

THE RE-MINERALIZATION OF THE SOIL

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THE PLAN

THE REMINERALIZATION OF THE SOIL

\$100 Billion Dollars
\$50 Billion From The Federal Government
\$50 Billion From The States

If we choose to acknowledge the seriousness of this problem in regards to the overall health and productivity of the American people then we need to implement a proactive program which addresses and resolves this fundamental issue..

We need to recruit millions of people who are willing to help America reclaim our farmlands and start planting hundreds of millions of organic fruit bearing trees !

SUGGESTIONS

Today we have an alleged illegal immigration problem...As we are well aware we have millions of “illegal Aliens “ here in the USA doing the work which many Americans will not do..The fact is that these immigrants are natural farmers and have worked the land for aeons of time..descendents of the Maya and Aztec nations...They have a deep connection to the land..In light of this awareness,lets create guest worker permits and gainfully employ these guest workers in helping us achieve greater eco-agricultural sustainability...Also let us create an internal Conservation Corp. modeled on the Peace Corp. and enlist our young people for a minimum of 2 months voluntary service working in the community creating community gardens .planting trees and beautifying America... In addition let us employ inner city youth to participate and employ non-violent drug offenders to work side by side with other American youth and guest workers...

We envision a highly motivated and idealistic army of young people going out into the countryside and/or interacting with inner city kids to help build sustainable communities..These programs can be funded at the local state and federal levels...The economic, ecological and social benefits of these programs will be extraordinary!!!...Our young people are intelligent, idealistic and will be more than willing to lend their hands and ingenuity in helping to create a new and greener America...We envision an army of Bioneers numbering in the tens of millions...In addition we can hire the millions of Americans who have lost their jobs and professions because of Globalization..It is important to remember that the health and wealth of America is rooted in our soil and in community... I cannot think of a more empowering use of human resources..

REMINERALIZE ,INC

The Survival of Civilization

John Hamaker

The book *The Survival of Civilization* by John Hamaker and Don Weaver is regarded by a growing movement worldwide as a blueprint for the survival of the Earth, restoring ecological balance, and perhaps even recreating Eden.

The remineralization of forests, farms, orchards, and gardens with glacial gravel and rock dust is nature's way to regenerate and fertilize soils. During an Ice Age, as glaciers grind rock to a fine dust over millennia, a fertile soil is created. Adding finely ground gravel dust to soils is a tremendous boost to organic agriculture and can make it truly viable by adding up to a hundred elements and trace minerals needed by all life. Rock dust also nourishes the microorganisms in the soil, whose protoplasm is the basis of all living things.

There is evidence to suggest that as forests begin to die off worldwide, giving off carbon dioxide, the climate of the Earth is altered, triggering the transition from the warm interglacial to an Ice Age. We are hastening this process with the burning of fossil fuels. Undertaking the task of remineralization is urgent to restore our agricultural soils, to save the dying forests in the temperate latitudes, and to stabilize our climate.

Remineralization revitalizes soils by imitating natural processes and using materials that are a result of glaciation, volcanic eruptions, and alluvial deposits.

Benefits of Remineralization:

- Provides slow, natural release of elements and trace minerals...
- Increases the nutrient intake of plants Increases yields and gives higher brix reading...
- Rebalances soil pH Increases the growth of microorganisms and earthworm activity ...
- Builds humus complex...
- Prevents soil erosion...
- Increases the storage capacity of the soil...
- Increases resistance to insects, disease, frost, and drought...
- Produces more nutritious crops...
- Enhances flavor in crops...
- Decreases dependence on fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides...

THE POWER OF KELP TO RE-MINERALIZE THE SOIL

All Organic Farmers and Gardeners to discover...the miraculous power of Kelp. The American Kelp Corp. would like to help you to naturalize your lawn and garden with the natural organic power of Kelp. Kelp is one of nature's wonders. It contains natural nutrients, hormones, plant steroids and proteins. Department of Agriculture Scientific Research, University Tests, Field Studies and Commercial Organic Farmers demonstrate that Kelp fiber and extracts will help build a better soil base and grow stronger plants. Kelp slowly releases nutrients, up to two years Kelp improves soil texture, promotes natural flora and worms. Kelp contains large quantities of the natural growth hormones auxins, gibberellin and

