

Cannabis Legalization vs. Vested Interests

By Jeremy Acton, June 2011

Introduction

This article expands on the Statement in my verbal submission to the Montagu Magistrate's Court on 17 March in which I said that:

“It can and will be shown in defense that the law against Dagga is unjust, and unjustifiable, and is motivated and sponsored by vested corporate money interests and the collusive interests of the State, and by foreign influence upon the State.

These vested interests include the pharmaceutical, fossil fuel, soya, alcohol, tobacco, logging, and biotech industries, and the State itself, which levies duties and taxes on many of the toxic, inferior and environmentally destructive products produced by these industries.”
(End of quote)

I am not here able to allege specific acts of collusion, hidden as they are in the past, but provide some historical references in this regard, and information about the Cannabis Plant and how its legalization will affect the vested interests of certain corporations. This article will show that the legalization of Cannabis will achieve a greater level of freedom and justice and health for our society.

Pharmaceutical Vested interests

As is clearly shown in Annexure 16, **“An Introduction to the Medical Benefits of Cannabis”** Acton, April 2011, Cannabis has numerous beneficial medical effects preventive of illness if used in moderation by the general public and curative effects for many ailments, including cancer. These effects are best provided by the whole plant, which cannot be patented.

The tendency for pharmaceutical industry to manufacture patented synthetic molecules and profit from them would be disrupted by the right of citizens to freely prevent many illnesses e.g. cancer and cure them without reliance on the corporate pharmaceuticals.

If people truly have a right to health, they should have a right to access to the Cannabis plant. Any legalization process based on Justice and Equality would HAVE to permit the right of citizens to grow their own Cannabis for private consumption. The resulting healthier population and the right to self medicate using a harmless, beneficial, natural herb with pleasant side effects is presently opposed by this sector by its influence on nation States via the Single Convention on Narcotics and other medical legislation.

This excerpt is quoted from Annexure 3 “**The Emperor Wears No Clothes**” by Jack Herer:

However, in 1976, just as multi-disciplined marijuana research should have been going into its second, third, and fourth-generation studies (see Therapeutic Potential of Marijuana and NORML federal files), a “surprise” United States government policy again forbade all promising federal research into marijuana’s therapeutic effects.

This time, the research ban was accomplished when American pharmaceutical companies successfully petitioned the federal government to be allowed to finance and judge 100% of the research.

The previous 10 years of research had indicated a tremendous promise for the therapeutic uses of natural cannabis, and this potential was quietly turned over to corporate hands – not for the benefit of the public, but to suppress the medical information.

This plan, the drug manufacturers petitioned, would allow our private drug companies time to come up with patentable synthetics of the cannabis molecules at no cost to the federal government, and a promise of “no highs.”

In 1976, the Ford Administration, NIDA and the DEA said, in effect, no American independent (read: university) research or federal health program would be allowed to again investigate natural cannabis derivatives for medicine. This agreement was made without any safeguards guaranteeing integrity on the part of the pharmaceutical companies; they were allowed to regulate themselves.

Private pharmaceutical corporations were allowed to do some “no high” research, but it would be only Delta-9THC research, not any of the 400 other potentially therapeutic isomers in cannabis.

Research revealed positive indications when using cannabis for asthma, glaucoma, nausea from chemotherapy, anorexia and tumors, as well as a general use antibiotic; epilepsy, Parkinson’s disease, multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, migraines, etc.—all these merited further clinical studies.

Why did the drug companies conspire to take over marijuana research? Because U.S. government research (1966-1976) had indicated or confirmed through hundreds of studies that even “natural” crude cannabis was the “best and safest medicine of choice” for many serious health problems.

Protecting Pharmaceutical Companies’ Profits

NORML, High Times and Omni Magazine (September 1982) indicate that Eli Lilly, Abbott Labs, Pfizer, Smith, Kline & French, and others would lose hundreds of millions, to billions of dollars annually, and lose even more billions in Third World countries, if marijuana were legal in the U.S.*

*Remember, in 1976, the last year of the Ford Administration, these drug companies, through their own persistence (specifically by intense lobbying) got the federal government to cease all positive research into medical marijuana. It’s still the same in 2007.

Putting the Fox into the Health Care Chicken Coop

The drug companies took over all research and financing into analogs of synthetic THC, CBD, CBN, etc., promising “no high” before allowing the products on the market. Eli Lilly came out with Nabilone and later Marinol, synthetic second cousins of THC Delta 9, and promised the government great results.

Omni magazine, in 1982, stated that after nine years, Nabilone was still considered virtually useless when compared with real, home-grown THC-rich cannabis buds; and Marinol works as well as marijuana in only 13% of patients.

Marijuana users mostly agree, they do not like the effects of Lilly’s Nabilone or Marinol. Why? You have to get three or four times as high on Marinol to sometimes get the same benefits as smoking good cannabis bud.

Omni also stated in 1982 (and it’s still true in 2007) that after tens of millions of dollars and nine years of research on medical marijuana synthetics, “these drug companies are totally unsuccessful,” even though raw, organic cannabis is a “superior medicine” which works so well naturally, on so many different illnesses.

