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C-Span

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400 N Capitol St NW Suite 650

Washington, DC 20001

Dear Brian, Susan, Bruce et al,

Despite the many plaudits that the C-Span interview and call-in shows regularly receive, I have major criticism that, to my own chagrin, renders most of your total programming as impotent befuddlement.

The public is not being informed about:

The amount of cash outflow for illegal drugs not added to the trade deficit. During John Kerry's hearings, more than a year ago, the convicted money-launderer, Rodriguez, testified that he himself laundered over a billion dollars a year! Assuming that he wasn't the only money-launderer, isn't it likely that the cash outflow was in a significant range; say over 10 billion dollars per year?

If drugs were decriminalized, and cocaine and heroin were purchased and refined by the government for clinically-monitored distribution, then they would cost no more than commonly inexpensive drugs like aspirin.

That portion of the real trade deficit, that is paying drug-lords and middlemen the profits of illegality, could be eliminated. This could be accomplished without political embarrassment; can you envision picketing in Washington by protest

groups representing the Narco-cartel's middlemen and managers? I can't imagine them chanting slogans of how legalization will 'destroy their industry and force them out onto the streets.'

Closer to the truth is: that the end of the cold war has shifted the selling of military equipment to Andean (cocaine) and Southeast-Asian (heroin) countries; and other heroin producing countries like Pakistan and Afghanistan. Those countries have narco-dollars and are controlled by their own military.

And the Narco-cartel countries inevitably will become much more militarily formidable; they'll also be likely to seek weapons of mass destruction in 'their' black market.

When are we going to see charts that tabulate the costs that are directly attributable to the prohibition policy?

E.g.: \$20 - \$80 billion cash outflow due to the artificial inflation of illegality; 75% of all law enforcement and prison costs - \$40 billion - that would become unnecessary; \$10 billion to treat and rehab crack-babies; billions in lost productivity - addicts that could be working, but are forced, instead, to spend what energy they have in conning, scamming, mugging, burglarizing, stealing cars, pimping, prostituting themselves and procuring drugs in the street; home and auto insurance costs; medical costs that would be averted under clinically monitored drug use; the secondary medical costs of AIDS - a directly attributable

result of street drugs; unrealized tax opportunities (new revenues) if marijuana were legalized; health benefits savings from the shift of alcohol and tobacco users to marijuana; etc., etc.

And, of course, tell us what that total might be. Is prohibition actually costing us \$100 billion per year? Is socialism and welfare for the Narco-cartel and the military-industrial complex costing us \$200 billion per year too much??

How would a rational effort at addiction containment increase employment in medical and socialwork services; and is this desirable job creation? Would treatment have a significant role in a national health plan?

The information vacuum and lack of answers is a carefully crafted and sinister conspiracy between the Military-industrial complex, Alcohol and Tobacco interests and the Narco-cartel. And together, of course, they wield huge clout in government. It's in their interests to keep harping on the unattainable goal of total abstinence which precludes, impedes and clouds public discussion about drug maintenance; moderation; treatment; decriminalization; medicalization; clinicalization; taxation.

It's incredible and regrettable that so many prominent people can't deduce what a mere lay-person like myself can.

Shame on you but thanks for your attention,

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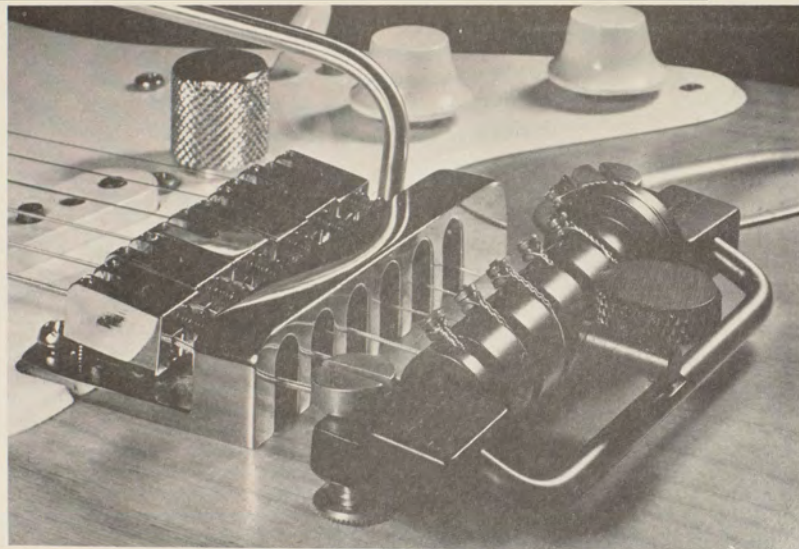
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