cytokinin. Kelp promotes faster growth and germination. Kelp promotes the general health of the plant, including drought and frost resistance. Kelp is non-toxic and is an excellent tonic for plants. Kelp is a natural and safe replacement for chemical fertilizers. Kelp will not harm pets or children. Kelp is environmentally preferred. Kelp contains all known natural organic minerals, trace elements and vitamins. Kelp will increase the size of the root ball. Kelp will reduce transplant shock. Kelp will promote stronger stem and leaf growth. Kelp contains Mannitol, which enables plants to better absorb nutrients from the soil. Kelp stimulates beneficial soil bacteria that fix nitrogen and make it available to the plant. Kelp is free of foreign seeds and contamination. Kelp greatly reduces the need for additional fertilizers...up to 90% less. Kelp has algin, which will retain moisture and cut irrigation 20-80%, depending on soil texture.

Kelp studies at the Universities of Maryland and Clemson show an increase in plant resistance to fungi, molds, aphids, flea beetles, spider mites, and scabs. Kelp grown fruits and vegetables have a longer shelf life. Kelp adds humus to the soil. Kelp has natural organic antibiotics, bromophenol, tanning, phloroglucinol, and terpenoid, which fend off bacteria and viruses and repel some insects in the garden. Kelp improves soil fertility as nutrients and hormones are directly available to the plant.

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RESTORATIVE FARMING & THE REAL GREEN REVOLUTION

Kenny Ausubel

Agriculture as it is practiced by “agribusiness” today is the single most destructive human activity against the environment. If we do not redirect agriculture, we can forget preserving the earth. In addition, by the year 2000, just one percent of farms will grow fifty percent of our food. This centralization of agribusiness undermines global food security and national sovereignty. What do we do?

What would a positive scenario of global agriculture look like? The practices for ecological agriculture are already present. Systems such as permaculture, bio-intensive, biodynamic and many indigenous methods are capable of producing yields comparable or actually higher than chemical agriculture while restoring the soil, water and land. These systems are knowledge-intensive rather than technology-intensive, meaning that they also create jobs. Creating jobs is an essential component of any healthy future economy, and food is the biggest business in the world. In just the last ten years, over 2,000 farmers markets have sprung up across the U.S. They indicate the desire of the public to have direct access to fresh health food, as well as a direct connection to farmers and the soil.

Similarly, Community-Supported Agriculture projects (CSA's) are already spreading rapidly as citizens come together to contract with a farmer for fresh produce over a season. These budding community institutions underscore the need to decentralize agriculture and produce much more food locally for community food self-reliance. While access to markets and a cash economy are important as well, community food security is equally important. We will also be reexamining what crops we grow, both from the point of view of nutrition and the health of the soil. As current trends indicate, people are enthusiastic about “new” varieties of foods, which are mainly the rich heritage of heirloom vegetables and fruits that people have cultivated and passed down through countless generations.

Most of these also contain a higher nutritional value as well as delicious flavors that are now inspiring respected chefs to highlight them in great recipes and meals. Meanwhile, brilliant farmers and gardeners have been documenting which crops are more or less impactful on the soil, and we will increasingly see these ecological and nutritional considerations in our future farming. Human beings face one of the greatest challenges ever. How do we learn to feed ourselves while living lightly on the land? The future, already in the making today, is a restorative agriculture which restores the soil, water, nutrition, community, jobs and economy. Restorative farming also restores the human spirit in harmony with the natural world. What a great adventure we are undertaking.

Kenny Ausubel, is the author of *Seeds of Change - The Living Treasure: The Passionate Story of the Growing Movement to Restore Biodiversity and Revolutionize the Way We Think About Food* (Harper San Francisco, 1994).

His next book on the Bioneers will be out in Spring, 1997. (Reprint, *The GreenMoney Journal*, West 608 Glass Avenue, Spokane, WA 99205. (509) 328- 1741. Summer, 1996 edition)

THE TRUTH ABOUT HEMP

Linda Clark, Ukiah Daily

“It’s just a matter of a few years. I think it’s insane that it’s illegal,” Schaeffer said. “And that America is the only country that’s backward enough to equate hemp with marijuana.”

Pubdate: Tue, 16 Nov 1999 It is legal in 29 countries, and China has been growing it for at least 6,000 years. It is said to be more versatile than the soybean, the cotton plant and the Douglas fir combined. And, “it grows like Jack’s beanstalk with minimal tending,” John W. Roulac, author of “Hemp Horizons” said.

Hemp won’t get you high like its look-alike marijuana, and it has been used to make paper, clothing, ropes, and even our first American flag, according to Patty Joslyn, owner of Grace’s clothing store in Ukiah.

