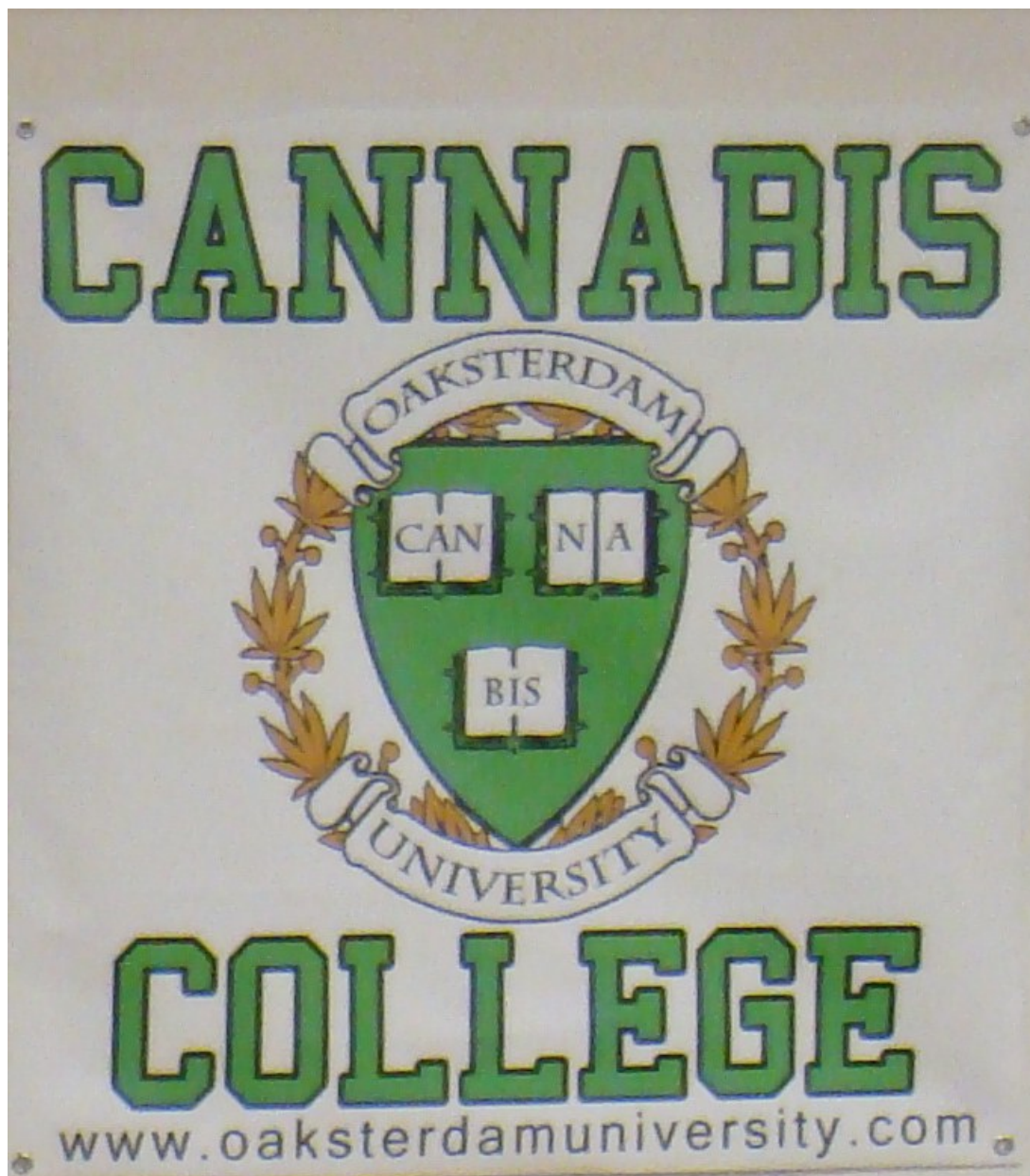


Narco-State California: A Model for George Soros' America

By Tina Trent



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Liberal commentators have taken to dismissing all reports of George Soros' influence as mere "right-wing paranoia." Fearful of the label, the mainstream media now actively ignore evidence of the billionaire's reach into the corridors of power. Yet, his own people boast of the convicted insider trader spending \$8 billion on various "human rights" and other causes.¹

As the networks and daily papers dither, Soros' canny investments in think tanks and university professors, keep paying off, especially in California, which has become a petri dish for growing Soros' future America. The main Soros agent-of-influence in the state is Attorney General Kamala D. Harris, who has refused requests from the Coalition for a Drug Free California for documents on her meetings with pro-marijuana groups (see pages 12 and 13 of this report).



