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Former Drug Czar Lies About His History of Attacking Medical Marijuana

Posted in [Chronicle Blog](#) by [Scott Morgan](#) on Tue, 10/27/2009 - 2:29am

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Wow, just watch this video of former drug czar Barry McCaffrey denying that a federal war on medical marijuana ever took place:



Literally every word that leaves McCaffrey's mouth throughout the segment is wildly and demonstrably false as [illustrated here](#) by Cato's Tim Lynch. Such staggering dishonesty from a former drug czar shouldn't surprise me, I know, but there's something about the intensity and specificity of McCaffrey's claims that just chills the blood. I feel like he crossed a line here, in that even drug czars typically attempt to cloak their fabrications within some sort of contrived fact-like narrative.

Really though, what we're seeing here is the emergence of an interesting and increasingly common phenomenon: the once proud drug war cheerleader who now has no recollection of any drug war ever taking place. The closer we get to finally banishing this colossal mess into the bowels of history where it belongs, the harder it will be to find anyone who admits having been involved in any of it.

The federal war on medical marijuana was McCaffrey's legacy, so it's perfectly fitting that he would come unHINGED after a week of listening to the whole country celebrate its collapse. As galling as his denials may feel to those who've born the brunt of this brutal crusade, we could instead interpret this bizarre behavior as a tacit acknowledgment that what he did was wrong. It's probably the best we're ever going to get.

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Watch a second time

Comment posted by [Anonymous](#) on Tue, 10/27/2009 - 4:02am

I did notice Barry lying through his teeth, but i noticed something else.

Why is he lying, could it be that even this poster boy for the Drug War has come to see that the American people have finally bothered to educate each other on Marijuana's medical benefits and relative safety. He is trying to make it seem like he is less of a monster, as we write the next chapter in Americans love/hate relationship with pot.

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I think

Comment posted by [dryeye](#) on Tue, 10/27/2009 - 4:48am

I agree to the previous comment..I think he is lying..

[Dry eye](#)

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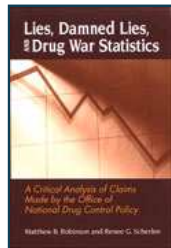
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an old talk show trick

Comment posted by [Anonymous](#) on Tue, 10/27/2009 - 8:28am

Why do these news shows unfailingly show sketchy people smoking joints or pipes superimposed on dialogue?

I'm guessing it's to give the discussion some edge a la refer madness.

I also loved the part where McCaffrey says the Feds and the DEA never harassed patients and caregivers. Off the top of my head I remember the DEA sending out notices to landlords threatening them with god knows what, IRS scrutiny perhaps, if they didn't evict medical dispensaries.

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That Screwball McCaffrey Strikes Again

Comment posted by [Anonymous](#) on Tue, 10/27/2009 - 8:37am

Wait, Did McCaffrey just say that the care givers behind the medical marijuana dispensaries are Mexican cartels? This guy! A perfect new angle against every medical dispensary! This guy is off the wall and has been for decades. But it makes you think: could the situation in L.A. become similar to the one in the Netherlands? Where criminal syndicates supply the bulk cannabis and the police look the other way? I don't think so, but it's interesting to speculate. Obviously the major drawback to this nice-try paranoid fantasy is that we are already doing it in bulk in Nor Cal, not to mention other states like New Mexico who are licensing growers.

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Yup

Comment posted by [Anonymous](#) on Tue, 10/27/2009 - 9:21am

These are the kind of things that happen when our tax money is used for evil. So sad.

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Lou Dobbs changed his tune, too

Comment posted by [Anonymous](#) on Tue, 10/27/2009 - 10:00am

I was glad to see that Lou Dobbs show some civility with his LEAP guest, Peter Mokos. When Dobbs introduced LEAP speaker Terry Nelson to his audience over a year ago, he gave Nelson this warm welcome, "Now here's a idea of lunacy. Cops that want to legalize drugs".

Dobbs tried to set a trap(So you want to legalize all drugs!?) for Mokos which he skillfully avoided. Dobbs has been a cheerleader for the drug war as he regularly visited the issue before Health Care Reform started to dominate the news. I was suprised and pleased to see his calm demeanor throughout this interview.

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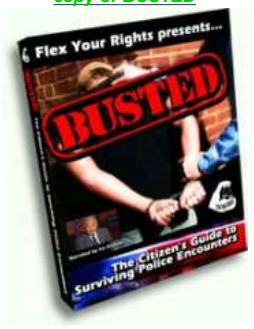
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