

subjugation of the coolie population by fostering their use of ganja (marijuana). Among the witnesses was a manager of a British-owned tea company in India who said, “. . . I cannot see any harm in the use of the drug. All of those who appear to use it are good, quiet and willing coolies.” The Indian Hemp Commission report concluded that legalized hemp was both not harmful, and highly profitable for the British Empire’s colonial treasury.

Every single argument by the 1990s drug lobby can be directly traced to the British Empire defense of their “coolie” program in India, and the brutal opium wars of the 1850s and 1860s in China. The latest variant is that drug legalization will “take the profit” out of drugs, reduce prices, and thereby solve the problem. But the simple facts show that, over the last 10 years, a threefold cocaine-price drop has occurred as the deliberate policy of the drug mafia, and that this has caused a fourfold *rise* in consumption—as the graph above shows.

If there is to be any republic on this planet, the renewed opium war in the form of legalizing drugs must be stopped.

---

## United States

---

# Drug decrim is coming through the back door

by Kathleen Klenetsky

With the advent of the Clinton administration, and on the corpse of the utter failure of Bush’s so-called War on Drugs, drug decriminalization has jumped back onto the U.S. political agenda.

Although several influential Cabinet members—Office of Drug Policy (ODP) head Lee Brown and Attorney General Janet Reno among them—have recently asserted that the administration does *not* favor legalization, there is widespread optimism within the drug-legalizer networks that they can overcome such opposition, and that major changes in the direction of legalization are in the air. Key spokesmen for the drug lobby say they anticipate that the Clinton administration will usher in changes of policy that will move the United States in the direction of de facto decriminalization—as opposed to outright legalization—over the next few years.

“What we will see is a gradual process of ‘de-demonizing’ drugs,” predicts Prof. Ethan Nadelmann, who runs Princeton University’s drug policy working group, which is scheduled to produce a major report later this year that will

carve out a “middle ground” between current anti-drug laws and “extreme libertarianism.”

Nadelmann, who was cited as an authority in a recent article in the London *Economist*, which has long promoted drug legalization, identified some of the “back door” methods which the drug legalizers are promoting as seemingly innocuous ways of achieving decriminalization.

These include:

- Encouraging the spread into the United States of the “harm reduction” movement, which originated in The Netherlands and Australia, and which seeks not to stop drug use, but to prevent drug users from harming themselves by, for example, contracting AIDS, as though drug use in and of itself is harmless (see *Documentation* for more details);

- Forcing a shift in U.S. drug policy away from interdiction and eradication to treatment and “demand reduction” programs, an issue currently taking top place in the national debate over how the United States should change its approach to illegal drugs.

- Using the AIDS crisis to foster distribution of hypodermic needles to intravenous drug users.

## Propaganda for drugs

The “de-demonization” process hailed by Nadelmann is already well under way. Over the past several months, the question of whether drugs should be legalized has been given extensive play in the media—more so than at any time since the pro-drug frenzy of the mid- and late 1970s.

Not only have the usual suspects, e.g., the *Village Voice* and *Rolling Stone* magazine, raised high the pro-drug banner, but such “respectable” outlets as *American Heritage* magazine and *Daedalus* have staged prominently featured debates on the subject. CBS-TV’s widely viewed “60 Minutes” recently provided what one pro-legalizer hailed as a “surprisingly objective” view of LSD, while Peter Jennings, ABC’s national news anchor, did a segment on the narcotics trade in Bolivia, allegedly proving that drug interdiction as a policy does not work.

The London *Economist*, representing the financial powers in the City of London which ran the nineteenth-century Opium Wars against China and to this day control large portions of the \$700 billion annual trade in illicit drugs, set the tone for the latest legalization drive with its May 15 issue, which featured a cover story bluntly titled “Bringing Drugs within the Law.”

