

WHY WE ARE LOSING THE WAR ON DRUGS

* Narcotics prosecutions in the Federal Courts have gone up by 229 percent in the last decade. Narcotics prosecutions now make up 44 percent of all criminal (Federal) trials.

The New York Times - December 29, 1989

*The enormous profits made in drug trafficking are used to buy off law enforcement officials. In 1979, 115 federal officials were convicted of corruption. In 1988, 529 were convicted. Although not all of these were for drug corruption, the growing number speaks for itself.

The Sun-Sentinel - December 17, 1989

*Federal anti-drug money to states increased to 2.2 billion in 1990

USA Today - December 29, 1989

*PORTION OF FEDERAL DRUG-CONTROL BUDGET TO TREATMENT, EDUCATION AND PREVENTION IN 1979 - 56 percent

PORTION OF FEDERAL DRUG CONTROL BUDGET TO INTERDICTION, ERADICATION AND LAW ENFORCEMENT IN 1987 - 76 percent

COMMON CAUSE MAGAZINE - JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1990

*ON THE SAME NOTE, GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE INCREASE 4 TIMES FASTER THAN FOR EDUCATION AND 2 TIMES FASTER THAN FOR HEALTH CARE

WASHINGTON POST - SEPTEMBER 10, 1989

*BETWEEN 1980 AND 1987

- 1) PROSECUTIONS FOR DRUGS WERE UP 153 percent
- 2) CONVICTIONS WERE UP 161 PERCENT
- 3) JAIL SENTENCES WERE UP 177 PERCENT

BY 1987:

- 1) DRUG OFFENSES MADE UP 33 PERCENT OF ALL PROSECUTIONS BY US ATTORNEYS
- 2) 30 PERCENT OF ALL PERSONS CONVICTED IN US DISTRICT COURTS
- 3) 43 PERCENT OF ALL THOSE SENTENCED TO PRISON BY FEDERAL JUDGES

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THE NUMBER OF SUSPECTS INVESTIGATED FOR DRUGS INCREASED BY 138 PERCENT

BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS

*RESEARCH BY THE RESEARCH TRIANGLE INSTITUTE ESTIMATED THE ANNUAL COST OF DRUG ABUSE AT ALMOST 60 BILLION IN 1983. ACCORDING TO THE MOST CURRENT ESTIMATES, THE FIGURE ROSE TO ALMOST 100 BILLION IN 1986. (THIS INCLUDES COSTS SUCH AS LAW ENFORCEMENT, MEDICAL TREATMENT, LOST PRODUCTIVITY...)

The IRS ESTIMATES THAT THE UNDERGROUND ECONOMY GENERATED BY THE DRUG MARKET IS BETWEEN 25 and 30 BILLION A YEAR. IF THIS MARKET WAS TAXED AT THE GENERAL RATE OF 28 percent, THAT EQUALS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT LOSES OUT ON COLLECTING ALMOST 8 BILLION IN TAXES. STATES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS MISS OUT ON 3.1 BILLION.

A GOVERNMENT STUDY FROM 1984 ESTIMATED THE ANNUAL COST OF UNREALIZED PRODUCTIVITY DUE TO DRUG USE AT 33 BILLION

DRUG TRAFFICKING - A REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, AUGUST 3, 1989

*THE ADMINISTRATION IS ASKING FOR 10.6 BILLION FOR ANTI-DRUG FUNDING IN FY 1991 - UP FROM 9.48 BILLION IN FY 1990

NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL STRATEGY - JANUARY 1990

*NATIONWIDE IN 1986, 76,000 PERSONS WERE CONVICTED IN STATE COURTS FOR DRUG TRAFFICKING

BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS

*BETWEEN 54 and 82 PERCENT OF MEN ARRESTED FOR SERIOUS OFFENSES IN 14 MAJOR CITIES TESTED POSITIVE FOR THE USE OF ILLICIT DRUGS BETWEEN OCTOBER AND DECEMBER 1988 (69 PERCENT FOR DETROIT).

THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE DRUG FORECASTING PROGRAM

*DRUG LAW VIOLATORS CURRENTLY ACCOUNT FOR APPROXIMATELY 10 PERCENT OF THE ROUGHLY 550,000 IN STATE PRISONS AND MORE THAN ONE-THIRD OF THE ROUGHLY 50,000 INMATES IN FEDERAL PRISONS.

THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE'S BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS
ESTIMATED THAT 44 PERCENT OF THE 49,925 FEDERAL PRISONERS
INCARCERATED IN 1989 WERE CHARGED WITH DRUG VIOLATIONS