



Cannabis Is Medicine

Updated NORML Report Highlights The Role Of Pot In Moderating Disease Progression -- 'Emerging Clinical Applications' Booklet Reviews Nearly 200 Studies On Therapeutic Use Of Cannabis

Washington, DC, USA: Clinical and preclinical research on the therapeutic use of cannabis indicates that cannabinoids may curb the progression of various life-threatening diseases – including multiple sclerosis (MS), Alzheimer's disease, and brain cancer, according to an updated report published today by the NORML Foundation. The revised report reviews nearly 200 scientific trials assessing the therapeutic utility of cannabinoids for the treatment of seventeen specific disease indications:

Alzheimer's disease, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), diabetes mellitus, dystonia, fibromyalgia, gastrointestinal disorders, gliomas, hepatitis C, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), hypertension, incontinence, multiple sclerosis, <continued on page 3 >

Presidential Candidate Barack Obama Backs Federal Decriminalization -- "I think the war on drugs has been a failure, and I think we need to rethink and decriminalize our marijuana laws."

Washington, DC, USA: A newly discovered video of a 2004 appearance at Northwestern University by Democratic presidential candidate Senator Barack Obama, in which he calls for the federal decriminalization of marijuana, was posted online today by *The Washington Times*. In that appearance, Obama states, "I think the war on drugs has been a failure, and I think we need to rethink and decriminalize our marijuana laws." Obama continued, saying that while he supported decriminalization, he did not support the full legalization of marijuana.

In contrast, Senator Obama appeared to oppose decriminalization in a 2007 Democratic primary debate when MSNBC moderator Tim Russert asked candidates who opposed then-candidate Senator Chris Dodd's support of decriminalization <continued on page 3 >

Study Highlights Limitations Of Urine Testing

Kansas City, KS, USA: Results of immunoassay urine screens – the most popular type of workplace drug tests – should always be considered presumptive until confirmed by a laboratory-based confirmation test (e.g., gas-chromatography-mass spectrometry testing), according to a review published in the journal *Mayo Clinic Proceedings*.

Investigators at the University of Kansas Medical Center conclude: "Immunoassays, which use antibodies to detect the presence of specific drugs or metabolites, are the most common method for the initial screening process. ... However, these assays are not perfect. False positive results of immunoassays can lead to serious medical or social consequences if the results are not confirmed by secondary analysis. ... Also, urine drug screens do not provide information regarding the length of time since last [drug] ingestion, overall duration of [drug] abuse, or state of intoxication."

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The Willamette Valley NORML News Report

is an all-volunteer, not-for-profit project to record and broadcast news, announcements and information about cannabis law reform.

The W-V-NORML News Report is produced by the Eugene, OREGON chapter of NORML, the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws

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Check 'em out on-line! *visit:*

WillametteValleyNORML.org

A Voice for Responsible Marijuana Smokers

Since its founding in 1970, NORML has provided a voice in the public policy debate for those Americans who oppose marijuana prohibition and favor an end to the practice of arresting marijuana smokers. A nonprofit public-interest advocacy group, NORML represents the interests of the tens of millions of Americans who smoke marijuana responsibly. During the 1970s, NORML led the successful efforts to decriminalize minor marijuana offenses in 11 states and significantly lower marijuana penalties in all others.

The oldest and largest marijuana legalization organization in the country, NORML maintains a professional staff in Washington, DC, and a network of volunteer state and local [NORML Chapters](#) across the country. Check 'em out, and find the one nearest you!

The NORML mission is to move public opinion sufficiently to achieve the repeal of marijuana prohibition so that the responsible use of cannabis by adults is no longer subject to penalty.

When marijuana is enjoyed responsibly, subjecting users to harsh criminal and civil penalties provides no public benefit and causes terrible injustices. For reasons of public safety, public health, economics and justice, the prohibition laws should be repealed to the extent that they criminalize responsible marijuana use. **NORML, the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws – is located at 1600 K Street, NW, Suite 501, Washington, DC 20006-2832. Phone (202) 483-5500, Fax: (202) 483-0057 or visit: www.norml.org**

Today Willamette Valley NORML joins the fight to reform state and federal marijuana laws, whether by voter initiative or through the elected legislatures. W-V-NORML will serve as an informational resource to media on marijuana-related stories, providing a perspective to offset the [anti-marijuana propaganda](#) from the government; lobby state and federal legislators in support of reform legislation; publish a regular [newsletter](#); host an informative web site; and serve as the umbrella group for a regional network of citizen-activists committed to ending marijuana prohibition and legalizing marijuana.

