

MARIJUANA: Economic Hope For America.

Public opinion polls show that 40% of adult America has tried and accepts Marijuana, while 15% of adult America uses the drug frequently. These numbers are growing and show that Americans no longer find Marijuana's use unacceptable. Those legislators who feel that 40% of the adult populace, approximately 35 million people, does not represent a majority should bear in mind that the president is elected with just 50% of the voters behind him, while his in-term popularity often is less than 30% and as low as 13%.

If these statistics are not enough to convince the government, they should look at the economic side of the issue. According to the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration commercial cultivation has become a booming business, playing a major role in the local economies of some northern California counties. In four of these counties the production of Marijuana has revitalized the declining economies (caused by setbacks in the logging industry) and provided a source of income to merchants and other business men. Without this new industry, these areas would die.

A similar economic phenomenon is also occurring in southern tobacco regions and northern corn production areas. Marijuana grows extremely well between the rows of these crops. Thus legalization could provide an increase of capital production with little investment by the farmer. This increase would undoubtedly help to spur the economy during the predicted upcoming recession.

If not thoroughly convinced by the revitalization such a new and acceptable industry will have, legislators should take notice of the millions of dollars leaving the country each year for countries such as Columbia and Mexico thru the Marijuana trade. This steady cash flow out of country not only severely damages our economic situation but this capital could be put to use here in the United States providing jobs where they are sorely needed.

With these facts in mind this controversial issue takes on a new light. Must America continue on its path toward a second prohibition era, wasting hundreds of thousands of tax payer's money on the way (in the form of "law enforcement"). The time has come for the government to repeal these outdated laws and stop dictating an equally outdated morality.

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