

possession, and (4) control marihuana as a hallucinogen under the Drug Abuse Control Amendments to the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act.

The advantages and disadvantages discussed below may or may not be valid. But they are the most commonly mentioned considerations among scientists, in law enforcement circles and among the members of the public who show an interest in the problem.

#### I. LEAVE AS IS

##### *Advantages*

1. The Narcotics Bureau has had 30 years of experience in policing the drug.
2. Many State criminal laws define "narcotics" to include marihuana and a change in Federal definition or reclassification would introduce an area of confusion over the status of these laws.
3. Narcotics users reportedly convert to marihuana use when heroin or morphine are scarce or high priced.

##### *Disadvantages*

1. The punishment under the current law does not fit the crime. It is much too severe and lumps marihuana violations with those of hard narcotics.
2. Education of the public may not be acceptable to FBN since its philosophy has been and still is "don't use it—it leads to violence, crime and heroin addiction."
3. The general public does not believe the statements FBN makes about marihuana.
4. Pharmacologically, marihuana is an hallucinogen but Federal law now treats it as a narcotic in terms of criminal penalties.
5. It is controlled under a taxing measure when its abuse is really a public health problem.
6. The experience gained under the National Prohibition Act dictates that total outlawing or harsh penalties don't eliminate a social vice.
7. Marihuana traffickers are more often found in LSD abuser circles than in hard narcotics circles.

#### II. COMPLETELY LEGALIZE

##### *Advantages*

1. Consistent with society's views on alcohol.
2. Marihuana is a social lubricant and tension reducer.
3. Use of marihuana is a matter of private morality not public law.
4. It is a mild nonaddicting drug with no proven immediate or long range ill effects on the central nervous system or other body organs.
5. There is no proof that it causes any more misbehavior than alcohol.
6. Psychological dependence to the drug is limited to high risk groups who seem to be susceptible to drug use.
7. Marihuana costs considerably less than alcohol.
8. It can be grown anywhere and control of its supply would therefore be difficult.
9. There are apparently no after effects, i.e., hangovers, addiction or physical destruction of body tissue from marihuana as compared with alcohol.
10. Our experience with current controls has been wholly unsuccessful since usage has increased largely in the past few years.

##### *Disadvantages*

1. Legalization would merely add one more drug to the list of abused drugs.
2. Physiological and pharmacological effects of the drug are not scientifically established so that the actual risks involved are unknown.
3. Most civilized countries in the world now have some controls over marihuana usage.
4. Legalization would impair our relations with the other countries who are also signatories to the United Nations Single Convention of 1961.
5. It may lead to the use of more concentrated cannabinoids.
6. Only a vocal minority supports complete legalization.
7. It would aggravate Federal-State relations with States that do not legalize the drug.