



the big lie

25 August 2013 at 12:42

a Stump Speech

Our cannabis laws area farce! They are based on a lie that has been extrapolated over seventy years into a hundred unfortunate common fallacies.

The original big lie is that cannabis is a dangerous drug.

Let me commence this short speech by making the point, loudly and clearly, that cannabis does not kill.

Cannabis does not cause gross social or personal harm.

All the laws dedicated to controlling cannabis are based a BIG lie.

- A big lie that was originally commissioned by bigotry and racism
- A big lie that is now advertised and perpetuated in the modern world by vested interests.
- A big lie that masks organized corporate, institutional, and religious intolerance.
- A big lie that works for corporate and military interests.
- A big lie that works for religious and pharmaceutical interests.

This big lie must be demolished: for the sake of a rational world and our children's well-being.

- It must be demolished: for the sake of sick patients across our land.
- for the sake of farmers and industry.
- for innocent stoners and beleaguered hippies.
- to make Australia a better place for everyone!

It must be demolished: **BECAUSE IT IS A LIE.**

Today I want to talk a little about the big lie and the consequences of this for Australian society.

Not only has the big lie has made our society less cohesive, less just, less wealthy, less compassionate, less rational, and far more dangerous than it need be.

Not only has the big lie enriched criminals, cost untold lives, divided countries internally, set nation against nation, and citizen against citizen.

The big lie has also spawned a hundred thousand lesser untruths. Everyday lies that are considered to be truth by a public that has been fed garbage since they were in nappies. So the big lie has given birth to a modern hypocrisy that sickens the soul of our nation, corrupts the ambitions and aspirations of our youth, and continues to alienate massive segments of our population.

And we hear lesser untruths – children of the big lie – all the time. Our social mythology is cluttered with false assertions being retailed as truth.

The Christian lobby, and other seriously irrational folk of their ilk, drone on endlessly that ‘legalising cannabis will send the wrong message to our children and society.’

But what is the message currently being retailed by our cannabis laws?

We punish people for smoking cannabis but advertise alcohol on television? Cannabis kills nobody yet 60 people a week die from alcohol abuse in our country. We tell our children that cannabis is a dangerous drug yet infer that drinking is safe. A blatant everyday lie. A child of the big lie.

We tell our children that cannabis is a dangerous narcotic that will send you crazy or destroy your life. Yet medical science indicates that the rate of mental illness in our society cannot be correlated with the amount of cannabis being used in society. Full stop.

Alcohol causes psychotic episodes in otherwise healthy individuals. Yet we advertise alcohol on billboards and in our papers.

Ritalin is prescribed to our children. Yet included in every packet is a warning that this product *can* cause psychotic episodes. ‘*Can*’ cause.

Both these products *can and do* cause death. A pretty damn significant side-effect.

The use of both Alcohol and Ritalin is legal. So obviously the criteria for assessing cannabis must be different to the criteria used to assess every other drug or therapeutic agent.

We hear all the time we cannot possibly relegalise cannabis because it *may* cause mental illness, or *may*, in some unspecified way, at some unspecified point in the future, cause some minor detriment to some individuals.

These are proposed –right now – as *reasons* for keeping cannabis prohibition alive. However these are criteria – the *may* or *might* criteria – that seem to only apply to cannabis.

Ritalin, alcohol, caffeine, and job stress (perhaps even John Howard) do cause mental illness: *not may* – they *do* cause it. Yet these are all legal.

We do not use this ‘may cause mental illness’ scythe for any other product in our society.

We do not say that Ritalin *will* cause unfortunate side-effects so it must be illegal – despite the fact that many individuals in our society need it. We do not say that alcohol will cause some small segment of the population to *definitely* go insane when they drink, so alcohol must be made illegal

However the mere speculation that cannabis *might* do either of these things warrants its illegality?
As well as ‘a war on cannabis and cannabis users’?

Indeed: the LAW is the CRIME.

Our hypocrisy breeds ever smaller flocks of lies that obscure ‘truth’.

Sometimes vital facts become so obscured by our social mythologies that we, as a society, are left talking at right angles to the truth.

Consider the related ideas that;

- a) re-legalising cannabis will lead to more cannabis use amongst teenagers and,
- b) that re-legalising cannabis will increase the amount of drugs being used in our society, and
- c) more drug use is always bad, and
- d) any legal market in cannabis will exacerbate the ‘drug problem’.

I will pick off each bird in this flock, one at a time.

There are peer-reviewed articles that are available at any ‘computer-attached-to-the-internet-anywhere-in-the-world’ which demonstrate that in jurisdictions in the United States and Canada where medicinal cannabis has been legalised; the rate of teenage use has declined. Full stop – move on.

Next birds; ‘Relegalising drugs will lead to more drug use,’ and ‘more drug use is always a bad thing.’

