

Some Americans will always use alcohol, tobacco, marijuana or other drugs. Most are not addicts, they are social drinkers or occasional users. Legal drugs would be inexpensive, so even addicts could support their habits with honest work, rather than by crime. Organized crime would be deprived of its profits. The police could return to protecting us from real criminals; and there would be room enough in existing prisons for them.

TRY PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

It's time to re-legalize drugs and let people take responsibility for themselves. Drug abuse is a tragedy and a sickness. Criminal laws only drive the problem underground and put money in the pockets of the criminal class. With drugs legal, compassionate people could do more to educate and rehabilitate drug users who seek help. Drugs should be legal. Voluntary, peaceful exchanges between adults are not the government's business. Individuals have the right to decide for themselves what to put in their bodies, so long as they take responsibility for their actions.

From the Governor of New Mexico, Gary Johnson, to conservative writer and TV personality, William F. Buckley, Jr., leading Americans are now calling for repeal of America's repressive and ineffective drug laws. **The Manhattan Libertarian Party** urges you to join in this effort to make our streets safer and our liberties more secure.

Libertarianism applies the **non-aggression (no force) principle** across all issues, including drug use, at all times. Being forced to prison as punishment for smoking marijuana is an outrage every bit as much as if you were forced to prison for drinking a beer, too.

stands up to the political establishment every day. We're running candidates, participating in forums, organizing protests and making our voices heard, even when what we have to say is unpopular.

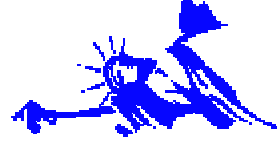
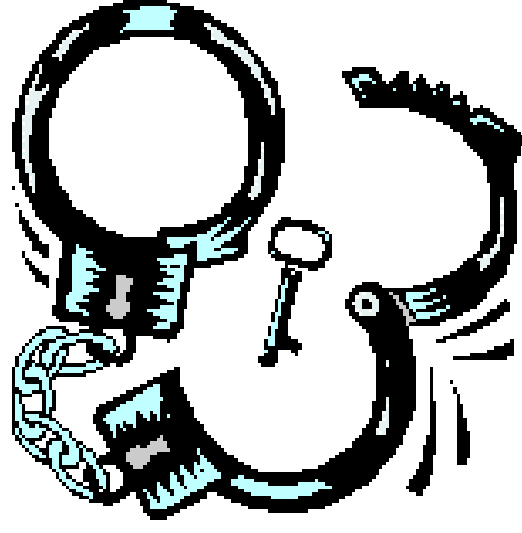
We invite you to join us.

THE

MANHATTAN LIBERTARIAN PARTY

ASKS:

Do Drug Users Belong in Prison?



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SHOULD WE RE-LEGALIZE DRUGS?

Libertarians, like most Americans, demand to be safe at home and on the streets. Libertarians would like all Americans to be healthy and free of drug dependence. But drug laws don't help, they make things worse.

The professional politicians scramble to make names for themselves as tough anti-drug warriors, while the experts agree that the "war on drugs" has been lost, and could never be won. The tragic victims of that war are your personal liberty and its companion, responsibility. It's time to consider the re-legalization of drugs.

THE LESSONS OF PROHIBITION

In the 1920's, alcohol was made illegal by Prohibition. The result: Organized Crime. Criminals jumped at the chance to supply the demand for liquor. The streets became battlegrounds. The criminals bought off law enforcement and judges. Adulterated booze blinded and killed people. Civil rights were trampled in the hopeless attempt to keep people from drinking. When the American people saw what Prohibition was doing to them, they supported its repeal. When they succeeded,

most states re-legalized liquor and the criminal gangs were out of the business.

The Manhattan Libertarian Party recognizes that today's war on drugs is a re-run of Prohibition. Approximately 40 million Americans are occasional, peaceful users of some illegal drug who are no threat to anyone. They are not going to stop. The laws don't, and can't, stop drug use.

GANGS PROFIT, CRIME RISES

Whenever there is a great demand for a product and government makes it illegal, a black market always appears to supply the demand. The price of the product rises dramatically and the opportunity for huge profits is obvious. Criminal gangs love the situation, making millions. They kill other drug dealers, along with innocent people caught in the crossfire, to protect their territory. They corrupt police and courts. Pushers sell adulterated dope and experimental drugs, causing injury and death. And because drugs are illegal, their victims have no recourse.

Half the cost of law enforcement and prisons is squandered on drug related crime. Of all drug users, a relative few are addicts who commit crimes daily to supply artificially expensive habits. They are the robbers, car thieves and burglars who make our homes and streets unsafe.

AN AMERICAN POLICE STATE

The only way to wage a war on drugs is to compromise civil liberties and privacy. We are all "suspects", subject to random urine tests, highway check points and spying into our personal finances and e-mails. Your

property can be seized without trial, if the police merely claim you got it with drug profits. Doing business with cash makes you a suspect. America is becoming a police state because of the war on drugs.

HIGHER TAXES

Over half of the arrests in the U.S. today are for non-violent drug offenses, and the cost in taxes is staggering. The cost to put a single drug dealer in jail can exceed \$450,000, composed of the following:

- * Arrest and conviction is about \$150,000.
- * An additional prison bed is about \$50,000 to \$150,000, depending upon the jurisdiction.
- * About \$30,000 per year to house a prisoner. With an average sentence of 5 years, that adds up to another \$150,000.

AMERICA CAN HANDLE LEGAL DRUGS

Today's illegal drugs were legal before 1914. Cocaine was even found in the original Coca-Cola recipe. Americans had few problems with cocaine, opium, heroin or marijuana. Drugs were inexpensive; crime was low. Most users handled their drug of choice and lived normal, productive lives. Addicts out of control were a tiny minority.

The first laws prohibiting drugs were racist in origin -- to prevent Chinese laborers from using opium and to prevent blacks and Hispanics from using cocaine and marijuana. That was unjust and unfair, just as it is unjust and unfair to make criminals of peaceful drug users today.