In an editorial and two accompanying articles, the *Economist* argued strenuously that the only effective way of handling the drug plague is to have governments manage the distribution of drugs and ensure “quality control.” Not only should drugs be legalized, said the *Economist*, but scientists should be encouraged to discover psychoactive drugs that could be used to provide “pleasure” without the adverse side effects of cocaine or heroin—similar to the drug “soma” in Aldous Huxley’s novel *Brave New World*.



*A Drug Policy Foundation press conference in 1989 announced a \$10,000 award to Baltimore Mayor Kurt Schmoke: Left to right are DPF president Arnold Trebach, Richard Dennis, and National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws director Kevin Zeese.*

### **The Clinton administration: changes ahead**

While no member of the Clinton administration has publicly called for legalizing drugs, it is hardly lost on the legalizers that the new administration is largely composed of the yuppie byproducts of the 1960s counterculture, who are far more personally familiar with, and sympathetic to, the drug culture, and that there are strong parallels between both the outlook and personnel of the Clinton regime and the pro-drug Carter administration.

Nadelmann pointed to the presence of such people as Morton Halperin, formerly of the American Civil Liberties Union and now in the Defense Department, as indicative of the "new thinking" on drugs within the administration.

Furthermore, the top layers of the Clinton administration are peppered with members of the Inter-American Dialogue (IAD), a collection of leading members of both the U.S. and Ibero-American financial and political establishments, which has publicly called for legalizing drugs, so that Ibero-American countries can use the proceeds to pay back their debts to the New York City and other money-center banks.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt (a close personal friend of Richard Dennis, the major moneybags behind the pro-drug Drug Policy Foundation), HUD Secretary Federico Pena, Richard Feinberg, the National Security Council's Latin American policy adviser, and Peter Tarnoff, the number-three man at State, were all long-time members of the IAD.

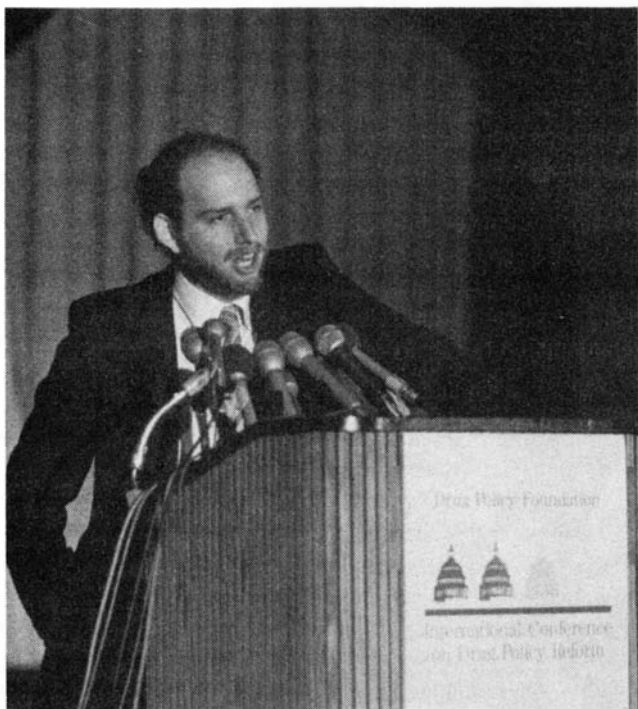
The Clinton administration has taken several actions on

drug policy issues which are being interpreted by the pro-legalization lobby as good omens. These include not only Clinton's decision to cut the staff of the ODP by 75%, leaving a skeletal staff of approximately 25 people, many of them clerks, but also the very obvious avoidance of the use of the term "war on drugs" by administration officials. In addition, the National Security Council has reportedly demoted drugs from third place to last, on a list of 29 national security priorities.

Legalization proponents cite several other administration decisions as indicative of "new thinking" on drug policy, among them, the fact that Clinton's new AIDS czar designee, Kristine Gebbie, favors needle-exchange programs.

In a June 28 television interview, Gebbie commented that the idea of needle distribution programs for addicts, "as a part of a comprehensive strategy to deal with the intersection between AIDS and substance abuse . . . deserves careful attention." "We're looking forward to a major review of needle exchange programs that is due out within a very short period of time. As soon as I have a chance to see that coming out, I will be starting some additional conversations with people about how we respond."