The state is home to the nation's second-largest prison population (169,000 in 2010),² one-fourth of all illegal immigrants (2.6 million in 2009), and an estimated 1.1 million "registered medical marijuana" users. In other words, it is prime territory for all three of Soros' main causes: legalizing drugs, challenging American sovereignty, and emptying the prisons. The pro-drug movement is the subject of this report.

There is no clearer example of Soros' influence in California than the state's disastrous, fifteen-year experiment with "medical marijuana." In 1996, Soros donated \$350,000 to support the state ballot initiative to legalize the drug for medical use. By then, he had already spent \$15 million through his foundations to "broaden the debate and foster changes" to America's drug policies.

Proposition 215, the result of Soros' lobbying, was sold to California voters as a way to provide relief to people who were extremely ill or in chronic pain. But the effect of the law was to create a medical excuse for getting stoned, hardly a reasonable public policy goal. "Medical Marijuana is a joke – a sad joke," says Dr. Paul Chabot, a combat veteran, military analyst and founder of Coalition for a Drug Free California.³ "In California, we now have over 1 million people with pot I.D. cards. It is so easy to get one – and that was the intent of Soros and his cult . . . The so-called medical visit is about 5 minutes, and because of how the law was written in 1996, one can get pot for 'any condition that provides relief,' and this includes hair loss, itchy skin, high heel pain, and even pot addiction."⁴

Thanks to Linda Taylor of Coalition for a Drug Free California for providing information used in this report.

Thousands of marijuana “dispensaries” now operate throughout the state, and local governments have blocked many more. Dispensaries are faux medical clinics, sometimes even staffed with people wearing fake medical garb, accepting equally fake medical “prescriptions” to sell marijuana as medicine to perfectly healthy young people. The multiple absurdities built into the system make a mockery of law enforcement itself.

But Californians’ fifteen-year experience with medical marijuana dispensaries may have actually slowed the pro-legalization movement. In 2010, Proposition 19, which would have fully legalized marijuana, was defeated by a 54 percent to 46 percent vote. As with Proposition 215, wealthy donors including Soros backed Proposition 19, but the measure still failed. Another wealthy donor was Richard Lee, founder in 2007 of Oaksterdam University or “Cannabis College,” where people are taught how to grow marijuana. Lee, who also operates “medical marijuana” dispensaries, spent over \$1.45 million of his companies’ money to put Proposition 19 on the ballot.⁵ Hence, illegal drug money was used to get Proposition 19 on the ballot.



Oaksterdam University (“Cannabis College”) in Oakland, California, teaches people how to grow marijuana.

Exposure to the reality of dispensaries on every street corner may be teaching voters that there are more public safety risks and fewer benefits associated with legalization. While pro-legalization advocates speak about legal vendors replacing narco-traffickers, there is evidence that the traffickers easily found a place in the “medical marijuana” industry. According to the California Department of Justice’s 2007-2008 *Organized Crime in California Annual Report*, “California is the largest producer of marijuana in the United States and law enforcement agencies believe that Mexican and Asian DTOs [Drug Trafficking

Organizations] and white criminal groups are responsible for the majority of marijuana cultivation in California.”

“Cartels . . . exist to make money and they will find any way to do so. Legalizing drugs will not eliminate the cartels,” says Paul Chabot, “We have thousands of pot stores in California. At the same time we have a huge problem in our California forests with drug cartels growing pot – a lot of which ends up in pot stores.”