Along with their parent organization, W-V-NORML will sponsor public advertising campaigns to better educate the public about marijuana and alternatives to current marijuana policy; provide legal assistance and support to victims of the current laws; and promote relevant research.

W-V-NORML supports the right of adults to use marijuana responsibly, whether for [medical](#) or [personal](#) purposes. All penalties, both civil and criminal, should be eliminated for responsible use. W-V-NORML also advocates the legalization of [hemp](#) (non-psychoactive marijuana) for industrial use. **To find out more, like how you can help, call, write or visit our website. You'll be glad you did!**

<continued from MEDICINE, page 1 > **osteoporosis, pruritis, rheumatoid arthritis, sleep apnea, and Tourette's syndrome.** NORML Deputy Director Paul Armentano, who authored the report, said: "Despite continued political debates regarding the legality of medicinal marijuana, clinical investigations of the therapeutic use of cannabinoids are now more prevalent than at any time in history. A search of the National Library of Medicine's website quantifies this fact. A keyword search using the terms 'cannabinoids, 1996' reveals just 258 scientific journal articles published on the subject for that year. If one performs this same search for the year 2007, one will find over 3,400 published scientific studies.

"[This] emerging body of clinical and preclinical work ... makes it clear that the US government's stance against the therapeutic use of cannabis and cannabinoids is based on politics, not science."

Armentano stated that the findings from recently published studies indicate that cannabinoids may provide long-term therapeutic relief from symptoms associated with degenerative diseases such as MS or ALS. "Conditions such as multiple sclerosis are chronic, degenerative diseases; their symptoms become more severe over time," he said. "Therefore, one would assume that patients would increase their use of cannabis over time in order to maintain their initial levels of relief. That they are typically not doing so indicates that patients are not becoming tolerant to the drug's therapeutic effects. More importantly, this result may also be evidence that cannabinoids are moderating the progression of some of these debilitating diseases."

Armentano also stated that preclinical studies published this past year indicate that cannabinoids possess significant anti-cancer properties and can limit the spread of various types of malignant cell lines – including breast cancer, lung cancer, brain cancer, cervical cancer, and pancreatic carcinoma. "Far from being a cancer causing agent, many experts now believe that cannabinoids may one day represent a new class of non-toxic anti-cancer drugs that can halt the spread and growth of various cancers without inducing the painful and life-threatening side effects of chemotherapy," he said. Full text of the report, "**Emerging Clinical Applications for Cannabis & Cannabinoids: A Review of the Recent Scientific Literature, 2006 – 2008**," is available online at: http://norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=7002. For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org.

<continued from OBAMA, page 1 > to raise their hands. In the video, Senator Obama is seen hesitantly raising his hand halfway before quickly lowering it again.

When asked about the two different answers, Senator Obama's campaign stated that he has "always" supported decriminalization, and that Obama misunderstood the question when he raised his hand in the debate. In that same statement, Obama's campaign reiterated the Senator's opposition to full legalization, but said that an Obama administration "will review drug sentences to see where we can be smarter on crime and reduce the blind and counterproductive sentencing of non-violent offenders."

"It appears Senator Obama, alone among the major candidates for the presidency, has the courage to state the obvious: it is time that we stopped treating responsible marijuana smokers like criminals," said NORML Executive Director Allen St. Pierre. "According to a recent CNN/Time Warner poll, 76% of the American people agree with Senator Obama, as well as the 48 million Americans who smoked marijuana last year."

Democratic rival Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton's campaign stated that she opposes decriminalization. On the Republican side, Senator John McCain opposes decriminalization, while former Utah Governor Mitt Romney opposes both decriminalization and physician-recommended access to medical cannabis.

For more information, please contact NORML Executive Director Allen St. Pierre at (202) 483-5500. The Washington Times story, along with video of the two appearances referenced above, are available online at: http://www.washingtontimes.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080131/NATION/896961936/1/RSS_NATION_PO.

<continued from TESTING, page 1 > Authors report that various prescription and over-the-counter medications may yield false positive drug test results on immunoassay tests, though these results are primarily limited to amphetamines, opioids, and phencyclidine (PCP). For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, "Urine drug screening: practical guide for clinicians," is available online at: <http://www.mayoclinicproceedings.com/Abstract.asp?AID=4580&Abst=Abstract&UID>.