So why aren’t California farmers growing it? Because, according to Roulac, anyone cultivating hemp risks criminal prosecution. “The legislators who originally crafted federal anti-marijuana laws never intended to restrict hemp, but regulatory practice blurred the distinction between hemp and marijuana,” he said.

“Hemp growers and processors faced overwhelming red tape, heavy taxes, and the threat of arrest; in essence, the industry was criminalized and it therefore declined precipitously.

“This state of affairs could be reversed - with no need to legalize marijuana - if the distinction based on scientifically measurable THC content were upheld in the enforcement of existing laws,” Roulac noted.

He added that industrial hemp contains less than 1 percent of THC and anyone who might smoke it “would get a headache rather than a high, due to its high cannabidiol (CBD) and low THC content.”

Though perhaps behind the times, it appears that the California Assembly may be catching on to the reality that hemp is not the same as marijuana. Recently, it passed a resolution that endorsed the legalization of industrial hemp. Virginia Strom-Martin, (D-Ducan Mills), introduced the resolution.

“Industrial hemp is not marijuana, but rather a non-intoxicating plant that has been cultivated and used in a multitude of ways around the world for millennia,” Strom-Martin said.

“Prohibiting California farmers from growing this potentially highly profitable crop makes about as much botanical sense as prohibiting gardeners from growing poppies because one variety is the source of opium,” she added.

Joseph W. Hickey Sr., executive director of the Kentucky Hemp Growers Cooperative Association agreed. “Calling hemp and marijuana the same thing is like calling a rottweiler a poodle. They may both be dogs but they just aren’t the same thing.”

Local hemp-product retailers like it too, for a variety of reasons. Joslyn, who carries hemp clothing in her store said she thinks of it as a “glorified linen. It doesn’t wrinkle, it holds up, and it just makes sense for the environment.”

She said the only problem with hemp clothing is the price., "Prices are higher because we can't grow it here. It's all imported. If we grew it here it would become like a cotton product and keep farmers in business."

About 20 percent of the clothes in her store are made from hemp or hemp blends, which appeal not only to the environmentally conscious, but to all types and ages, she said.

"A lot of the younger people like it because it's a cool thing. And the people who make themselves familiar with it begin to purchase it for environmental reasons and durability," Joslyn said. "And for its beauty."

But all beauty aside, in the mid-western states, farmers are extremely interested in hemp. "Family farms are going bankrupt faster than ever before because agribusiness is taking over," said John Schaeffer, president of Real Goods Trading Corporation.

"Hemp gives them an alternative crop that saves them money because it doesn't need any chemicals to grow it."

Schaeffer said in places like Germany and Canada, hemp is being used "more and more now" in the auto industry for interior parts. "Fiber glass, door panels, carpet and dashboards can all be replaced with hemp," he said.

He noted that hemp is "cheaper, recyclable, weighs less, is non-toxic and is much more energy efficient." Schaeffer said they sell hemp products at Real Goods retail stores, including the one in Hopland, because they want to support the industry.

"It's replacing hydrocarbons, which are polluting the atmosphere, with carbohydrates, which support family farming," he said.

According to Roulac, "China was the first region in the world to cultivate and use hemp. The plant was used for making rope and fishnets as early as 4500 B.C." And today, he said, they are still "the world's largest consumer and exporter of hemp seed, paper, and textiles."

As for the United States, there have been no permits given to grow hemp since the 1950s, Roulac said. But in time that will change, according to Schaeffer.

"It's just a matter of a few years. I think it's insane that it's illegal," Schaeffer said. "And that America is the only country that's backward enough to equate hemp with marijuana." LEGALIZE IT

Ted Williams, Audubon Magazine . Never has there been a federal statute outlawing the cultivation of hemp, just the DEA's insistence that hemp is an illegal drug. Law-enforcement officials in other countries harbor no such fantasies.

Pubdate: Nov.-Dec. 1999 Cannabis sativa is a low-maintenance crop that can be used in paper, clothing, rope - even cars. So why, when it's grown in 32 other countries, is hemp still illegal in the United States?

I confess that I am a user of hemp. For example, I have just quaffed a Hempen Ale and a Hempen Gold beer, shipped to me by Frederick Brewing Company of Frederick, Maryland. Both beverages are brewed with the seeds of hemp - *Cannabis sativa* - a plant native to central Asia and grown all over the world as various selected strains, some of which are known as marijuana. I'm feeling a faint buzz, but only from the alcohol.

