

# Marijuana Hard-Liners Winning

By Jack Anderson

The White House has quietly started twisting arms on Capitol Hill to authorize tougher measures against marijuana violators.

For months, a fierce debate has raged inside the Nixon administration between those who want to legalize marijuana and those who favor a marijuana crackdown. The crackdown crowd has now won.

The word has gone out from the White House to put the heat on Congress to pass two measures that would assure continued prosecution of marijuana users.

The instructions were delivered by White House aide Walt Minnick to Donald Miller, chief counsel for the Justice Department's Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs.

Miller immediately called representatives from several federal departments behind closed doors on June 13 to plan the lobbying campaign.

The principal measure is an international drug control treaty which would obligate the U.S. to make possession of certain drugs, including marijuana, "punishable offenses."

The other measure is an enabling law which would be needed to clear the way for

Congress to approve the treaty.

The treaty, known as "The Convention of Psychotropic Substances," would empower the Justice Department to control drugs regardless of the medical recommendations from the Health, Education and Welfare Department.

## Drug Controversy

This would directly contravene a drug abuse law, enacted by Congress two years ago, giving HEW the power to decide which drugs are dangerous.

A number of HEW officials are dismayed over the White House action. They believe HEW, as the scientific and medical arm of the government should rule on dangerous drugs.

The President's own National Commission on Marijuana and Drug Abuse has recommended that penalties for personal possession of marijuana be abolished.

BNDD officials, however, are sternly opposed to relaxing any of the laws against marijuana use. Their views were underscored in a recent speech by John Ingersoll, the hard-line BNDD director. He told a group of California policemen that the legalization of marijuana and other drugs might mean the fight against

drug abuse was "lost altogether."

He added: "It is our duty not only to protect the public in the streets from vicious criminals but to protect the public from harmful ideas."

Footnote: HEW officials believe the White House deliberately began lobbying for the drug control treaty on the eve of the election campaign, figuring it might be difficult for members of Congress to oppose it in an election year. But Minnick explained to us that the timing had been determined by the Senate Judiciary Committee's schedule. The committee must process the enabling legislation.

## Bluecoats vs Redskins

It has been many moons since the bluecoats won their last skirmish with the redskins in the struggle for the West. But the federal government is still crowding the Indians.

Back in 1865, the government signed a treaty with the Winnebago tribe granting them land "for use and occupancy forever." As late as 1944, the Army Corps of Engineers — descendants of the bluecoats — pledged that they would never appropriate Indian lands without prior tribal consent.

But now the federal authorities want to build a recreation project on Winnebago land in Iowa and Nebraska. Without

regard for past treaties and pledges, the government took the land away from the Indians for the Oxbow Lake project.

Not that the friendly Winnebago mind opening their homeland to their white brothers for fishing and picnicking. But the tribe would like to retain the title and collect the income from park concessions.

Footnote: congressional sources tell us that a House Appropriations Subcommittee may settle the issue, strictly for budgetary reasons, by turning down the \$750,000 appropriation for the Oxbow project.

Saul Alinsky, the self-proclaimed "professional radical," died earlier this month. He would have been dismayed over the eulogies that appeared in several newspapers.

He would be comforted to know, however, that the FBI at least regarded him as a menace. The G-men kept him under regular surveillance and tried to paint him red.

But the FBI file on him isn't convincing. Despite Alinsky's rabblousing, he was hardly a routine revolutionary. "I love this—country," he kept on saying, "and we're (the common people) going to take it back."