Nebraska: Legislature Considers 'Recriminalizing' Pot Possession Offenses

Lincoln, NE, USA: Nebraska lawmakers are considering legislation that would overturn the state's long-standing marijuana decriminalization law and replace it with strict criminal punishments.

As introduced, Legislative Bill 844 would raise penalties for minor marijuana possession from a civil citation (punishable by a \$100 fine) to a class III misdemeanor – punishable by up to 90 days in jail, a \$500 fine, and attendance in a drug rehabilitation/educational program. The bill is currently before the Judiciary Committee.

NORML Executive Director Allen St. Pierre criticized the measure, stating: "Passage of LB 844 could potentially expose thousands of minor marijuana offenders to a variety of serious penalties – including probation and mandatory drug testing, loss of employment, loss of child custody, removal from subsidized housing, asset forfeiture, loss of federal student aid, and the loss of certain federal welfare benefits such as food stamps."

A similar 'recriminalization' measure was rejected by the legislature in 2003.

Nebraska is one of twelve states that have enacted marijuana decriminalization – replacing criminal sanctions with the imposition of fine-only penalties for minor pot violators. Four additional states – Hawaii, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont – are considering enacting marijuana decriminalization measures this year. *For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, or NORML Legal Counsel Keith Stroup at (202) 483-5500. Additional information on LB 844 is available from NORML's "Take Action" Center at:*

<http://capwiz.com/norml2/issues/alert/?alertid=10850536>

Idaho: City Council Snuffs Voter-Approved Pot Ordinances

Hailey, Idaho, USA: Hailey city council members voted last week to nullify the provisions of several voter-approved initiatives seeking to liberalize local marijuana law enforcement.

Lawmakers alleged that the three initiatives conflicted with state and federal laws and therefore could not legally be implemented by the city. Voters had approved the measures in November.

One of initiatives sought to direct local police to make activities related to the investigation, citation, and/or arrest of adult cannabis users their lowest

law enforcement priority. Similar 'deprioritization' measures have been enacted in numerous cities nationwide, including Seattle, Washington; Santa Cruz, California; Missoula, Montana; Denver, Colorado; and Columbia, Missouri.

A separate voter-approved initiative sought to exempt qualified medical cannabis users from local prosecution. Similar policies have been implemented in twelve states.

The third measure sought to legalize the production of hemp as an agricultural crop.

Hailey's city attorney said that the city is not legally required to accept the outcome of voter initiatives.

NORML Executive Director Allen St. Pierre strongly criticized the council's decision. "Apparently the long-held democratic notion of a government 'by the people for the people' no longer applies in Idaho," St. Pierre said. "These lawmakers are willing to cast aside a democratic vote by their own constituents in order to bow at the altar of pot prohibition."

For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, or Keith Stroup, NORML Legal Counsel, at (202) 483-5500.

Vermont: Senate Bill Seeks To Replace Minor Pot Penalties With Civil Fines

Montpelier, VT, USA: Members of the Vermont Senate have introduced legislation seeking to decriminalize the possession and sale of small amounts of cannabis.

As introduced, Senate Bill 238 would replace existing criminal sanctions outlawing the possession, cultivation, and sale of minor quantities of pot with civil sanctions, punishable by a fine only.

Specifically, the bill would impose a civil penalty of no more than \$250 upon first offenders found guilty of possessing up to two ounces of marijuana or growing up to two marijuana plants. Offenders found guilty of possessing between two and four ounces of marijuana and/or cultivating up to five marijuana plants would face civil fines of \$1,000. Defendants found guilty of possessing or cultivating amounts above this threshold would face up to three years imprisonment.

Under current state law, the possession or cultivation of any amount of cannabis is a misdemeanor offense punishable by up to six months in jail.

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<continued from previous page> Senate Bill 238 also seeks to reduce violations involving the transfer of small amounts of cannabis from a felony offense to a civil violation. The bill is currently before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Members of the Burlington City Council are also debating a separate marijuana decriminalization resolution.

