

CANNABIS DOES NOT CAUSE CANCER

BOSTON, Jan. 30, 1997 (UPI) -

The U.S. federal government has failed to make public its own 1994 study that undercuts its position that marijuana is carcinogenic - a \$2 million study by the National Toxicology Program. The program's deputy director, John Bucher, says the study "found absolutely no evidence of cancer." In fact, animals that received THC had fewer cancers. Bucher denies his agency had been pressured to shelve the report, saying the delay in making it public was due to a personnel shortage.

The Boston Globe reported Thursday (1-30-97) that the study indicates not only that the main ingredient in marijuana, THC, does not cause cancer, but also that it may even protect against malignancies, laboratory tests on animals show.

The report comes on the heels of an editorial in the prestigious New England Journal of Medicine that favors the controlled medical use of marijuana, and calls current federal policy "misguided, heavy-handed and inhumane."

The Clinton administration has said that doctors prescribing marijuana could be prosecuted for a federal crime.

Marijuana has been reported to ease the pain, nausea and vomiting in advanced stages of cancer, AIDS and other serious illnesses, but the federal government claims other treatments have been deemed safer than what it calls "a psychoactive, burning carcinogen."

However, The Boston Globe says the government's claim appears to be undercut by its own \$2 million study.

DRIVING

Cancer Study, Washington Department of Motor Vehicles

"Simulated driving scores for subjects experiencing a normal social "high" and the same subjects under control conditions are not significantly different. However, there are significantly more errors for alcohol intoxicated than for control subjects"

U.S. Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (DOT HS 808 078), Final Report, November 1993:

"THC's adverse effects on driving performance appear relatively small"

Professor Olaf Drummer, Forensic Scientist, Royal College of Surgeons, Melbourne, 1996

"Compared to alcohol, which makes people take more risks on the road, marijuana made drivers slow down and drive more carefully.... Cannabis is good for driving skills, as people tend to overcompensate for a perceived impairment."

CANNABIS AND TOBACCO

Cannabis in Costa Rica: A Study of Chronic Marijuana Use; Institute of Human Issues.

"Users in our matched-pair sample smoked marijuana in addition to as many tobacco cigarettes as did their matched non-using pairs. Yet their small airways were, if anything, a bit healthier than their matches. We must tentatively conclude either that marijuana has no harmful effect on such passages or that it actually offers some slight protection against harmful effects of tobacco smoke."

PREGNANCY AND CANNABIS BABIES

**Prenatal Marijuana Exposure and Neonatal Outcomes in Jamaica: An Ethnographic Study
Melanie C. Dreher, PhD; Kevin Nugent, PhD; and Rebekah Hudgins, MA**

"Measurements and main results. Exposed and nonexposed neonates were compared at 3 days and 1 month old, using the Brazelton Neonatal Assessment Scale, including supplementary items to capture possible subtle effects. There were no significant differences between exposed and nonexposed neonates on day 3. At 1 month, the exposed neonates showed better physiological stability and required less examiner facilitation to reach organized states. The neonates of heavy-marijuana-using mothers had better scores on autonomic stability, quality of alertness, irritability, and self-regulation and were judged to be more rewarding for caregivers."

ADDICTION /DEPENDENCY

The Shafer Commission of 1970

Marijuana does not lead to physical dependency, although some evidence indicates that the heavy, long-term users may develop a psychological dependence on the drug"

Canada: In 1997, (R. v Clay), Ontario Justice John McCart ruled;

"Cannabis is not an addictive substance; does not cause a motivational syndrome; and health related costs of cannabis use are negligible when compared to the costs attributable to tobacco and alcohol consumption." His findings were confirmed by B.C. Justice F.E. Howard in a similar case in 1998.

SAFETY

Peter Bourne, President Carter's Drug Czar

"We did not view marijuana as a significant health problem--as it was not....Nobody dies from marijuana. Marijuana smoking, in fact, if one wants to be honest, is a source of pleasure and amusement to countless millions of people in America, and it continues to be that way."

Source: PBS's Frontline: "Drug Wars," October 2000

Ethiopian Zion Coptic Church Study, 1980

"Some participants had smoked at least two to four large cigarettes (each containing 1/4 to 1/2 ounce of cannabis) over 16 hours a day for periods of up to 50 years.

"...the most impressive thing... is the true paucity of neurological abnormalities. "

"Heavy cannabis consumers suffered no apparent psychological or physical harm."

