

# NEWS RELEASE

1-800  
4242721

## CLARK PRESIDENT

2300 Wisconsin Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20007  
(202) 333-8263

Chairman  
RAY CUNNINGHAM

Treasurer  
JULE R. HERBERT, JR.

RELEASE: October 10, 1980  
CONTACT: Tom Palmer (202) 333-8263  
Michael W. Kessler (518) 272-4320 [O]  
(518) 371-1718 [H]

### CLARK CALLS FOR ABOLITION OF DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION: LEGALIZATION OF MARIJUANA

Libertarian Presidential Candidate Ed Clark today called for legalization of marijuana and the abolition of the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). In a six page issue statement released from his Washington Headquarters, Clark said "The Federal Government Drug Enforcement Administration alone, spends more than \$800 Million per year enforcing drug prohibition" and cited recent estimates by the American Bar Association that nearly fifty percent of local police time is devoted to enforcing laws against "victimless crimes", most prominent among them being marijuana use.

Clark said "in a time when inflation and the constantly rising cost of government has left many Americans too poor even to contemplate such 'luxuries' as buying their own homes or sending their children to the schools of their choice, this is surely an unacceptable financial burden for the American people to bear".

Clark also said that drug prohibition leads to greater crime against innocent victims as drug users steal in order to pay the higher prices caused by prohibition. He cited evidence that drug legalization in Great Britain had resulted in a "virtually



insignificant" level of drug related crime compared to over half a billion dollars worth of drug related crime per year in New York City alone. New York has one of the nation's strictest drug laws.

Clark said "I do not advocate the use of any of these (illegal) substances, nor do I defend their value or their effect on health", but he advocated their legalization on practical or moral grounds.