Neither brew contains any of the narcotic delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), which makes pot so popular. In fact, recent tests by the Pentagon invalidate what it calls the "Hempen Ale defense" by showing the ale to be THC-free. So military personnel can no longer claim it as the source of the THC that shows up in their urine. But some hemp products do contain trace amounts of THC - as intoxicating as, say, the opiates you get from a poppy-seed bagel - so to make sure it knows where the THC is coming from, the Air Force has banned all foods and beverages made with hemp. Somehow the news didn't make it to the Commander in Chief, who, less than a month later, on February 15, 1999, allowed Hempen Gold to be served on Air Force One. According to one reporter, the President "tasted but didn't swallow."

After I finished ingesting hemp I slathered it on my hair - in the form of a shampoo made with hempseed oil, which, according to its producer, Alterna Applied Research Laboratories of Beverly Hills, California, restores dry and damaged (but unfortunately not missing) hair. While perky hair is not something I normally seek, the hair I have left definitely feels that way.

What I have just indulged in - at least according to Glenn Levant, the nation's best-funded and most heeded marijuana educator - is an internal-external marijuana orgy. Levant is president and founder of Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE), a 16-year-old program taught by local police in 75 percent of the nation's schools. "Hemp is marijuana," he informed me, ending the interview when I cited sources that prove otherwise. Last year Levant was outraged to see Alterna's hemp-leaf logo on shampoo ads at bus stops around southern California, and he mounted a successful crusade to get them removed. "My big objection is that public property was being used to promote an illegal substance," he told the Los Angeles Times. "The shampoo is a subterfuge to promote marijuana." On July 1, 1999, he paid Alterna an undisclosed sum to settle a lawsuit it had filed against him for making what it called "false and malicious public comments" about its product and motives.

Hemp and marijuana can cross-pollinate, but if one is the other, then a Pekinese is a Doberman pinscher. Plant a hemp seed, and no substance or force on earth can turn it into marijuana. If you smoke hemp, it will give you only a headache. This is because it doesn't contain enough THC to affect your brain. And, unlike marijuana, it is high in cannabidiol - an antipsychoactive compound that inhibits THC. Because of this, says David West, a plant breeder hired by the University of Hawaii to grow an experimental plot of hemp under special permit from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), hemp "could be called antimarijuana."

Hemp products are not illegal. In fact, the U.S. hemp-products industry does about \$125 million in retail sales a year. Not only is hemp harmless, it has enormous versatility. Added to worthless fibers that are currently burned - such as straw from oats, rice, and wheat - hemp can produce superb paper and construction materials lighter and stronger than lumber. American cropland, 85 percent of which is stuck on a soil-depleting, chemical-dependent treadmill of corn, wheat, and soybean production, could be released and renewed if hemp were used as a rotation crop. In England and Hungary, hemp grown in

rotation with wheat hiked the wheat harvest 20 percent. Hemp seeds, better tasting and more digestible than soy, could be rendered into hundreds of foods, thereby taking pressure off America's bottomland hardwood forests, which are being replaced with soybean plantations.

Hemp fibers can be woven into cloth more durable than and as comfortable as cotton. Cotton is much more difficult to grow; it's addicted to chemical elixirs, requiring massive fixes of artificial fertilizers, insecticides, and herbicides. And when cotton ripens, the leaves have to be knocked off with defoliants before the bolls can be harvested. Hemp, which outcompetes weeds, requires no herbicides. In one study, hemp grown in rotation with soybeans knocked down cyst nematodes by more than half.

Hemp paper is naturally bright, but wood-based paper pulp turns brown during the cooking process. The pulp is then bleached with chlorine, which, when released into the environment, produces dioxin and other nasty poisons. And if American farmers were allowed to grow hemp - which produces twice as much fiber per acre as an average forest - the nation could reduce nonsustainable logging, and the carbon tied up in the living timber would remain there instead of contributing to global warming.

Practically anything we make from a polluting, nonrenewable hydrocarbon like oil or coal can be made from a relatively clean, renewable carbohydrate like hemp. Henry Ford used to preach this in the 1940s. "Why use up the forests, which were centuries in the making, and the mines, which required ages to lay down, if we can get the equivalent of forests and mineral products in the annual growth of the fields?" he asked. Ford, who had a vision of "growing automobiles from the soil," even produced a demonstration model with body parts partially made with hemp.