Currently, twelve states have enacted similar versions of marijuana decriminalization – replacing criminal sanctions with the imposition of fine-only penalties for minor pot violators. *For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, or NORML Legal Counsel Keith Stroup at (202) 483-5500. Additional information on SB 238 is available from NORML's "Take Action" Center at:*

<http://capwiz.com/norml2/issues/alert/?alertid=10811606&type=ST>

Seattle Marijuana Policy Review Panel Concludes I-75 Working As Intended

Seattle, Washington, USA: Initiative 75, passed by the Seattle, WA voters in September of 2003, requires that "the Seattle Police Department and City Attorney's Office shall make the investigation, arrest and prosecution of marijuana offenses, when the marijuana was intended for adult personal use, the city's lowest law enforcement priority." The ordinance subsequently adopted by the Seattle City Council to implement the new policy included provisions for the president of the city council to appoint an eleven-member Marijuana Policy Review Panel to assess and report on the effects of this ordinance.

Today, following more than three years of meetings and reviews, the Marijuana Policy Review Panel issued their final report, including the following conclusions and findings:

I. I-75 was implemented and following its implementation there were reductions both in the number of Seattle Police Department marijuana incident referrals and in the number of Seattle City Attorney filings of marijuana charges, although it is impossible to say whether these reductions were the result of I-75;

II. There is no evidence of any adverse effect of the implementation of I-75, including specifically

1. no evident increase in marijuana use among youth and young adults;
2. no evident increase in crime; and
3. no adverse impact on public health.

III. There is some evidence of arguably positive effects from I-75 in the following substantive areas examined:

1. Fewer adults experiencing the consequences of involvement in the criminal justice system due to their personal use of marijuana; and,
2. A small reduction in the amount of public safety resources dedicated to marijuana possession cases and a corresponding slight increase in availability of these resources for other public safety priorities.

The panel then recommended that the City Council (1) keep the current ordinance in effect; (2) require the City Attorney's Office to provide the city council with an annual report describing the disposition of each case in which an individual was referred for misdemeanor marijuana charges, tracking the disposition of the charges, including an analysis of the racial and gender breakdown of those referred for prosecution; and (3) disband the Marijuana Policy Review Panel.

NORML Board member Dominic Holden, a Seattle resident who led the successful effort to pass I-75 and is one of the 11-members appointed by the City Council President to serve on the review panel, stated:

"The panel's report is the first of its kind in the US to show that de-prioritizing marijuana enforcement has no negative impact on society. In contrast, this report shows that the measure freed up limited law enforcement resources to focus on violent and dangerous crime. This is the result that initiative backers and endorsers, including the League of Women Voters, promised voters when I-75 was on the ballot. *To view the final version of Seattle's Marijuana Policy Review, visit*

<http://www.seattle.gov/council/mpp/>

US Investigators Praise Cannabinoids As Chemo Treatment

Madison, WI, USA: Cannabinoids inhibit cancer cell proliferation and should be clinically tested as chemotherapeutic agents, according to a review published in the January issue of the journal *Cancer Research*.

Investigators at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health reported that the administration of cannabinoids halts the spread of a wide range of cancers, including brain cancer, prostate cancer, breast cancer, lung cancer, skin cancer, pancreatic cancer, and lymphoma. Researchers suggested that cannabinoids may offer

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"Cannabinoids ... offer potential applications as anti-tumor drugs, based on the ability of some members of this class to limit inflammation, cell proliferation, and cell survival," authors concluded. "[T]here is overwhelming evidence to suggest that cannabinoids can be explored as chemotherapeutic agents for the treatment of cancer."

In November, researchers at the California Pacific Medical Center Research Institute reported that the administration of the non-psychoactive cannabinoid cannabidiol limits the activity of the breast cancer metastasis gene Id-1, stating, "[Cannabidiol] offers hope of a non-toxic therapy that could [treat aggressive forms of cancer] without any of the painful side effects [of chemotherapy]."

In 2006, investigators at Madrid's Complutense University, School of Biology, reported in the *British Journal of Cancer* that THC administration decreases recurrent glioblastoma multiforme (brain) tumor growth in patients diagnosed with the disease.

NORML Deputy Director Paul Armentano praised the University of Wisconsin study. "Far from being cancer causing agents, cannabinoids may one day represent a new class of non-toxic anti-cancer drugs that can halt the spread of the disease without inducing the painful and life-threatening side effects of chemotherapy," he said. *For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, "Cannabinoids for cancer treatment: progress and promise," appears in Cancer Research. Additional information on the use of cannabinoids as potential anti-cancer agents is available in the online report "Cannabinoids as Cancer Hope" at:*

http://norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=6814

Cannabinoids Offer Novel Option For Brain Cancer Treatment, Study Says

Busto Arsizio, Italy: Cannabinoids possess anti-tumor activity in glioblastoma cell lines and may offer a new therapeutic option for the treatment of brain cancer, according to a review published in the January issue of the journal *Expert Review of Neurotherapeutics*.

