

December 18, 1989

Hon. George Crockett
House of Representatives
Washington DC 20510

Dear Representative Crockett,

I am certainly pleased to see you take an affirmative stand on the decriminalization of drugs. My thought on this is the same as yours--that this is the only solution.

The two top newspapers in this area, the St. Petersburg Times and the Tampa Tribune, both have had editorials in favor of the legalization of drugs. I am enclosing the editorial from the Times; the one in the Tribune appeared Dec. 10, and letters from readers responding to it are enclosed.

Also enclosed is an excerpt from a column by Ann Landers with a letter supporting this issue, quoting from a favorable editorial in the October issue of Progressive magazine. I wrote to Ann Landers on this topic after the appearance of the column she refers to, but she did not use my letter.

For your further information and supporting files, please consider this quotation from a recent article in the publication Free Market, citing the advantages of legalizing drugs;

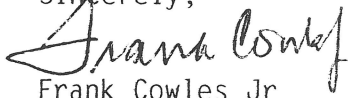
"It's hardly conceivable...that drug abuse [after legalization] would produce anything approaching the hundreds of thousands of deaths now caused by alcoholism and tobacco use. Moreover, legalized drugs would certainly be less lethal than black market drugs."

Legalization would bring many problems, it's true, but these could be solved and the country would be much better off, I am sure. Money saved from the futile "war" on drugs could be used to good advantage on an enlarged educational and rehabilitation program.

I will continue to send you items to help support your position, and hope to hear from you from time to time as to how your campaign is coming along.

Wishing you the best of luck, I am

Sincerely,


Frank Cowles Jr

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* Unable to copy; will send if available later.