So it should come as no surprise that hemp has enormous appeal to those committed to the protection and restoration of the planet. Three years ago Andy Kerr (called Oregon's "leading environmentalist" by the New York City newspaper *The Village Voice*) helped set up the North American Industrial Hemp Council (NAIHC) - an alliance of farmers, scientists, industrialists, and environmentalists whose mission is the decriminalization of hemp. Members who even associate with advocates of marijuana decriminalization are summarily dismissed. And no one can call the directors potheads: Two are consultants for International Paper; one heads the board of a research corporation chartered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture; and the chair is in charge of agricultural development and diversification for the state of Wisconsin.

When Kerr was running the Oregon Natural Resources Council and agitating for old-growth forests, the loggers kept getting in his face and shouting: "What are you going to wipe your ass with?" "What they meant," he says a bit more delicately, "was: 'With what are you going to wipe your ass?' It's a legitimate question. So I kept searching for alternatives to wood and kept coming back to hemp. 'God,' I said, 'because of its association with marijuana, we don't need this. There's got to be a better fiber.' Well, there isn't."

This kind of hemp advocacy isn't all that new. Our first hemp law, enacted in Virginia, made it illegal for farmers not to grow the stuff. That was in 1619. The same law took effect in Massachusetts in 1631, Connecticut in 1632, and the Chesapeake Colonies in the mid-1700s, at which time hemp was the world's leading crop. The Declaration of Independence and the Constitution were drafted on hempen paper. During the Revolutionary War, *Old Ironsides*, our most formidable battleship, carried 60 tons of hempen sail and rope. Betsy Ross made the first American flag out of hempen "canvas," a word derived from cannabis. "Make the most of hempseed and sow it everywhere," declared George

Washington in 1794.

Never has there been a federal statute outlawing the cultivation of hemp, just the DEA's insistence that hemp is an illegal drug. Law enforcement officials in other countries harbor no such fantasies. Hemp is lawfully grown in 32 nations, and in the European Union it's a subsidized crop. It is not practical to distill hemp's THC or separate it from the cannabidiol that neutralizes it, but Americans are so afraid of hemp that they even want to prevent people from wearing it.

Consider the case of Angela Guilford, who sells hempen products in Hoover, Alabama, and who aroused the suspicions of the community by carrying Grateful Dead memorabilia. On June 24, 1997, when she was eight months pregnant, police raided her shop, seizing 168 items and charging her and her husband, Jeff Russell, with "felony marijuana trafficking." Facing mandatory minimum jail terms of three years, the couple spent a stressful, suspenseful summer. But in late September charges were dropped when lab work failed to turn up THC in any of the shirts, bags, or jewelry.

Why such paranoia? There's no smoking bong, but hemp may be the victim of a conspiracy by special interests that stood to lose billions in the 1930s, when hemp-fiber-stripping machines came on line. Among the suspects: DuPont, which had just patented a process for making plastics from oil and a more efficient process for making paper; Hearst newspapers, which owned vast timberlands; and Andrew Mellon, an oil and timber baron as well as partner and president of the Mellon Bank of Pittsburgh, DuPont's chief financial backer.

In 1930, nine years after President Warren Harding made him treasury secretary, Mellon created the Federal Bureau of Narcotics (the DEA's precursor) and ensconced Harry Anslinger, the future husband of his niece, as its commissioner. Anslinger charged out after hemp, which he and the Hearst papers defined as a drug, using it interchangeably with the more sinister and less familiar term marihuana (later spelled "marijuana"). Anslinger and Hearst whipped each other, the public, and Congress to prohibitionist frenzy.

Anslinger testified before the U.S. Senate that no less an authority than Homer had revealed that the plant "made men forget their homes and turned them into swine" and that a single joint could induce "homicidal mania" sufficient to cause a man "probably to kill his brother." The Hearst papers claimed that under the influence of marihuana, "Negroes" transmogrified into crazed animals, playing anti-white, "voodoo satanic" music (jazz) and committing such crimes as stepping on white men's shadows. The hype created an insatiable market for low-budget movies like *Marihuana: Weed With Roots in Hell*, posters for which featured a rendering of a man thrusting a hypodermic needle into a woman in a low-cut dress and which promised: "Weird orgies. Daring drug expose! Horror. Shame. Despair. Wild Parties. Unleashed Passions! Lust. Crime. Hate. Misery."