Investigators at the University of Insubria, Center of Neuroscienze, wrote: "[C]annabinoids have been shown to exert antiproliferative effects on a wide spectrum of cells in culture. Of interest,

cannabinoids have displayed a great potency in reducing glioma tumor growth either in vitro or in animal experimental models. ... Moreover, cannabinoids appear to be selective antitumoral agents as they kill glioma cells without affecting the viability of nontransformed counterparts."

In 2006, investigators at Complutense University in Spain reported that the intracranial administration of THC decreased recurrent GBM tumor growth in humans.

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, "Cannabinoids as potential new therapy for the treatment of gliomas," appears in Expert Review of Neurotherapeutics.

White House Announces Dates, Locations For 2008 Regional Drug Testing Summits

Washington, DC, USA: The White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) is once again sponsoring a series of regional summits to encourage middle-school and high school administrators to enact federally sponsored random student drug testing. The 2008 summits mark the fifth consecutive year that the White House is funding the symposiums, which are scheduled to take place this winter in Jacksonville, Florida (January 29), Oklahoma City, Oklahoma (January 31), Albuquerque, New Mexico (February 6), and Indianapolis, Indiana (February 13).

"These summits fail to acknowledge the harsh realities of random student drug testing programs," NORML Deputy Director Paul Armentano said. "These programs are humiliating, expensive failures. They fail to deter students from using drugs and alcohol, and they break down trust between teens and educators."

According to the results of a two-year prospective study published in the *Journal of School Health* in November, random drug testing programs that target high school athletes do not reduce self-reported drug use and may encourage behaviors associated with "future substance use."

Last year the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Council on School Health resolved, "There is little evidence of the effectiveness of school-based drug testing," and warned that students subjected to random testing programs may experience "an increase in known risk factors for drug use." The

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<continued from previous page> Academy also warned that school-based drug testing programs could decrease student involvement in extracurricular activities and undermine trust between pupils and educators.

A 2003 cross-sectional study of national student drug testing programs previously reported, "Drug testing, as practiced in recent years in American secondary schools, does not prevent or inhibit student drug use."

Since 2005, the US Department of Education has appropriated over \$10 million dollars to enact random student drug testing programs in public schools and has sponsored over 20 regional summits. *For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org.* Free registration to attend any of this year's summits is available online at: <http://summits.csrincorporated.com/index.cfm>

New NORML Report Assesses Pot And Driving Risk --- Pot Law Reform Group Calls For Science-Based Educational Campaign Targeting Drugged Driving Behavior

Washington, DC, USA: Motorists should be discouraged from driving if they have recently smoked cannabis, and they should never operate a motor vehicle after having recently consumed both marijuana and alcohol, according to a comprehensive new report published today by the NORML Foundation.

The report, authored by NORML's newly appointed Deputy Director Paul Armentano, reviews more than a dozen scientific studies investigating the impact of cannabis and other controlled substances on psychomotor performance and on-road accident risk. It states: "While pot's adverse impact on psychomotor skills is less severe than the effects of alcohol, driving under the acute influence of cannabis still may pose an elevated risk of accident in certain situations. However, because marijuana's psychomotor impairment is subtle and short-lived, consumers can greatly reduce this risk by refraining from driving for a period of several hours following their cannabis use.

"In contrast, motorists should never be encouraged to operate a vehicle while smoking cannabis. Drivers should also be advised that engaging in the simultaneous use of both cannabis and alcohol can significantly increase their risk of accident compared to the consumption of either substance alone."

The report also states, "Past use of cannabis, as defined by the detection of inactive cannabis metabolites in the urine of drivers, is not associated with an increased accident risk." Past use of cannabis, as defined by the presence of trace levels of THC in a drivers' blood, is also seldom associated with increased accident risk compared to drug-free drivers. By contrast, a handful of recent studies have reported a positive association between recent cannabis exposure - as defined by the presence of THC/blood concentrations above 5ng/ml - and a gradually increased risk of vehicle accident.

