

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