

NORML A SPECIAL REPORT

Washington, D.C.
March 10, 1975

A CALL FOR HELP

With the last issue of THE LEAFLET we asked for your help. To those of you who responded, our sincere thanks. To those of you who did not, please take a moment now to send what you can --- in any amount. Every dollar helps!

We've all been hurt by the country's flat economy. Yet so much that is encouraging has happened in the past few months that the marijuana issue has taken a fresh and urgent new meaning. We are truly at a real turning point in history, and must do what we can to push the marijuana reform effort through the Congress and the many state legislatures considering decriminalization bills this year.

It isn't going to be easy, but with your help and the help of each NORML member, we can seize this unprecedented opportunity to make a just and meaningful change. Please help us -- and yourself -- by sending what you can today! And ask a friend to help, too.

You can make the difference.

LEGISLATIVE OUTLOOK

1975 looks like the year for marijuana reform. And there is increasing public support. Recent surveys in Oregon, which in 1973 became the first state to change their law, have shown that decriminalization has not led to any increase in marijuana usage -- a fear expressed by opponents to change -- and a majority (58%) of the Oregonians say they like the new approach.

The marijuana laws are unjust, expensive and they just plain don't work. Other states and the U.S. Congress are watching the Oregon solution carefully.

Federal Legislation

Congress will have at least two different marijuana decriminalization bills to consider this session. The Javits-Koch bill, which embodies the recommendations of the National Commission on Marijuana and Drug Abuse, has been reintroduced in the House of Representatives (H.R. 561) by Congressman Edward Koch (D-N.Y.) and will soon be reintroduced in the Senate

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by Senator Jacob Javits (R-N.Y.). It calls for the removal of all penalties for the possession and not-for-profit transfers of small amounts of marijuana.

A second bill is being prepared for introduction and will replace criminal penalties with a civil fine for possession and not-for-profit transfers. The proposal will be based on the successful Oregon experience. There is now significant support for the "infraction concept", and the bill will be sponsored in both the Senate and House by a bipartisan coalition of lawmakers.

This session of Congress marks the first time the decriminalization of marijuana will receive widespread serious consideration. If enough public support can be demonstrated, many members of Congress will take action on the issue. But they will be carefully monitoring both the pulse of the public and of their constituents.

Please write to your U.S. Representative and to your two U.S. Senators and tell them you support these bills.

U.S. Representative
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

U.S. Senator
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

You can also send a special public interest telegram by calling: 800/257-2211. The cost is \$2.00 for up to 15 words, and is charged to your telephone bill.

State Legislation

At this writing, marijuana decriminalization legislation is pending or will soon be introduced in Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas and the state of Washington.

In California a bill to adopt a citation system with a maximum \$100.00 fine (S.B. 95) was recently approved by the State Senate Judiciary Committee, and is expected to become law this session.

LET YOUR STATE AND FEDERAL OFFICIALS KNOW YOU SUPPORT
MARIJUANA DECRIMINALIZATION TODAY!