Emerging from the hoopla was the Marijuana Tax Act of 1937, which made no chemical distinction between hemp and marijuana. It was all "cannabis," but the smokeable parts - the leaves and flowers - were taxed at \$100 an ounce, effectively outlawing them. Had marijuana been the real target, Anslinger would have dispatched his agents to the border of New Mexico, where the drug was coming in. Instead, he unleashed them on the newly expanded hemp fields of Minnesota and Illinois, swaddling farmers in red tape, busting them if a leaf remained on a stalk, running them out of business.

Only five years later hemp farmers got a reprieve when Japan seized the Philippines, cutting off

America's supply of "Manila hemp" - not true hemp but an excellent fiber for rope, boots, uniforms, and parachute cording. Now the Feds executed a crisp about-face, encouraging Americans to be patriotic and grow "hemp." (No longer did they call it "marijuana, except on the "Producer of Marijuana" permits they issued farmers.) The Department of Agriculture even produced a promotional film entitled Hemp for Victory, featuring footage of workers harvesting pre-Anslinger hemp in Kentucky to a maudlin rendition of My Old Kentucky Home. With no change in federal law, some 400,000 acres were planted to hemp, the stalks of which were processed by 42 hemp mills built by the War Hemp Industries Corporation. After the war, with the synthetic fiber industry booming, Anslinger resumed his witch-hunt virtually unopposed.

Now he dropped the allegation that hemp/marijuana inspired violent crimes and asserted instead that it left its victims so entranced and pacifistic that they could be easily converted to communism. America's last hemp field was planted in Wisconsin in 1957.

More recently the problem has been a succession of rigid, frontal-assault "drug czars," such as General Barry McCaffrey, director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, who appears to have learned everything he knows about hemp from Anslinger. Two years ago, when the Forest Service's lab in Madison, Wisconsin, published a marketing analysis demonstrating not only that hemp could be profitable for farmers but also that the state's entire demand for chlorine-bleached, wood-based writing paper could be met with hemp, the government had it withdrawn. The crusade to bring hemp back, McCaffrey charges, is "a thinly disguised attempt to legalize the production of pot." Moreover, "legalizing hemp production would send a confusing message to our youth concerning marijuana." But the only confusing messages about hemp issue from McCaffrey's office, the DEA, and their private-sector drug-war constituency.

Because McCaffrey is the voice of the Clinton administration, the DEA parrots him. The effort to decriminalize hemp is "no more than a shallow ruse being advanced by those who seek to legalize marijuana," proclaims Philip Perry, special agent in charge of the DEA's Rocky Mountain Division. The DEA and the drug czar maintain that American law enforcement agents can't tell the difference between marijuana and hemp; but the Mounties, the Gendarmes, the Bobbies, and the police of 29 other nations have no trouble at all.

A Keystone Cop, boots in the air and helmet in the mud, could tell the difference. Hemp, grown for stalks, is the spindly stuff that towers over your head; marijuana, grown for flowers, is the bushy stuff down below your knees. The drug czar and the DEA claim that pot producers will use hemp fields to hide their illicit crops; but if they do, their marijuana will be ruined. Cannabis is one of the most prolific pollen producers of all cultivated plants, and if the high-THC variety is planted within seven and a half miles of a hemp field, the hemp pollen will render the next generation of marijuana less potent. "Hemp is nature's own marijuana eradication system," declares James Woolsey, director of the CIA under President George Bush and now a lobbyist for the NAIHC.

If the war on drugs were really about reducing supply, drug controllers would be promoting hemp. But the war has taken on a life of its own, become an industry unto itself. For example, Congress gives the DEA half a billion dollars a year to eradicate marijuana. But according to the DEA's own figures, 98 percent of the "marijuana" eradicated by its agents or the police departments and National Guard units it hires is hemp-the harmless, feral stuff that escaped during Hemp for Victory days. "Ditchweed," it's called. That's the "marijuana" you see getting burned in all the photos.

If you're caught with ditchweed, you're in big trouble, as Vernon McElroy, 50, discovered in 1991 when he got convicted for possessing 10.9 pounds that he says a friend had picked and given him as a joke. Now he's doing life without parole at the overcrowded maximum-security penitentiary in Springville, Alabama. In Oklahoma, ditchweed is even sprayed with herbicides from helicopters. And last year Congress authorized \$23 million for research into a soil-borne fungus that attacks and kills marijuana, poppy, and coca plants. Mike DeWine (R-OH) calls it a "silver bullet" in the war on drugs, but David Struhs, secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, calls it a threat to the "natural environment."

