

The Plot To Drug America

For the first time, a President of the United States has publicly advocated a policy of eliminating criminal penalties for the possession and use of marijuana. Nowhere is the connection between the Carter cabinet's commitment to reduce the productivity of American labor power and the administration's antipathy to science more obvious. Despite knowledge of overwhelming scientific evidence showing that this psychoactive drug has deleterious effects on human immunological, reproductive, and cognitive processes, Carter and his Trilateral cabinet intend to make mass narcosis — first using marijuana, then cocaine and heroin — the cornerstone of their domestic social policy.

The visible effects of chronic drug use — mental passivity, docility and eroded higher cognitive powers — are entirely compatible with the adopted economic policies of the Carter administration. Their plans for de-industrialization, energy rationing, and labor-intensive employment projects can proceed apace regardless of the psychological, intellectual and emotional depletion of the U.S. working population.

Carter intends to draw the field marshalls for his drive from the heavily-funded U.S. network of drug users and pseudo-scientists in the following of Aldous Huxley, Timothy Leary, and others. This gameplan was certified this week with Carter's appointment of Dr. Peter Bourne, his close associate since 1970 and an internationally known drug advocate, as the president's Special Advisor on Drug Abuse. Bourne joins Dr. Robert Dupont, director of HEW's National Institute on Drug Abuse and a vocal advocate of "decriminalization" as the second administration "scientist" in charge of drug policy. Bourne and company are pushing a state-by-state decriminalization strategy in preparation for an act of Congress.

"This is really a radical proposal which is not politically acceptable at this time," Bourne has been quoted assaying of his bid for decriminalization, "but we may end up looking at something like a move toward worldwide decriminalization of the use of heroin." Last week, DuPont stated that not only should marijuana be decriminalized, but also suggested its "home cultivation for personal use."

On Feb. 7, Carter dispatched Peter Bourne to Geneva, Switzerland to address an United Nations conference on stupefying drugs. According to sources close to the UN Commissioners, Bourne's presence was greeted with alarm by most of the international representatives because of his outspoken endorsement of drug use.

The Decriminalization Drive

In less than three weeks, the Carter administration has taken the following steps toward marijuana decriminalization:

* Bills removing federal penalties for marijuana possession and use have been reintroduced, for the third

time, by Sen. Jacob Javits (R-NY) and Rep. Edward Koch (D-NY) in the two houses of Congress.

*For the first time, full back-up by Carter Democrats in Congress make the bills' passage possible. Beginning in early March, the House Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control chaired by Rep. Lester Wolff (D-NY) will hold hearings on decriminalization of "not just marijuana, but with major emphasis on cocaine and heroin," according to Joseph Nellis, the committee's Chief Counsel. Since early January, the committee has been in consultation with Bourne on hearings they held previously on federal drug enforcement, drug abuse and drug traffic in New York City.

*A plan is to make New York the pilot state for marijuana "decriminalization" in the next several weeks. On Feb. 16, the New York Assembly Codes Committee under Rep. Bartlett sent a marijuana decriminalization bill to the floor of the state legislature. The bill has the full support of Governor Carey, who introduced his own, unsuccessful bill last year.

Last week, a well-timed "leak" of the Wolff committee's not yet released report on narcotics in New York revealed that the New York City police department had adopted a defacto policy of making no arrests for street traffic in any narcotics. Though police officials from City Commissioner Michael Codd to members of the Narcotics Patrol have denied that such is the policy, the New York police admit that massive city budget cuts make it impossible to enforce the drug laws. The overburdening of prisons, hospitals, courts, and law enforcement due to austerity policies, and cutbacks in services are hailed by Bourne and his associates in a Ford Foundation project called the Drug Abuse Council as the reason why "recreational" drugs like marijuana and cocaine must be legalized to free law enforcement officers to go after "real crimes."

Mandate for Progress

In 1974, some 25 medical researchers throughout the United States were called before a subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary to testify on the harmful effects of marijuana use. The scientific evidence of medically harmful and socially destructive effects of marijuana use presented at those hearings remains unrefuted in the public record. (See appended interview with Dr. Gabriel Nahas.) Only hastily prepared apologies for rising crime rates have been put out by Dr. Bourne to justify "decriminalization."

Nevertheless, there remains a deeply-rooted moral resistance among the majority of American citizens to the decriminalization of narcotic drugs and their widespread social use. This resistance, mobilized and focused against the Carter administration drug pushers, will increasingly result in the defeat of these policies, as evidenced in the overwhelming defeat last week of a pro-marijuana bill in the New Jersey State legislature.