Given the opportunity to revisit the medical marijuana issue, Chabot says, California voters would now reject that law. But the process of collecting signatures to put an initiative on the ballot costs around \$1 million, a risky proposition with George Soros and the handful of other wealthy “Legalization SuperPac” members waiting in the wings to fund the next disinformation campaign.

Adding to the legal uncertainties created by “medical marijuana,” U.S. Attorneys in California recently began enforcing federal laws against selling marijuana, shutting down several dispensaries operated by “profiteers,” as U.S. Attorney Melinda Haag describes her targets. The previous strategy of Holder’s Justice Department had been to suspend enforcement of the federal law in California.

Only weeks before the vote on Proposition 19, Holder himself finally succumbed to pressure to take a public stand against legalizing marijuana. Previously, both Holder and President Obama had remained silent, letting their inaction on enforcing federal anti-drug law in California speak for them. In late 2010, the *Christian Science Monitor* complained about the calculated silence coming from the President, the Attorney General, and Vice-President Biden. The editors wrote: “What is needed is a dominant voice with a convincing, simple message to act as a counterweight to a legalization lobby that is run by a handful of savvy, persistent, and well-coordinated organizations and donors.”⁶

But opponents of legalized marijuana in California are not likely to find that in the President, who is mindful of his need for support from youth voters, many of whom are strongly pro-pot legalization. Nor is Eric Holder interested in taking a stand that would clash with his ideological mission of finding racial discrimination in every aspect of law enforcement. California’s pot problem is a political problem both the President and his Attorney General would prefer to avoid.

That leaves Kamala Harris, California’s Attorney General, whose job it is to steer the state’s criminal justice policy and enforce the law. Unfortunately, Harris shares Obama and Holder’s ideological views and evasiveness. Harris is close to the President, and she is frequently mentioned as a candidate for Supreme Court nomination or future Governorship of California.

Add to that list a possible third career trajectory: Attorney General of the United States, were the gun trafficking scandal known as Fast and Furious to bring Holder down.

At first glance, it would seem that Kamala Harris does not fit the profile of a politician who would advocate for marijuana legalization. Harris won a close statewide race in part by promoting her record of raising prosecution rates in the notoriously lenient San Francisco District Attorney's office.

During that race, she officially opposed Proposition 19, though, like Holder, her opposition was belated, lukewarm, and widely viewed as dubious.

Harris' record prior to her election to state office is complicated. Her claims about increased conviction rates have been challenged in the media.⁷ Much like candidate Obama in 2008, she has a well-earned reputation for avoiding speaking on the record about crucial issues like drug legalization and illegal immigration. Like Holder, Harris prioritizes the racial elements of crime control.



Inside the Oaksterdam “gift shop” filled with smoking devices and other drug paraphernalia.

If the media were interested in reporting such things, the public might already be aware that Harris' first act as California attorney general was to choose important Soros allies to serve among her inner circle of advisors. Yet, even mentioning this violates the increasingly hyperbolic code of silence regarding Soros' efforts to influence government policies. So, since January 2011, the media have

remained mum about Kamala Harris' ties to organizations and individuals funded by George Soros. In doing so, they have failed to ask, let alone answer, crucial questions that would clarify Harris' intentionally opaque stances on drug legalization and other issues, including immigration policy and prosecuting career criminals.

Drug Legalization

Upon being elected in 2010, Kamala Harris chose George P. Shultz to serve as an honorary Co-Chair of her transition team. A former Secretary of State under President Reagan, he has, since retiring from politics, partnered with George Soros and dedicated himself in part to drug legalization. This was a strange turn for a respected public servant. He was one of the first prominent Republicans to promote the decriminalization of drugs, arguing that doing so “would destroy dealer profits and remove their incentive to get young people addicted.”⁸ But Mexican President Felipe Calderon strongly opposes legalization, saying such a measure reflects “softening attitudes toward drug consumption in the U.S. that are undercutting efforts to control organized crime groups in Mexico.”⁹