Additionally, the fact that key administration officials have placed heavy emphasis on drug treatment and demand-reduction programs, while criticizing interdiction policies, is seen as a sign that, given budgetary constraints, a significant portion of federal spending on narcotics control will be diverted away from interdiction.



Drug legalization advocate Ethan Nadelmann.

Speaking to the 1993 National Summit on U.S. Drug Policy, which took place in Washington, D.C. on May 7, Attorney General Reno questioned the effectiveness of interdiction programs, citing a government report which asserted that, in Reno's words, "to have any impact on drugs in America, you would have to interdict 75% of the stuff, and that would be economically prohibitive."

There is no question that a critical dearth in effective treatment programs exists in the United States. Currently, a substance abuser wishing to get into a treatment program must frequently wait for two years before a slot is available, making a farce of the treatment process. Once treated, as Reno has pointed out, these people will require extensive followup, including provision of a decent job, to kick the drug habit for good.

Nor is there any question that the billions which the Bush administration lavished on interdiction failed to put a dent into drug flows.

However, there cannot be an effective strategy for reducing the availability of narcotics unless that strategy involves destroying the *source* of drugs, the *distribution* of drugs, and, most importantly, the "respectable" financial networks which control the profits of the drug trade, such as the Bank of Boston and the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank.

### Decrim through the back door

The May 7 Drug Policy Summit reflected the sea-change now taking place in U.S. drug policy. According to the *Econ-*

*omist*, the meeting was held "to rethink the country's failed drugs policies." Reno "started the day by describing her doubts about America's current approach," the magazine reported, adding that the conference "ended, significantly, with a discussion of the merits of legalisation."

"Neither Mr. Brown nor Ms. Reno, and certainly not their boss Mr. Clinton, has so far supported legalization," the *Economist* went on. "But they have done what no American administration has dared do in living memory—set the scene for a proper debate."

Although there were very strong arguments made against legalization by a number of participants (see *Documentation*), the conference was notable for the fact that leading spokesmen for the drug lobby were invited to attend, including Princeton's Ethan Nadelmann and the Drug Policy Foundation's Arnold Trebach. Moreover, many other attendees who do not fall into the legalization category, nevertheless voiced openness to certain policies that the drug legalizers are promoting as "back door" methods to decriminalization.

The conference was presided over by Congressman Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.), an asset of the rabidly pro-drug Anti-Defamation League (ADL) who has taken over most of the responsibility for drug policy in the House of Representatives, after anti-legalizer Rep. Charles Rangel's (D-N.Y.) House Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control was shut down in January (another "positive step," according to the drug lobby).

In his opening statement, Schumer listed some of the "controversial conclusions" he has reached concerning the shifts required in U.S. drug policy. Among these, he said, were that "international eradication and interdiction has been a near total failure," which means "we should seriously consider eliminating most of the spending on foreign eradication and overseas interdiction. . . . It is clear that we cannot eliminate the drug supply at the source," Schumer stated. "The nearly \$3 billion we spend annually on foreign interdiction . . . would be far better spent . . . on demand-side treatment programs. . . . If many of us on the Hill have our way . . . we would switch allocation of drug funds dramatically from its present distribution. . . . We should be moving toward a funding distribution that [allocates] 50% for treatment and prevention, 40% for law enforcement, and no more than 10% on international interdiction and eradication."

---

## Documentation

---

*From The Economist, May 15, 1993 editorial, "Bring Drugs within the Law":*

Done properly, [legalization] would allow governments to take control of the distribution and quality of these substances away from criminals. Quality control is decisive,

because much of the damage done by drugs bought on street corners is caused by adulterated products; in much the same way carelessly distilled hooch can cause blindness.

Supply would be regulated by a system of government licences analogous to those already in force for tobacco and alcohol (and which would serve, among other things, to keep drugs out of the hands of children), backed by strict policing and heavy penalties. . . .

