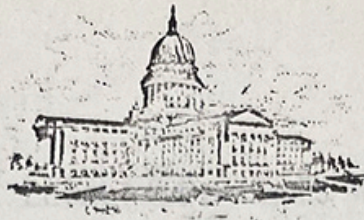


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**WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE**  
**ASSEMBLY CHAMBER**  
MADISON  
53702

REPRESENTATIVE  
Milwaukee County 6th District

CHAIRMAN:  
*Enrolled Bills*

MEMBER:  
*Jt. Committee on Finance*  
*Board on Government Operations*

STATEMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE LLOYD A. BARBEE  
TO  
POT DEMONSTRATORS  
STATE CAPITOL - SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 1972

I COMMEND YOU FOR AFFIRMATIVELY AND PUBLICLY TAKING THE INITIATIVE DEMONSTRATING YOUR BELIEFS. PETITIONING GOVERNMENT TO CEASE UNWARRANTED AND UNJUST INTRUSIONS INTO PRIVATE LIVES AND LIFESTYLES IS NECESSARY AND SOLUBRIOUS.

I SUPPORT LEGALIZATION OF THE SALE AND POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA FOR BOTH PRIVATE AND PUBLIC CONSUMPTION. THE STATE SHOULD NOT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST POT IN FAVOR OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES. PEOPLE WHO WISH TO BECOME INTOXICATED SHOULD BE FREE TO CHOOSE THEIR SUBSTANCE. INTOXICATED, HIGH OR STONED IS NOT A CRIME PER SE. MY FEELING IS THAT THE USE OF CRIMINAL SANCTIONS UNDER THE PRESENT WISCONSIN MARIJUANA LAWS IS UNWISE AND UN-NECESSARY ON ANY GROUNDS.

MY BELIEF IS THAT ALL DRUGS -- NOT JUST MARIJUANA -- SHOULD BE LEGALIZED. THE ONLY DESIREABLE ROLE OF THE STATE IN THIS FIELD IS TO SET STANDARDS AND REGULATE THE PURITY OF DRUGS. THE ONLY PROPER ROLE OF THE STATE IS TO PROTECT THE CONSUMER, NOT FROM HIMSELF -- THAT IS NONE OF THE STATE'S BUSINESS, BUT FROM UNSCRUPULOUS RACKETEERS AND DRUG PEDDLERS. BEYOND SEEING THAT THE CONSUMER HAS QUALITY DRUGS, UNADULTERATED AND UNCUT WITH EITHER HARMLESS OR HARMFUL SUBSTANCES, THE STATE HAS NO BUSINESS IN THIS AREA OF HUMAN BEHAVIOR

BECAUSE LIKE IT OR NOT, GOVERNMENT MUST RECOGNIZE THAT THE DRUG CULTURE, THE COUNTER CULTURE IN THIS COUNTRY IS HERE TO STAY. SUBSTANCES WHICH ARE NOW

ILLEGAL AND CONTROLLED SHOULD BE LEGALIZED. THIS WILL SERVE TWO PURPOSES:

- 1) ORGANIZED CRIME WILL LOSE A LUCRATIVE BUSINESS;
- 2) THE PUBLIC WILL BE FREED OF MANY MYTHS AND NOTIONS PROPAGATED ABOUT DRUG USE AND ABUSE.

WHILE I RECOGNIZE THAT IN ORDER TO COMPLETELY LEGALIZE SOME DRUGS THE UNITED STATES MUST RE-NEGOTIATE TREATIES DEALING WITH THESE SUBSTANCES -- OR BREAK THEM, THAT CERTAINLY HAS NOT STOPPED US IN THE PAST WHEN IT SERVED OUR INTERESTS -- JUST ASK A VIETNAMESE OR AN AMERICAN INDIAN.

END!