Omni also suggested the drug companies petition the government to allow “crude drug extracts” on the market in the real interest of public health. The government and the drug companies, to date, have not responded. Or rather, they have responded by ignoring it. However, the Reagan/Bush/Clinton administrations absolutely refused to allow resumption of real (university) cannabis research, except under synthetic pharmaceutical studies.

Omni suggests, and NORML and High Times concur, the reason the drug companies and Reagan/ Bush , Sr./Clinton/Bush, Jr. have wanted only synthetic THC legal is that simple extractions of the hundreds of ingredients from the cannabis crude drug would be enjoyed without pharmaceutical company patents which generate windfall monopolized profits.

Undermining the Natural Medicine’s Competition

Eli Lilly, Pfizer and others stand to lose at least a third of their entire, highly profitable, patent monopoly on such drugs as Darvon, Tuinal, Seconal, and Prozac (as well as other patented medications ranging from muscle ointments to burn ointments, to thousands of other products) because of a plant anyone can grow: cannabis hemp.

Isn’t it curious that American drug companies and pharmacist groups* supply almost half the funding for the 4,000 “Families Against Marijuana” type organizations in America? The other half is supplied by Action (a federal VISTA agency) and by tobacco companies like Philip Morris, and by liquor and beer makers like Anheuser Busch, Coors, etc., or as a “public service” by the ad agencies that represent them.

*Pharmacists against Drug Abuse, etc. See appendices.”

(End of quote)

Fossil-fuel Vested Interests

The Cannabis plant absorbs carbon from the atmosphere and fixes it in the parts of the plant. The Cannabis plant harvests solar energy very effectively, and with a minimum of water, effectively converts solar energy into a form we can use for energy purposes in many different ways. This resource can be burnt, biogassed for methane, or pyrolyzed for the production of **carbon-neutral** liquid hydrocarbons.

Approximately 400 litres of cannabis methanol can be produced from a hectare of Cannabis per growing season, and 3 or 4 growing seasons can be achieved in hot sunny climates. Fuel is manufactured from the ‘hurds,’ the inner sections of the stalks of the plant, after the seed crop and the fibres occurring in the outer sections of the stems are removed. The seed crop can provide a feedstock for the manufacture of biodiesel, but it has a high nutritive and monetary value and would result in an expensive energy product.

The local production of fuel from Cannabis hurds is much easier and cheaper than the extraction and distribution of fossil fuels. In addition, if the seed crop on the hectare is considered as the ‘cash crop’, the costs of the processing of hurds into liquid fuel would be more than paid for by the money earned from the seed. The Cannabis fuel is thus FREE, and it is carbon neutral, of great benefit in these times of fossil-fuel induced climate change. In addition to the seeds’ crop value, which pays for the fuel crop, the fibers of the Cannabis plant can be sold for profit or processed into a multitude of products while also sequestering carbon from the atmosphere.

The State colludes with the fossil-fuel corporates to oppose the legalization of Cannabis because it will be difficult to enforce a ban on the home brewing of fuel for private use or commercial sale in order to extract the parasitic levy exerted by the State upon the need of citizens for fuel.

The State supports the existing use of polluting fossil-fuel sources and the corporations which profit therefrom, to the detriment of the environment and millions of its citizens who are thus confined to poverty or required to pay high prices for a finite, dwindling, elitist and polluting energy source. It also does this by criminalizing and incarcerating its own people under the guise of drug legislation to prevent them from having access to this resource. With regard to the prohibition of Cannabis, the State is the criminal, not the citizens who use, or aspire to use, the resource that is Cannabis.

For more detailed information on the energy and other industrial benefits of Cannabis, and the fossil-fuel/State collusion against it, refer to **Annexure 7, “The Cannabis Biomass Energy Equation”**, which is Part Two of: “THE REPORT. Cannabis: *The Facts, Human Rights and the Law*” by D’Oudney, K. and D’Oudney, J. published by SRC Publishing, ISBN No 978-1-902848-20-4.

Soya and Food-Marketing Vested Interests

Cannabis is easily grown with a minimum of water (Approx 300mm per growing season) and is not susceptible to plant diseases. Although animals including rodents and birds can damage crops, it does not harbor significant loads of insect pests, thus greatly reducing the need for pesticides.

The seed of Cannabis is a highly nutritional food source with all the necessary amino acids required for total human nutrition. In addition the oil is valuable as a health supplement and nutritive resource, and has omega 3, 6 and 9 fatty acids in perfect proportion for human mental and cardiovascular health.

The legalization of Cannabis would thus provide citizens with the most valuable and easy to grow food source on the Planet, which everyone could grow and they would not have to rely on the corporate soy-based profit-motivated food supply.

Soybean production would not be able to compete with Cannabis for the following reasons;

1. Soya is susceptible to numerous plant diseases, viruses and insect pests, requiring a large amount of pesticides.
2. It utilizes more water per growing season and produces less yield of biomass and seed per hectare than Cannabis.
3. its anti-trypsin factors require energy intensive processing to make it digestible.
4. it does not compete well against weeds.
5. in susceptible individuals it has an oestrogen-like effect which disrupts the hormonal balance of those who consume it regularly.

