he is the major funder, Soros poured \$235,000 into Macfarlane Burnet for 1996-97. A second major contributor, with \$90,000, was **Rio Tinto**, the world's largest mining company, whose longtime chief executive, **Sir Roderick Carnegie**, sits on Macfarlane Burnet's board.

Sir Roderick just happens to also be the chairman of **Hudson Conway**, which controls the largest casino in the southern hemisphere, Crown Casino, in Melbourne. Police have charged that major heroin dealers are using casino chips to help launder their drug money. These dealers are also big gamblers who are well known to the management of both Crown and Sydney's Star City casinos, according to the police.