The only parties affected by ditchweed eradication are future hemp farmers and birds. Ditchweed, warns hemp researcher David West, "represents the only germ plasm remaining from the hemp bred over decades in this country to achieve high yields and other important performance characteristics." And while hemp is alien to the continent, wild birds have come to depend on it as a major food source. So relished is hempseed by birds, in fact, that it is sterilized and sold as commercial bird food. As Vermont state representative Fred Maslack puts it, the DEA and its pork-addicted drug-war contractors "would be better off pulling up goldenrod."

Consider also the self-perpetuation of hemp's facts-be damned enemy - DARE. That DARE is recognized as a failure in reducing drug use among adolescents is not a consideration in the high-finance drug-war business. Virtually every study ever undertaken reveals that DARE graduates are about as likely to abuse drugs as kids who don't go through the program. Such were the results of a two-year, \$300,000 analysis by the Research Triangle Institute of Durham, North Carolina, of eight studies involving 9,500 DARE students in 200 schools. The Justice Department had commissioned the analysis, but after intense lobbying by DARE, the agency vainly invited the authors to "re-examine" their conclusions, then declined to publish the full report, claiming it was bowing to "concerns" of peer reviewers. Despite its known ineffectiveness, DARE thrives because every year it gets about \$212 million in government grants and private donations (mostly the latter), which it ladles out to ravenous communities. Millions more are donated by businesses and police departments directly to local DARE programs.

Anti-hemp brainwashing by DARE works better on parents and school bureaucrats than on kids. In 1996 Donna Cockrel invited hemp activist and Hollywood actor Woody Harrelson to talk to her fifth graders in Simpsonville, Kentucky. While Harrelson also advocates the legalization of medicinal marijuana, he spoke only about hemp's history and potential. Immediately Cockrel came under attack by the local DARE officer, who sounded the alarm to school officials and television audiences, proclaiming that hemp and marijuana were the same thing. Parents were apoplectic. Cockrel - with past awards for excellence and called a "dynamo" by The New York Times - was given an unsatisfactory performance report, investigated by the state professional standards board (which dismissed the complaint), then fired. "I believe that all children should say no to drugs," she says. "But I want them to say yes to the truth."

Lately America's war on hemp seems to be flagging under a counterattack of reason. Legislation to effect or encourage hemp's declassification as an illegal drug has been introduced or attempted in Colorado, Hawaii, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, Tennessee, Vermont, and Virginia. Last March, under growing political pressure, McCaffrey made the first conciliatory noise to The New York Times about maybe "working" with hemp advocates.

But on August 9 the DEA seized a Kenex trailer bringing in 40,000 pounds of hemp birdseed from Canada, alleging it was a “Schedule 1 narcotic.” Seventeen other loads of hemp products, including granola bars and horse bedding, were recalled. After Kenex was threatened with a \$500,000 fine, president Jean Laprise commented: “It seems the DEA could be spending drug-war money in better ways than chasing after birdseed and horse bedding.” Now McCaffrey is saying hemp can’t be grown economically.

It struck me as odd that the responsibilities of the drug czar have been extended to protecting American agriculture from its own bad business decisions, so I contacted a farmer, one David Monson, who works 1,050 acres in Osnabrock, North Dakota, and who says he and his neighbors aren’t even breaking even on corn, wheat, and soybeans. “All the fungicides, herbicides, and insecticides we have to use are pushing the cost out of sight,” he told me. “The bottom line is that we need to find some alternative crops that we can make money on.” Monson has been forced to work at other jobs—such as insurance underwriter and state representative, in which capacity he introduced the nation’s first bill to decriminalize the cultivation of hemp, signed by the governor last April.

Monson, a Republican, also serves as superintendent of schools for the nearby community of Edinburg. Drug abuse isn’t much of a problem in northern North Dakota, but Monson works to discourage what little there may be by arranging seminars for students and training for teachers. And despite the drug czar’s and the DEA’s pronouncements, the people of North Dakota somehow remain unconvinced that he’s trying to legalize pot.

While hemp could make things lots easier for this tired old planet and the farmers who till its soil, no one in North Dakota will be growing it anytime soon, because anyone in that state or elsewhere who plants the seeds will get busted by the DEA. Monson doesn’t think that’s fair, especially when hemp farmers 20 miles away in Manitoba are legally making \$250 an acre. But until the Feds recognize hemp for what it is (a versatile crop) instead of what it isn’t (an illegal drug), McCaffrey will have it right when he warns that it’s not economical to grow.