Such legalization would not magically dispense with the need for policemen, but it would make the needed policing more manageable. Particularly in the business of softer drugs, where the taxes can be lower and the restrictions less onerous, and where the first trial steps toward legalisation should take place, it would undermine the "risk premium" that provides drug cartels with their profits. Taxes raised on what is reckoned to be the world's largest untaxed industry would help governments spend money on treatment and education, which would do more good than the billions currently spent on attempting to throttle the criminal supply of drugs of all sorts.

There is another consideration. . . . Progress is being made by scientists in understanding both what causes the pleasure of drugs, and what makes the pleasure so hard to give up. . . . Addiction research should be encouraged to . . . move beyond devising better therapies for those who wish to kick the drug habit, into the invention of safer, more effective, and less habit-forming highs. At the moment it cannot, for a safe drug equals a "substance abuse" equals a crime.

*Dr. Arnold Trebach, president, Drug Policy Foundation. From a presentation to the 1993 National Summit on Drug Policy (May 7):*

. . . There are two types of change. One would be legalization; one would be harm reduction. Now harm reduction is, I think, the path to go now, because I do believe that under harm reduction, we could make major moves without fundamental change in law. . . .

What are the bases for this? . . . I start out quite differently from most people here in that I have a different view of the nature of drug users. I think most people here probably look at drug users as utterly irresponsible people who have to be controlled and who really are a threat, in and of themselves, by taking the drugs.

My view is that drug use is almost like being gay. It is merely a status. Behavior is what counts. You can be absolutely abstinent and a horror, or you can be a drug user and a decent person. . . .

Most of my daily work right now in the Drug Policy Foundation is centered around harm reduction. The Frankfurt Resolution from Europe is an essential part of the new international harm reduction movement. That resolution has been signed by 15 European cities, calling for harm reduction

approaches. The European group has asked the Drug Policy Foundation to help spread the Frankfurt resolution ideal to the United States and to other continents.

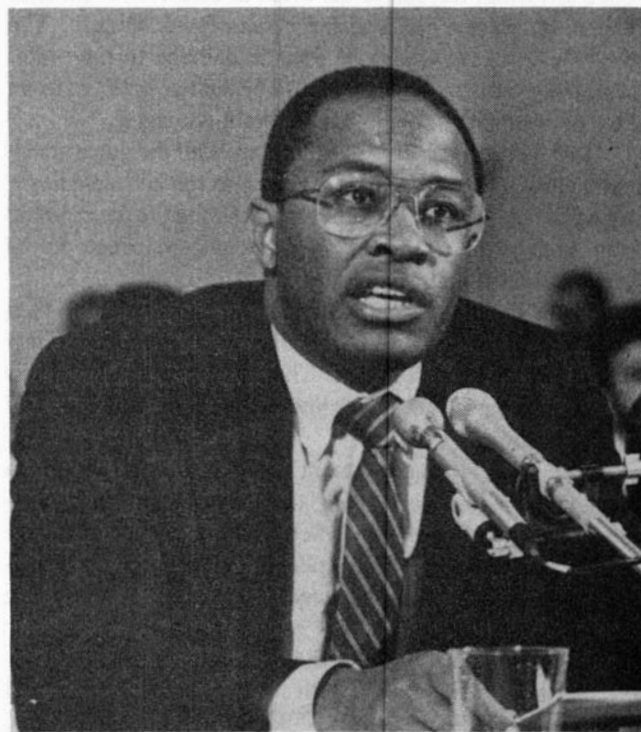
Mayor Kurt Schmoke of Baltimore is working with us. . . . We intend to hold the first major meeting of the harm reduction group in Baltimore November 16th and 17th, and the harm reduction principles will be featured in the Drug Policy Foundation Conference that will follow [in Washington] from the 17th to the 20th.

Here are a couple of the major principles of the harm reduction approach: Tone down the harsh rhetoric which dominates the American approach to drugs. We have already started to do that. To hear the Attorney General [Janet Reno], to hear Congressman [Charles] Schumer, we are starting to think more calmly and more rationally. . . .