LaGuardia Commission Report, 1944

"Cannabis smoking does not lead directly to mental or physical deterioration... Those who have consumed marijuana for a period of years showed no mental or physical deterioration which may be attributed to the drug."

1968 UK Royal Commission; The Wooten Report:

"Having reviewed all the material available to us we find ourselves in agreement with the conclusion reached by the Indian Hemp Drugs Commission appointed by the Government of India (1893-94) and the New York Mayor's Committee (1944 - LaGuardia) that the long-term consumption of cannabis in moderate doses has no harmful effects"

"the long-asserted dangers of cannabis are exaggerated and that the related law is socially damaging, if not unworkable"

Testimony of Professor Lester Grinspoon, M.D.

Associate Professor of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School, before the Crime Subcommittee of the Judiciary Committee, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C., October 1, 1997:

"Cannabis is remarkably safe. Although not harmless, it is surely less toxic than most of the conventional medicines it could replace if it were legally available. Despite its use by millions of people over thousands of years, cannabis has never caused an overdose death."

Dr J. H. Jaffe, The Pharmacological Basis of Therapeutics. L.Goodman and A Gillman, 3rd edn. 1965.

"There are no long lasting ill-effects from the acute use of marijuana and no fatalities have ever been recorded ... there seems to be growing agreement within the medical community, at least, that marijuana does not directly cause criminal behaviour, juvenile delinquency, sexual excitement, or addiction."

The USA Merck Manual of Diagnosis and Therapy 1987

"Cannabis can be used on an episodic but continual basis without evidence of social or psychic dysfunction. In many users the term dependence with its obvious connotations, probably is misapplied... The chief opposition to the drug rests on a moral and political, and not toxicologic, foundation".

Cannabis in Costa Rica: A Study of Chronic Marijuana Use

Institute of Human Issues:

"No significant health consequences to chronic cannabis smokers"

US Jamaican Study 1974

"... as a multipurpose plant, ganga is used medicinally, even by non-smokers.There were no indications of organic brain damage or chromosome damage among smokers and no significant clinical (psychiatric, psychological or medical) differences between smokers and controls."

"No impairment of physiological, sensory and perceptual performance, tests of concept formation, abstracting ability, and cognitive style, and tests of memory"

"[Cannabis smoking] does not lead directly to mental or physical deterioration... Those who have consumed marijuana for a period of years showed no mental or physical deterioration which may be attributed to the drug."

HARRY J. ANSLINGER QUOTES

"How many murders, suicides, robberies, criminal assaults, holdups, burglaries and deeds of maniacal insanity it causes each year, especially among the young, can only be conjectured...No one knows, when he places a marijuana cigarette to his lips, whether he will become a joyous reveller in a musical heaven, a mad insensate, a calm philosopher, or a murderer..." HARRY J ANSLINGER Commissioner of the US Bureau of Narcotics 1930-1962

Marijuana is taken by ".....musicians. And I'm not speaking about good musicians, but the jazz type..." Harry J. Anslinger Federal Bureau of Narcotics 1948

"...the primary reason to outlaw marijuana is its effect on the degenerate races." Harry J. Anslinger

"Marijuana is an addictive drug which produces in its users insanity, criminality, and death." Harry J. Anslinger

"Reefer makes darkies think they're as good as white men." Harry J. Anslinger

"Marihuana leads to pacifism and communist brainwashing" Harry J. Anslinger

"You smoke a joint and you're likely to kill your brother." Harry J. Anslinger

"Marijuana is the most violence-causing drug in the history of mankind." Harry J. Anslinger

There are 100,000 total marijuana smokers in the US, and most are Negroes, Hispanics, Filipinos and entertainers. Their Satanic music, jazz and swing, result from marijuana usage. This marijuana causes white women to seek sexual relations with Negroes, entertainers and any others. -- Harry Anslinger, 1937 testimony to Congress in support of the Marijuana Tax Act.

OTHER

And God said, "Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth..."

- Genesis 1:29

DEA Success Update: Let's see. After 20 years of relentless federal Drug War activity, while the price of world-class marijuana has gone from \$60 an ounce to \$450, the price of quality cocaine has plummeted from \$125 a gram to \$30, and 30%-pure heroin has dropped from \$700 a gram to about \$100. Way to go, boys!

- High Times, April 1995

"The biggest killer on the planet is stress and I still think the best medicine is and always has been cannabis.

- Willie Nelson, High Times, January 1991

"The greatest service that can be rendered to any country is to add a useful plant to its culture."

-Thomas Jefferson

"Make the most of the Indian Hemp Seed and sow it everywhere." George Washington