In addition to left-wing figures such as Arianna Huffington and Jodie Evans of Code Pink, Shultz now serves alongside Soros on the honorary board of the Drug Policy Alliance (DPA), a pro-legalization organization founded by Soros as part of his earliest efforts to influence American policy. The DPA remains among the highest recipients of Soros funding today, having received \$16.5 million from Soros' Open Society Foundation since 2005 and many millions before then. (See complete list of DPA board members on pages 14 and 15). In addition, Linda Taylor of the Coalition for a Drug Free California points out that individuals and lawyers affiliated with another pro-marijuana group, the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML), contributed to the Harris campaign.¹⁰

Shultz also serves with Soros on the board of another pro-legalization organization Soros helped found: the elite, multinational Global Commission on Drug Policy (GCDP).¹¹ Other members include former U.N. Chief Kofi Annan, former Federal Reserve Board chairman Paul Volker, former Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo, former Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou, and the Drug Policy Alliance's Executive Director Ethan Nadelmann. In June 2011, the GCDP released a major report, itself partly funded by Soros, calling for international decriminalization of most drugs and the establishment of government-regulated drug markets.¹²



The GCDP report is ostensibly directed at the world community, but like so many proclamations of its kind, it is an indictment of America for eradicating drugs from society. Richard Nixon, for example, is invoked as the founding father of the "war on drugs," and America's drug policy is described as monolithically harsh, as if drug courts, alternative sentencing, and treatment services simply did not exist here. Why would advocates for legalization ignore the existence of such programs? Linda Taylor says the real motive of the drug legalization lobby is to take over the worldwide illicit drug market. Indeed, the GCDP report argues strongly for replacing laws with "legal regulatory policies."

This is the criminal justice blueprint the drug legalization lobby has followed for years: demonize America and make claims, unfounded in reality, about conditions on the ground when addicts are picked up for possession or public intoxication.

Unsurprisingly, given Soros' efforts to supplant America's laws with international "human rights" measures, the GCDP recommends that the United Nations should assume a larger role in overseeing drug policies: "Global drug policy should be created from the shared strategies of all interested multilateral agencies – UNODC of course, but also UNAIDS, WHO, UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women, the World Bank, and the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights."¹³

It would certainly be useful for California voters to know if their Attorney General agrees with such proposals, not to mention other drug legalization measures. But during the 2010 race for California Attorney General, Kamala Harris sent mixed signals regarding drug legalization. Officially, she opposed Proposition 19, but in debates, she was characteristically "non-committal" about whether her office would support federal efforts to suppress marijuana in California, should the proposition pass.¹⁴

And after the election, Harris immediately elevated Schultz to a visible role in her transition team, just as Shultz, Soros, and the rest of the GCDP were composing their pro-legalization, anti-American report. In doing so, Harris put the imprimatur of the California attorney general's office on the policies being promoted by both the Drug Policy Alliance and the Global Commission on Drug Policy.

Soros personally spent a million dollars trying to pass Proposition 19, a figure the *New York Times* called "a little less than half" of all the money spent on the statewide, allegedly grassroots, campaign.¹⁵ The failure to pass the Proposition was a surprising loss. But the morning after that loss, his own key drug legalization "czar" gained a seat at the table of the new attorney general's advisory board, and nobody in the media seemed to find this notable.

A year later, Harris has still managed to avoid clarifying her position on drug legalization. She is refusing to respond to F.O.I.A. requests by the Coalition for a Drug Free California inquiring into meetings she has held with members of the drug legalization movement, and the media is giving her a pass on this refusal.

Californians are trapped in a strange state of denial: marijuana has been legalized for those willing to lie about their motives for getting high. Libertarians are clamoring for the government to get more involved in the distribution and taxation of drugs. One of the world's most influential advocates for complete decriminalization of drugs is advising the attorney general. And the attorney

general is being enabled by the media as she meets in secret with pro-drug legalization advocates.

The fingerprints of Soros are all over this mess – a model for America’s future if Soros has his way.



Jodie Evans of Code Pink is on the board of the Drug Policy Alliance with George Soros. Code Pink is openly pro-Marxist and protests FBI crackdowns on groups supporting America’s enemies and foreign terrorist groups.

