Are We Addicted To Drug War Money?

Virtually every part of the federal government gets a piece of the $20 billion annual drug war budget. 1

The US spends $50 billion annually on prisons. One-quarter of prisoners are drug offenders. 2

US Courts force more than 200,000 a year into drug treatment. 37% of all drug treatment admissions are mandated by the courts. 57.1% of marijuana treatment admissions are court mandated. 3

The $5.9 billion dollar drug testing industry should be replaced with impairment testing. Discovering marijuana use a week ago is as irrelevant as finding beer drinking a week ago. 4

Profits are protected from medical marijuana competition.

Profits are protected from social marijuana competition.

Banks process billions in drug money. When asked in court how a major bank reacted to his arriving at the airport with $20 million in small bills, the courier responded: "They sent a limousine."

Manufacturers of herbicides, helicopters and military contractors (mercenaries) profit from the $2 billion spent annually on foreign interventions in the name of the War on Drugs. 5

Drug trafficking represents eight percent of the world's trade, an untaxed and unregulated $400 billion annually. 6

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1 National Drug Control Strategy, Office of National Drug Control Policy, February 2002, pgs 29-31 reports a $19,179.7 billion budget for FY 2003. Some costs are not included, e.g. the cost of military personnel fighting the drug war.


5 "National Drug Control Strategy, Office of National Drug Control Policy, February 2002, pgs. 29-31 reports $1,894.00 spent by DoD and Department of State on the drug war. Some funds for intelligence, INTERPOL, ONDCP and the Drug Enforcement Administration are used internationally.