

Editorial

Bob Dole's anti-drug campaign

It is extraordinary, that Sen. Bob Dole is continuing to make drugs a centerpiece of his ailing campaign. Perhaps he hopes that the *San Jose Mercury News* story can be contained, and that the role of George Bush, as the number one U.S. drug pusher throughout the 1980s, can somehow be swept under the rug.

Such a lapse of just plain common sense on Dole's part, would be cause enough to disqualify him from the office of President of the United States. More to the point, is his patent unwillingness to purge the Republican Party of the criminals and out-and-out Nazis who have taken it over.

Readers are referred to our July 26 *Special Report*, "Britain's Dope, Inc. Grows to a \$521 Billion Business," for some revealing documentation. Drug use is correlated with drug production, and in the instance of crack cocaine, this means production in Colombia, Bolivia, and Peru, in the Andean region of Ibero-America.

Refined cocaine production has risen over the years from 1980 to 1995, from 166 metric tons, to 933 tons, an average increase of around 12.2% per year; the United States consumes about 60% of the world's total refined crop. Nonetheless, *the Clinton administration*, because of increased cooperation between anti-drug agencies in the United States and those in Colombia and Peru, has managed to disrupt air traffic between the United States and the Colombian Cali Cartel, which refines the product grown in Peru.

Drug trafficking will only be stopped by shutting it down at the point of production—and this will only occur if the governments involved treat the interdiction as a military campaign requiring adequate investment. The measures which Bob Dole says that he would take, should he be elected to office, would involve stiffer penalties against street-level offenders. Such an effort would, admittedly, be cheaper than the kind of measures (inadequate as they are) underwritten by the present administration, but they are in keeping with the budgetary agenda of the neo-conservatives.

More to the point, legalizing drugs is advocated by

the neo-conservatives who support Adam Smith's dictum on the subject. If you are a consistent liberal, in the sense of British liberalism—in other words a neo-conservative, like Smith or Milton Friedman—then you believe that drugs are a commodity like any other, and should not be subject to government regulation.

Bob Dole may reject such an overtly immoral position (particularly now that he is on the campaign trail), but it is the logic of free trade ideology run wild—an ideology which he believes himself forced to embrace for political reasons. Were drug trafficking to be legal, then suddenly the figures would show an overnight increase in the Gross National Product, reflecting the sale of currently illegal drugs as legitimate commodities.

This could bolster the appearance of financial health in economies now teetering on the brink of bankruptcy. Perhaps such a sleight of hand would allow the conditions for economic union of European currencies according to the Maastricht criteria, which put a ceiling to the ratio of national debt versus GNP. Such black magic is being openly mooted in some financial circles.

The reality is that George Bush presided over a Contra apparatus, headquartered in Nicaragua, which flooded the streets of Los Angeles with crack cocaine, and opened up the United States to the crack epidemic.

The evidence already assembled demands that George Bush be indicted for his role in drug trafficking, internationally, and particularly in the United States; not, as Dole advocates, the imposition of stricter penalties for youthful criminals. In the Reagan administration, Bush was not only vice president, but he was appointed by the President to be a drug czar.

From this position of political power, with a privately funded, mercenary organization under his command, Bush used his nest of operatives in the National Security Council to operate a "secret government." For Bob Dole to be silent on this issue, but urge retribution against Bush's victims, the small-time drug pushers who most often are users themselves, is worse than a travesty.