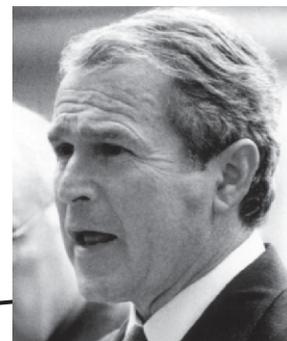


President Bush Offers Hope for Better Drug Policies



On January 18th, 2001 President Bush said:

"One of the things that we have got to make sure of in our society is that our drug-prevention programs are effective."

"A lot of people are coming to the realization that . . . long minimum sentences for the first-time users may not be the best way to occupy jail space or heal people from their disease. And I'm willing to look at that."

"[The discrepancy in sentencing between crack and powder cocaine] ought to be addressed by making sure the powder-cocaine and the crack-cocaine penalties are the same. I don't believe we ought to be discriminatory."

"One of the things we've got to do a better job of in our society is helping people cure themselves of an illness. Addiction to alcohol or addiction to drugs is an illness. And we haven't done a very good job, thus far, of curing people from that illness."

"I am absolutely opposed to racial profiling. . . I think most Americans are opposed to racial profiling. The best way to get at the root . . . is to first understand if it exists. The federal government can help collect the data necessary to make the right choice."

CNN, Inside Politics, January 18, 2001.

Will President Bush lead us from drug policies often of ignorance and opportunism to just approaches based upon peer reviewed research and decency?

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