

December 24, 1993

Good day, to you at C-Span,

I caught something a coupla days ago, (12-20-93) between two ladies, on the morning call-in, and I think it got to the heart of, several things really, but more to the point, one, drugs.

The moderator was Susan (right name?) Swain (McSwain?), and the journalists were, Mona Charon (syndicated) and Dorothy Gilliam, of the Washington Post.

At one point, during the course of the dialogue, Charon made the statement that, "a large number of people now, do not take drugs, simply for the reason that they are illegal", (this isn't a direct quote, but, damn close), and later on, in rebuttal to one of Ms. Gilliams' comments concerning poor people and crime statistics said, "being poor doesn't mean you have to be a criminal, if you're raised right," (which I took to mean, the proper value system) "you won't be inclined to lawbreaking behavior".

Doesn't the "societal equivalency" of the second statement concerning poverty and the crime rate, negate the message of the former statement? If one is "raised right" as Ms. Charon suggests, what logic seals the doom of the "stoned and uncontrolled" masses, that follow the "legalization" of drugs?

(At this point, it is typical, at least to me, that the "media machine" lets its gears spin wildly, never touching upon the idea of decriminalizing, even some drugs, or even allowing Physicians the ability to prescribe, formerly controlled substances, when such a "need" has been demonstrated by their patient(s). Everybodies just "hooked" (ha, ha) on this legalization issue, like a big tuna)

It seems plain, to me, that the modern (1994?, whew..) society must come to a decision, on just exactly what is criminal about taking drugs for recreational purposes. Certainly, robbing and/or creating mayhem to "get your fix" is not acceptable in any situation, but simple analysis says that the majority of drug users, casual or otherwise, are law abiding, hard working citizens that cannot be "found out", except by an invasion of their bodies (judged on waste matter?), at the core of an inalienable right of privacy issue much deeper than Mr. Packwoods' journals. If the drugs are so incapacitating or, mind-altering, then indulgents would seem to be simple to identify and deal with, (like drunks) without the all-intrusive means of blood, or body waste analysis!

The only cost the President spoke of in his Public Statement after Surg. Gen. Elders remarks, is the cost of dealing with the all powerful insurance companies, that have made the molecular appearance of substances, within the body, the basis for the returning of funds and/or assistance through contract of the money that has been given them through the course of such insurance contracts. The most logical of which, to me, would be "breaks" on the necessary health system requirements on workers who were found to be drug users, through the investigation of accidents, etc. in the work place/environment, and then used only if the drugs were found to be a major, or compounding factor in the occurrence. As there would be no such thing, as a pre-employment drug screen, the employee would be judged, as they have always been judged, on performance, in relation to duties, comparison to co-workers/ability, and, personal quality of humanity. If everything is conspiratorial in nature, I would surmise the overall effect of the release of stress in a work place, void of such demeaning requirements, might be detrimental to the system-fed industries, currently booming through philosophy and employment opportunities, which itself is populated with Medical people or

other individuals, (professional and layman) who use and/or abuse drugs, just like "the man" said on the tube, "This drug thing, covers all societal and economic boundaries".

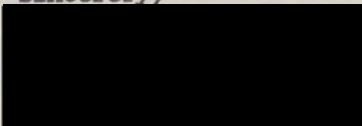
When the truth of the matter is, that there are X percentage of people out there, in the 20 year old category, who were physically conceived by people who were on drugs, and I don't just mean "toking a little joint somewhere", but, hard, in many cases, chemical drugs, and they know it, you kinda lose any position about scarring kids off, with the old "deformed babies" tactics of the sixties. More "crack" babies are messed up by the lack of nutrition, along with the over-indulgence of the drug by the mother, than just the introduction of cocaine during the course of gestation.

The Professional athletes, must bear some responsibility for the mixed messages being sent the youth of the country. These kids aren't stupid, and they know that these athletes, aren't stupid, but every time one of them is singled out for illegal drug use the kids realize that these people make their living, some very well paid livings, off of their bodies, and that if these big, strong, intelligent, (role model) figures, figure that they can take dope (for grins, or sex, in the case of ex-Mayor Berry in Washington), these same kids are gonna be more open to experimentation, when it comes around. Don't you think?

In the end, the war on drugs has been both profitable, and, a devastating failure. Failure surely on the issue of keeping drugs out of the hands of the "innocent", and profitable, considering the number of hospitals and programs set up in the last two decades to "help" those with a "serious substance abuse problem", and profitable for the police who admit that they cannot find the bank robbers, child molesters, and heinous evildoers by the thousands, but find it "easy pickins" busting kids at any Rock Concert for possession of a coupla joints, or worse yet, some horrid cocaine. No, we don't have to have a "wide open society", but we can be a little more honest in dealing with each other, and, honest in identifying the "real" problems facing us now and in the future.

The bottom line for Mona Charon, (and her ilk) is that if you are "raised right" you won't take drugs (or if you try it, you won't like it) and, you won't take after felonious hobbies. Where do Charlie Keating, Michael Milken, and Dan Rostenkowski, fit in?

Sincerely,



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