

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: **December 20, 2000**

After 4 million arrests, Clinton is a 'shameless hypocrite' on legalizing pot

He's waged the most vicious War on Marijuana. Now he wants to legalize it?

WASHINGTON, DC — President Clinton is a “shameless hypocrite” for advocating the decriminalization of marijuana in a new *Rolling Stone* magazine interview — after he stood by silently as 4 million Americans were arrested on marijuana charges during his administration, said the Libertarian Party today.

“**Shame on Bill Clinton for remaining silent for so long,**” said Steve Dasbach, the party’s national director. “Where was this shameless hypocrite for the last eight years, as millions of Americans were arrested for using a drug that Clinton himself used, and now admits should be decriminalized?”

In the December 28 issue of *Rolling Stone*, Clinton strongly criticized the War on Drugs in general and marijuana laws in particular.

In the interview, conducted days before the November election, the president asserted that “we really need a re-examination of our entire policy on imprisonment” of drug users, and said marijuana use “should be decriminalized.”

The remarks are “frankly, shocking,” said Dasbach, because Clinton has waged a more vicious War on Marijuana than any other president in U.S. history.

■ Since Clinton assumed office, **4,175,357 Americans have been arrested on marijuana charges**, according to FBI figures — 88% of them for simple possession.

■ The number of people arrested for marijuana increased during seven of the eight years that Clinton has been president, climaxing in **a record 704,812 arrests in 1999.**

■ Approximately **36,560 people are in jail** today after being convicted solely on marijuana charges, according to the Washington, DC-based Marijuana Policy Project.

■ Clinton has “even taken the lead in prosecuting AIDS victims who use medical marijuana, and the doctors who prescribe it,” said Dasbach. After California voters passed a medical marijuana law in 1996, Clinton ordered drug czar Barry McCaffrey to threaten California doctors with federal prosecution if they recommended the drug to their patients.

Given these facts, said Dasbach, there’s only one way for Clinton to redeem himself.

“Instead of simply suggesting a re-examination of drug laws, Clinton should spend his remaining days as president trying to repair the damage he’s done — starting with a presidential pardon for every American who has been victimized by marijuana laws. If Clinton really means what he said, it’s his last chance to put justice above politics.”

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