Factoid: A crop of hemp, one study shows, could bring a return of \$319 per acre, compared with \$135 for white corn.

GLOBAL HEMP RESOURCES

American Hemp Mercantile 506 2nd Ave., Suite 1323 Seattle, WA 98104 (206) 3400124	Dharma Hemp 3746 N. College Avenue Indianapolis, IN 46205 (317) 9268255	Hemp Textiles 3200 30th Street Bellingham, WA 98225 (206) 6501684	One Whorled 1417 E. Spring Seattle, WA 98112 (206) 7261124
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Alternative Certified Growers, Inc., 5115 5th Street, Rainbow, CA 92028
Arizona Dept. of Agriculture, 1688 W. Adams Street, Phoenix, AZ 85007-2617
Biodynamic Farming & Gardening, P.O. Box 550, Kimberton, PA 19422
California Certified Organic Farmers, 1115 Mission Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060-3526
California Organic Crop Improvement Association, P.O. Box 200, Ballico, CA 95303
CO Dept. of Agriculture, Div. of Plant Industry, 700 Kipling St., Ste. 400, Lakewood, CO 80215
Demeter Association, Inc., Britt Road, Aurora, NY 13026
Farm Verified Organic, Inc., RR 1, Box 40A, Medina, ND 58467
Georgia Organic Growers Assn., P.O. Box 567661, Atlanta, GA 31156
Idaho Dept. of Agriculture, P.O. Box 790, Boise, ID 83701
Illinois Organic Crop Improvement, RR 1, Box 160, San Jose, IL 62682
Maine Organic Farmers & Gardeners, P.O. Box 2176, Augusta, ME 04338
Maryland Dept. of Agriculture, 50 Harry S. Truman Pkwy., Annapolis, MD 21401
Minnesota Organic Crop Improvement Association, Rt. 1, Box 203B, Mazeppa, MN 55956
Mountain State Organic Growers and Buyers Assn., P.O. Box 642, Morgantown, WV 26507
New Hampshire Dept. of Agriculture, 10 Ferry St., Caller Box 2042, Concord, NH 03002
New Mexico Organic Commodity Commission, 118 Amherst Dr., NE, Albuquerque, NM 87106
Northeast Organic Farming Assn., P.O. Box 21, South Butler, NY 13154-0021
Northeast Organic Farming Assn., 449 Ward St. Extension, Wallingford, CT 06492
Northeast Organic Farming Assn., 411 Sheldon Road, Barre, MA 01005
Northeast Organic Farming Assn., 31 Titus Mill Road, Pennington, NJ 08534
Northeast Organic Farming Assn., 472 Monkey Run Road, Port Crane, NY 13833
Northeast Organic Farming Assn., 34 Allen Avenue, Wakefield, RI 02879
Northeast Organic Farming Assn., P.O. Box 697, Richmond, VT 05477-0697
Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association, 65 Plymouth St., Plymouth, OH 44865
Oregon Tilth Certified Organic, P.O. Box 218, Tualatin, OR 97062
Organic Certification Assn. of MN, 36124 County 45 Blvd., Lake City, MN 55041
Organic Certification Assn. of MT, P.O. Box 7414, Missoula, MT 59807
Organic Crop Improvement Assn., 3185 Township Road 179, Bellefontaine, OH 43311
Organic Growers & Buyers Assn., 7362 University Ave., NE, #208, Minneapolis, MN 55432
Organic Growers of Michigan, 7924 Center Highway, Traverse City, MI 49864
Quality Assurance International, 12526 High Bluff Drive, Ste. 300, San Diego, CA 92130
Scientific Certif. Systems, Nutriclean Organic, 1 Kaiser Plaza, #101, Oakland, CA 94612-3601
Tennessee Land Stewardship Assn., P.O. Box 328, Bell Buckle, TN 37020
Texas Dept. of Agriculture, P.O. Box 12847, Austin, TX 78711
U.S. Assurance Laboratories, 4150 Colfax Avenue N., Minneapolis, MN 55412-1723
Washington Dept. of Agriculture, P.O. Box 42576, Olympia, WA 98504
Wisconsin Natural Food Assoc., 1102 S. 89th Street, West Allis, WI 53214

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