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November 22, 2011

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RE: Request Under the Public Records Act

Dear Dr. Chabot:

We are writing in response to your November 4 request seeking certain records from the Office of the Attorney General under the California Public Records Act (PRA). Specifically, the request submitted through the Office's web site seeks any records showing the "[d]ates and times that Kamala Harris, and/or any of her staff have met with pro-marijuana groups (to include marijuana dispensary groups, marijuana attorneys, marijuana lobby groups, Drug Policy Alliance, NORML, and other similar groups, etc, [sic] to include the names of the groups, the names of the persons from the AG office and the names of the individuals they met with."

As you know, records of state agencies are subject to disclosure under the PRA unless a statutory provision authorizes confidentiality. As explained below, the records you seek – the dates and times that the Attorney General or her staff has met with any "pro-marijuana groups," along with the names of the persons who attended any of those meetings – are subject to a statutory provision protecting them from disclosure. Accordingly, we will not produce records responsive to your request.

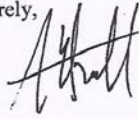
Section 6255 of the Government Code exempts from disclosure documents which are protected by the deliberative process privilege, also known as the executive privilege. (*Wilson v. Superior Court* (1996) 51 Cal.App.4th 1136, 1142 ["The key question in every case is 'whether the disclosure of materials would expose an agency's decisionmaking process in such a way as to discourage candid discussion within the agency and thereby undermine the agency's ability to perform its functions.'"]). The deliberative process privilege protects "materials reflecting deliberative or policymaking processes" and "factual information . . . including 'predecisional' documents, that is, documents which are prepared to assist an agency decision-maker in making a decision." (*Id.*) The deliberative process privilege allows agencies to withhold documents that reveal advisory opinions and deliberations comprising part of the process by which governmental decisions and policies are formulated. This includes the identity of persons with whom the Attorney General has met and consulted. (*Times Mirror Co. v. Superior Court* (1991) 53 Cal.3d 1325, 1343.)

Dr. Paul R. Chabot
November 28, 2011
Page 2

The Attorney General and her staff meet with a variety of stakeholders as they carry out the mission of the chief law officer for the State of California. A primary purpose of any stakeholders meeting, whether it involves local government officials, members of the law enforcement community, or medical marijuana advocacy groups, is to aid the Attorney General as she arrives at her legal and policy positions. This is a give-and-take process which depends upon a balancing of competing interests and confidential, candid discussion of the matter at hand. This candid discussion would be stifled if the details of those communications, including the dates, times and identities of any participants, were turned over. The deliberative process privilege thus shields the information you seek from disclosure.

Thank you for your request. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



ANTHONY R. HAKL
Deputy Attorney General

For KAMALA D. HARRIS
Attorney General

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END NOTES

- ¹ <http://www.soros.org/about/bios/staff/george-soros>
- ² California has the largest population of any state in the nation, 36.7 million. Its prison population represents less than 0.5 percent.
- ³ <http://www.drugfreecalifornia.org/>
- ⁴ <http://sorosfiles.com/soros/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/Interview-with-Paul-Chabot-REVISED- 2 .pdf>
- ⁵ <http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2010/10/the-man-behind-prop-19-richard-lee-on-marijuanas-chances/64759/>
- ⁶ <http://www.csmonitor.com/Commentary/the-monitors-view/2010/1215/Time-to-again-mobilize-against-marijuana>
- ⁷ <http://www.sfweekly.com/2010-05-05/news/a-lack-of-conviction/>
- ⁸ "Views from the Front," *Police News* (Spring 1994) p. 45.
- ⁹ <http://articles.latimes.com/2010/oct/09/world/la-fg-mexico-calderon-prop19-20101009>
- ¹⁰ <http://ulocal.kcra.com/service/displayDiscussionThreads.kickAction?as=62973&w=176549&d=781419&ac=new>
- ¹¹ <http://www.globalcommissionondrugs.org/Commission>
- ¹² <http://www.globalcommissionondrugs.org/Report>
- ¹³ Op. cit., p. 9.
- ¹⁴ <http://www.thecrimereport.org/archive/prop-19-the-day-after>
- ¹⁵ <http://dealbook.nytimes.com/2010/11/03/despite-soros-support-californias-prop-19-fails/>