"In closed course and driving simulator studies, marijuana's acute effects on psychomotor performance include minor impairments in tracking (eye movement control) and reaction time, as well as variation in lateral positioning, headway, and speed," the report states. "[However,] these variations in driving behavior are noticeably less consistent or pronounced than the impairments exhibited by subjects under the influence of alcohol. Also, unlike subjects impaired by alcohol, individuals under the influence of cannabis tend to be aware of their impairment and try to compensate for it accordingly, either by driving more cautiously or by expressing an unwillingness to drive altogether."

NORML's report calls for the creation of a nationwide public health campaign to educate younger drivers of the potential risks posed by drugged driving. The report also calls for the development of roadside, cannabis-sensitive technology to better assist law enforcement in identifying drivers who may be under the influence of pot.

"The development of such technology would also increase public support for the taxation and regulation of cannabis by helping to assuage concerns that liberalizing marijuana policies could potentially lead to an increase in incidences of drugged driving," the report concludes. "Such concerns are a significant impediment to the enactment of marijuana law reform, and must be sufficiently addressed before a majority of the public will embrace any public policy that proposes regulating adult cannabis use like alcohol."

Full text of the report, "**Cannabis and Driving: A Scientific and Rational Review**," is available online at:

http://www.norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=7459

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org.



News From *your* local affiliate of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws

Anti-Extradition Campaign Underway In Canada For Country's Most Famous Marijuana Law Reform Advocate

Toronto, Canada: *National Post* columnist and lawyer Karen Selick penned a New Year's Eve column calling attention to the upcoming January 21 extradition hearing for *Cannabis Culture* publisher, and former cannabis seed vendor, Marc Emery. The extradition hearing could lead to Emery having to stand trial in the United States on federal charges relating to selling cannabis seeds over the Internet.

In an open letter to Rob Nicholson, Canada's Minister of Justice, Selick acknowledges that Emery will likely be compelled by Canadian courts to surrender to U.S. authorities, and pending such a determination, asks Nicholson's intervention on behalf of Emery. Selick exhorts, "[Marc's] conduct would have been grounds for criminal charges here, although Canadian authorities never chose to charge him. But that's enough under the Act to make it mandatory for the judge to commit him for surrender to U.S. authorities.

That's where you come in, Mr. Justice Minister. Once the court has ruled, the Extradition Act gives you discretion to refuse to surrender Marc if it "would be unjust or oppressive having regard to all the relevant circumstances." From 1999 until he was arrested in 2005, Marc declared his income tax return that his occupation was 'marijuana seed vendor.' He paid \$578,000 in income taxes into federal and BC government coffers....Canada Revenue Agency...graciously accepted his money without ever taking any action to put a stop to all this criminal activity."

*** NOTE! The Willamette Valley NORML Public meeting * Happens every 4th Sat. of the month and will be at Herbs Toasted Subs, 1210 Willamette St, Eugene * call: 541.517-0957 -or- visit: <http://WillametteValleyNORML.org>**

Nicholson is reminded by Selick that an Internet search today of the term 'marijuana seeds' still finds numerous seed-selling businesses still operating widely in Canada, making the arrest of only Emery (along with his co-defendants Michelle Rainey and Greg Williams) apparently a selective law enforcement action. Further, when Canada was compelled in 2000 to make medical marijuana available by the Ontario Court of Appeals, confusion reigned and that Health Canada (Canada's health bureaucracy) referred qualified medical patients to purchase seeds online from Marc Emery's company.

Selick concludes, "It would be the height of hypocrisy and injustice for this country to now hand over its benefactor to a foreign government for a prosecution it declined to pursue itself. The Extradition Act requires you, Mr. Justice Minister, to refuse to surrender a person if the request for extradition is 'made for the purpose of prosecuting or punishing the person by reason of their...political opinion.' Please consider Marc's long history of idealistic activism and tell the U.S. government that you won't let them haul this politically motivated Canadian hero off to one of their jails." *An online petition encouraging the Canadian government not to extradite Marc Emery (and Rainey/Williams) to the United States on federal criminal charges is found at:*

www.petitiononline.com/Emery/petition.html

*** THE WILLAMETTE VALLEY (W-V) NORML NEWS REPORT > * P.O. Box 10957, EUGENE, OREGON, 97440 * PH: (541) 517-0957 * EMAIL: newsroom@willamettevalleynorml.org * OR VISIT: www.WillametteValleyNORML.org**