

Supreme Court Justice Questions Marijuana Policy



Justice John Paul Stevens

Dissenting from the recent Supreme Court ruling on the suspension of an Alaskan student for waving a banner – “BONG HITS 4 JESUS” – at a high school event, Justice Stevens takes the long view:

“...the current dominant opinion supporting the war on drugs in general, and our anti-marijuana laws in particular, is reminiscent of the opinion that supported the nationwide ban on alcohol consumption when I was a student. While alcoholic beverages are now regarded as ordinary articles of commerce, their use was then condemned with the same moral fervor that now supports the war on drugs...

"...just as Prohibition in the 1920's and early 1930's was secretly questioned by thousands of otherwise law-abiding patrons of bootleggers and speak-easies, today the actions of literally millions of otherwise law-abiding users of marijuana, and of the majority of voters in each of the several States that tolerate medicinal uses of the product, lead me to wonder whether the fear of disapproval by those in the majority is silencing opponents of the war on drugs."

“Stevens compared the current marijuana ban to the abandoned alcohol ban and urged a respectful hearing for those who suggest ‘however inarticulately’ that the ban is ‘futile’ and that marijuana should be legalized, taxed and regulated instead of prohibited.”

– Washington Post, July 26, 2007

70% of the drug war is about marijuana.

Common Sense for Drug Policy

www.CommonSenseDrugPolicy.org www.DrugWarFacts.org

www.ManagingChronicPain.org www.MedicalMJ.org

www.TreatingDrugAddiction.org

info@cscp.org