Third, start talking about AIDS. . . . We have got to face up to the fact that there is a nexus between illegal drug use and AIDS, and we've got to start embarking on programs that have some impact on that. The main one is needle exchange. We have started to do that, and that is absolutely crucial.

Finally, I think we have to develop new and more positive roles for the police and prosecutors. Police and prosecutors should say that their job is to help make treatment and harm reduction work. . . .

*From "Thinking Seriously About Alternatives to Drug Prohibition," (Daedalus, Summer 1992), by Ethan Nadelmann,*



*Mayor Kurt Schmoke, who will host a "harm reduction" conference in Baltimore next November.*

Assistant Professor of Politics and Public Affairs, Princeton University:

To legalize or not to legalize? That . . . is not really the right question. The appropriate question is much broader, and it is one that incorporates the "legalize or not" question with respect to particular psychoactive drug products. What, simply stated, are the best means to regulate the production, distribution, and consumption of the great variety of psychoactive substances available today and in the foreseeable future?

. . . There are better and worse types of drug prohibition, with the Dutch "harm reduction" approach epitomizing the former and the American "war on drugs" the latter. Indeed, for many of those characterized as advocates of drug legalization, the Dutch model offers an alternative that is preferable not only to current U.S. policies but also to the extreme liberation model.

*Judge Stanley Goldstein, presiding judge, Miami Drug Court, to May 7 Drug Summit:*

I do believe that legalization is a cop-out. It is based primarily on frustration, because judges are getting to the point where they don't believe in what they are doing.

I do know, from personal observation, of the people who come before me and from the study done at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, that cocaine causes blood vessels that [bring] oxygen to the brain to constrict; brain cells denied of oxygen die; cocaine causes brain damage. The longer you use it, the more you do damage to the brain. Legalizing cocaine means it would be sold or given to users who are becoming more and more brain-damaged.

How would these drugs be distributed? If the government markets the drugs and forces the users to rob and steal to get money to buy cocaine, we are simply casting the government in the role of the street dealers today who contribute to the crime problem and homelessness.

If the government distributes the cocaine free, then more and more people will become brain-damaged. They will not be able to function. They will become homeless and depend upon the government for food, housing, and hospitalization. . . .

Why should the government spend millions of dollars to create zombies who are totally dependent upon the government to spend more money when we have proved in Miami that the vast majority of these people can be saved and transformed into contributing citizens. What effect is that going to have on your brain?

The vast majority of people in this country are law-abiding. They don't experiment with cocaine, crack, heroin, and other drugs simply because it is illegal. If you make it legal, I believe you are going to triple or quadruple the number of junkies that are roaming the streets today.

---

## Ibero-America

---

# Drug legalization back on the agenda

by Valerie Rush

The past few months have seen a dramatic resurgence of the so-called drug legalization debate in several Ibero-American countries key to the drug-trafficking chain, among them Colombia and Mexico. In both of these countries, the debate is

---

## EIR warned of drug legalization push in 1991

*The following are excerpts from a 150-page EIR Special Report published in 1991, entitled "Bush's Surrender to Dope, Inc." In it, the story is told of how the nation of Colombia has been subverted by the combined forces of the drug cartels and pro-legalization forces inside the United States.*

When George Bush toured Ibero-America at the end of 1990, he unabashedly boasted that his Andean anti-drug strategy had been one of his three major foreign policy "successes," along with Panama and Nicaragua. And when his drug czar William Bennett resigned that post one month earlier, he told an incredulous public that his work was done, and that the United States "was on the road to victory" in beating the drug plague.

Bush and Bennett lied; the reality is quite the opposite. Not only is consumption of mind-destroying drugs like marijuana and cocaine *not* declining, or even leveling off, it is skyrocketing. . . . The official U.S. government statistics that claim that drug use is declining are based on absurd polling methodology and deliberate falsifications. . . . Drug production in Third World nations is also on the rise. According to conservative calculations based mainly on official production statistics supplied by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), *EIR* has