

A national fight to stop the evil of drugs

Not everyone is sitting still for the plan to drown the U.S. in dope. In cities around the country, groups as diverse as the World Community of al-Islam in the West, the U.S. Labor Party, and the National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds are seeking to mobilize the public against decrim. In addition to opposing the pot lobby's efforts to get decriminalization passed, antidrug coalitions are also calling for recriminalization bills in states where decrim is already law.

Here are some of the highlights of that national campaign.

MASSACHUSETTS

State Senator David Locke, a long-time opponent of legalized gambling, is reportedly planning to introduce a bill to establish a commission that will investigate the links between organized crime, legalized gambling, and the drug trade. He will also submit a bill calling on the U.S. Congress to take increased action against the international drug trade, including increased antidrug education in the schools.

In Boston, City Council President Albert O'Neill has called hearings on proposed legislation to decriminalize marijuana in that city, and has invited the U.S. Labor Party's antidecrim experts to testify.

ILLINOIS

In Oak Lawn, a suburb of Chicago, the city council unanimously voted down a proposal to decriminalize marijuana. Their decision followed a 36-hour mobilization by U.S. Labor Party networks in the area that included organizing a barrage of calls to the councilmen from Oak Lawn residents.

Last week, the Michigan State House defeated an attempt to reintroduce a decrim bill, 52-49.

In September the head of the International Glaucoma Congress, Dr. John G. Bellows, released a statement to the Chicago Tribune debunking the myth that marijuana is a suitable medical treatment for glaucoma. In his statement, Bellows compared the marijuana cure with standard treatment and noted that a glaucoma sufferer would have to smoke pot every two hours, day and night, for the rest of his life to produce even minimally effective prevention of blindness, which pot advocates claim as an effect.

CONNECTICUT

The World Community of al-Islam in the West and the U.S. Labor Party initiated an antidrug coalition here last month. The group's steering committee includes Herbert Quinde of the U.S. Labor Party, Norvelle Goff of the

Catholic physicians call for aid to stop Colombia drugs

The National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds passed this resolution at its October national convention.

Whereas, the illegal proliferation of marijuana and other mind-altering drugs has reached intolerable levels in the United States; and

Whereas, criminal elements in the nation of Colombia plan to harvest a crop of marijuana intended for the international drug trade; and

Whereas, the projected increase in supplies for the illicit drug market represented by the upcoming Colombian harvest poses an intolerable burden on the youth, parents, teachers, law enforcement personnel, as stated by Peter Bensinger, Administrator for the Drug Enforcement Administration of the U.S. Department of Justice, and on the general population, whose youth may be expected to be the marketing target of drug trafficking; and

Whereas, school-age youth in this country are already severely affected by this criminal drug traffic, with widespread abuse of marijuana and other drugs,

which threatens their health and well being as well as the educational process; and

Whereas, the means are available to eliminate this drug crop in Colombia; the Government of Mexico, in cooperation with the Drug Enforcement Agency of the U.S. and the United States Government, has chemically eradicated the bulk of that nation's marijuana and opium crops, causing a welcome disruption in the flow of dangerous drugs into the United States.

Therefore, be it resolved that:

The National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds calls upon the President and Congress of the United States to take vigorous and timely actions by providing technical and financial assistance to the Government of Colombia, comparable to that given to the Government of Mexico in 1976, to facilitate the chemical eradication of the projected October marijuana crop. This must be done in the interests of the mental and physical health of the children of America and the welfare of the entire world.