Numerous seed corporations, including Monsanto, have vested interests in the soy bean genome, with their 'Roundup-ready' glyphosate-resistant genetically modified soybeans. These products, and even the need for genetic manipulation in agriculture, would be supplanted by the legalization of Cannabis, which does not need gene manipulation to be successfully farmed.

Local production of Cannabis for local consumption of hempseed food products would render the entire corporate-controlled food chain uncompetitive with the new option, and greatly reduce the need for meat as a high quality protein option. People would be more able to consider vegetarianism through access to hempseed.

Alcohol and Tobacco Vested Interests

If Cannabis was legal and people could freely use it for recreation and relaxation, and as a preventive medication, they would be much less inclined to the consumption of alcohol and tobacco, and prescription medications, which are MUCH more addictive and damaging to health.

These industries would lose a large market with the legalization of Cannabis.

For information regarding the effect of Cannabis consumption on alcohol intake see **Cannabis as a Substitute for Alcohol** By Tod Mikuriya, MD, listing 20 in Annexure 16.

Logging Vested Interests

Legalization of Cannabis would render plantings of trees for paper pulp uncompetitive.

Quoted from Annexure 3, Herer: “The Emperor Wears No Clothes

In 1916, USDA Bulletin No. 404 reported that one acre of cannabis hemp, in annual rotation over a 20-year period, would produce as much pulp for paper as 4.1 acres of trees being cut down over the same 20-year period.

Thus, hemp provides **four times as much pulp with at least four to seven times less pollution.**

In the mid-1930s, when the new mechanical hemp fiber stripping machines and machines to conserve hemp’s high-cellulose pulp finally became state-of-the art, available and affordable, the enormous timber acreage and businesses of the Hearst Paper Manufacturing Division, Kimberly Clark (USA), St. Regis – and virtually all other timber, paper and large newspaper holding companies, stood to lose billions of dollars and perhaps go bankrupt.

Coincidentally, in 1937, DuPont had just patented processes for making plastics from oil and coal, as well as a new sulfate/sulfite process for making paper from wood pulp. According to DuPont’s own corporate records and historians,* these processes accounted for over 80 percent of all the company’s railroad car loadings over the next 60 years into the 1990s.

*Author’s research and communications with DuPont, 1985-1996.

If hemp had not been made illegal, 80% of DuPont’s business would never have materialized and the great majority of the pollution which has poisoned our Northwestern and Southeastern rivers would not have occurred.”

Biotech Vested Interests

Numerous seed corporations have vested interests in the soy bean genome, including Monsanto, with their genetically modified ‘Roundup-ready’ glyphosate-resistant soybeans.

Roundup Ready soy permits the spraying of glyphosate against weeds without harm to the crop itself.

These products would be supplanted by the legalization of Cannabis, which does not need gene manipulation or the glyphosate control of weeds to be successfully farmed.

Large scale weed control prior to the prohibition of Cannabis was achieved by including a smother crop in the annual crop rotation system of (very profitable) “...**hemp sown broadcast and thickly..**”

Quotation: MG Kains “Fives Acres and Independence “Chapter 34 ‘Weeds” pg 198
Dover publications

Corporate Money Interests or People’s Rights?

The following chart explains the characteristics of a “**People-centred Economy**” compared with our present “**Corporation-centred**” economic system. These differences also represent clear economic and social choices that we must make to create a just and sustainable economic order.

Competing Development Visions

Corporation Centered emphasizes	People Centered Emphasizes
Material Consumption	Quality of Life
Wants of those with money	Needs of Everyone
Economic Return to Firms/Capital	Economic Returns to households/ People
Market competition	Community Cooperation
A borderless & Unregulated Global Market economies favoring:	Interlinked and Locally Regulated Market Economies favoring:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production for Foreign Markets • Transnational Ownership • Local Specialization • International Dependence • Financial and Environmental Borrowing/Debt • Externalized Social and Environmental costs • Open competitive access to Basic Resources • Legally Protected Corporate Monopoly Control of Marketable Technology • Prohibition of Cannabis for the protection of vested interests 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Production for Local Markets • Local Ownership • Local Diversification • Self Reliance in Basic needs • Financial and Environmental Conservation/Saving • Internalized Social and Environmental Costs • Taxed and Regulated Removal of Basic Resources. • Assured Free Access to Information and Beneficial Technology. • Legalization of Cannabis for public benefit.

Conclusion

I reject the Corporation-Centered paradigm as described in the above chart and all legislation that promotes the corporate agenda of control for profit and the prohibition of Cannabis. I consider the legalization of Cannabis to be an essential step for the restoration of Human Rights and the establishment of a People-Centered economic paradigm.

For this reason, I shall always refuse to plead guilty to possession of Cannabis Dagga while always claiming my rights to possess it.

Jeremy Acton. 6 April 2011.