You would think these fundamental assumptions might be examined every now and again but they are usually just left rolled up when they are flung in the face of cannabis law reformers. These assertions are invariably treated as if they were unfortunate facts; however both ideas are misguided.

Wherever medicinal cannabis has been made available, people who use hard drugs switch to using cannabis. By hard drugs I am talking about the truly debilitating agents that are currency in our social circles. Drugs like heroine, cocaine, speed, designer drugs, & alcohol.

People who use these agents turn to cannabis: and what is the result? The net amount of drug use in the society remains constant or slightly increases, however the net harm caused by drug use markedly declines.

Cannabis is relatively harmless when compared with every other drug used recreationally – so when a user swaps from another drug to cannabis, or replaces use of another drug to any extent with using cannabis; the result is a net social benefit.

Less harm is occasioned at a personal level. *Less* expenditure is incurred by the public purse.

This is called the ‘substitution effect’. Peer reviewed articles are available describing it and substantiating it. This is ‘truth’.

It not only debunks the common mythology but runs entirely counter to it – yet at every election we eternally swat at these flocks of little lies that inhabit our politics.

So the big lie sickens our society.

- Our authorities withhold medication from sick people.
- Our politicians assert that re-legalising cannabis will lead to more cannabis use amongst teenagers.
- Our Christian friends contend that all drugs are 'bad'.
- Our medicos say that medicinal cannabis will bleed onto the black market and exacerbate the drug 'problem' in our society.
- We spend millions of dollars a year in undertaking cannabis eradication programs on the basis that cannabis prohibition can and will work.
- We lock up citizens every day for daring to use cannabis as a recreation. Describing them as dangerously anti-social. Saying they are damaging society and themselves.
- Our politicians obey the dictates of their corporate masters instead of the wishes of their constituents.

Our society farms out its conscience to vested interests.

We obscure vital truth with flocks of lies.

Can anyone really wonder why our children think we are full of bullshit?

The LAW is the CRIME. NOW is the time.

For seventy years the big lie has gripped the whole of the world. In the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs the United States forced the big lie onto the world community. Deliberatively punishing any country that dared to whisper the truth.

Cannabis and HEMP were to be eradicated from the face of the earth for the good of the citizens of the earth. Because cannabis is a dangerous narcotic with no apparent medicinal properties.

Let me repeat this. I want to emphasise that I am not engaging in rhetoric when I use the word 'lie'. That I am not exaggerating when I typify the actions of the United States as being blatantly and knowingly dishonest.

Harry Jacob Anslinger, on behalf of the United States, held a gun to the head of any country that dared to say that cannabis was not a dangerous narcotic. If any country dared to say, openly, that the king had no clothes on, that the United States was lying, then they would be punished; both financially and militarily.

They would face sanction in the western press and actual litigation in the International Courts of Law.

They would be punished for speaking the truth.

So the world community instituted a war on cannabis, which was also a war on truth and rationality.

Which was also a war being conducted by nations against their own citizens – all on behalf of a lie.

Despite the obvious and inescapable fact that cannabis was one of the four basic ingredients in the western medicinal pharmacopoeia, for the whole modern history of the world.

No country was allowed to speak the truth.

Despite the unfortunate truth that half of the world was settled using sailing boats that were rigged with hemp sails and ropes, and were manned by people wearing, eating, and smoking cannabis; and that half of the colonial possessions were sought out and developed to assist the crown in assuring a supply of HEMP.

No country was allowed to speak the truth.

The United States decided that the interests of their corporations and the bigotries of their politicians were far more significant than were incidental matters like history and fact.

No country was allowed to speak the truth.

Any country that dared to do so was punished.

However everyone who has a mother knows that 'the truth will out'.

The HEMP Party are champions of truth!

We are lucky – we are not only passionate, engaged, engaging, and growing at a furious rate.

Not only are we hip and happy.

Not only are we a national force to be reckoned with.

WE ARE RIGHT.

This significant difference cannot be overlooked.

In one hundred years when historians look back on this period of history we will be the good guys.

HEMP Party activists work on behalf of a public issue, work for the public good, are witty, intelligent, articulate, fun people.

We HEMP Party activists *are* all of these things.

But our single most significant defining feature is that **WE ARE RIGHT.**

Cannabis prohibition is based on a lie

We retail simple truth.

For as long as cannabis prohibition continues we allow hypocrisy to flourish.

For as long as cannabis prohibition continues we will not be able to look our children in the eye

We must end cannabis prohibition.

We must craft laws that are rational, appropriate, and just.

We must be intolerant of lies and bigotry and stop devaluing the truth and so corrupting our young.

HEMP is not about petty politics.

When you vote number 1 above the line on the senate ticket you are engaged in helping HEMP address a fundamental human rights abuse that must be rectified.

Help us end the big lie. Vote 1 HEMP.

Jim Moylan

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