

# Pot may be legalized in Cal.

LOS ANGELES (CUP) — A Californian referendum in the November 7 election must attract about four and a half million votes to legalize use of marijuana in the state.

Nine million registered voters are expected to either narrowly approve or defeat proposition 19 — to "Decriminalize" production, possession and use of marijuana.

Number 19 has an excellent position on the 22 — position ballot — wedged between a number of referendums expected to return a positive reply.

Californian acceptance of the proposition could have far-reaching effects within the United States, and in countries which have expressly outlawed marijuana under American pressure.

Latest state — wide polls show 33 per cent in favour of the proposition but surveys in Los Angeles and San Francisco show support from as many as 57 per cent of those cities' inhabitants.

The California Marijuana Initiative (CMI) is described by

Los Angeles County coordinator Lawrence Skinner as "one of the most ideal solutions for one of the greatest problems in recent times."

The proposition does not affect present laws governing the sale of marijuana. "It does not deal with the complexities of trafficking marijuana," Skinner said, "and avoids the problems feared by many people that marijuana will eventually be advertised as being sexy, or something similar."

"Some supporters believe that approval in the referendum will give police a mandate to concentrate on the trafficking of marijuana and narcotics."

Of a total six marijuana initiatives in the US this year, only the California one obtained the support necessary to achieve a position on the ballot. Attempts failed in Washington, Oregon, Arizona, and Florida, but the Michigan initiative may be able to collect sufficient signatures for a place of the 1974 State ballot.

CMI has not only achieved what many regarded as "im-

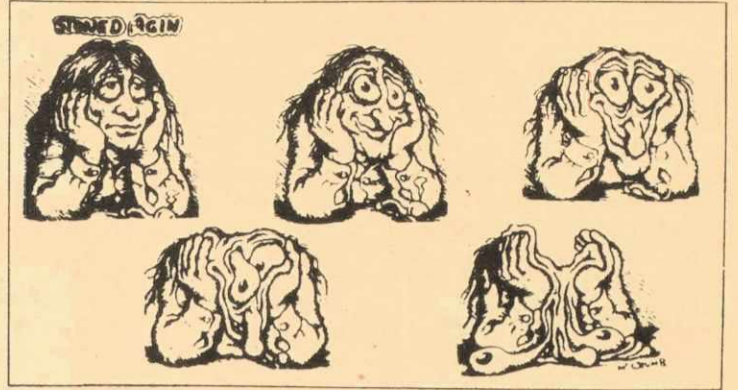
possible" with the actual initiative, but in a drive to register voters, they trained 411 deputy registrars, and registered more than 20,220 voters.

At first, people were "paranoid, and thought they would be arrested," said Skinner, but working within the law this time has avoided any hassles from police.

A sign on the steps up to the quaint CMI office pleads with visitors to "Leave your stash outside" and the only plants in the building are harmless ones, in terms of evidence.

Support has come not only from the underground media, but also from two television stations — KNBC in Los Angeles, a network affiliate, and KPIX in San Francisco — which have broadcast editorials condoning tolerance of marijuana.

Skinner predicts a number of police officers may also lend their support by giving their opinion on the referendum through a judge, to protect their anonymity. The initiative has already received support from



the Police Officers for Justice and the San Francisco Deputy Sherriffs' coalition.

The campaign has spent a total of \$80,000 on the initiative, and plans to expend the same amount during the final two weeks on a last burst. Part of the money will be spent on radio spots. Most of this has come through small private donations, with an additional grant of \$15,000 from Amorphia, the marijuanan foundation.

The remainder should be covered from showings of the film "Reefer Madness" by the Playboy — backed NORML (National Organization for the Repeal of the Marijuana Laws).

The film is an excellent rendition of early anti-marijuana propaganda in the US.

But the private donations still count — a leather bag hangs in a corner of the Los Angeles office collecting blue chip, green trading and postage stamps.

The heart of the campaign still remains with those who struggled to collect signatures through the paranoia of the early days.

And if proposition 19 succeeds —

Simple: "I think we'll get into doing something for pot prisoners," says one volunteer, "amnesty or something."

## B. C. Student Association formed

VANCOUVER (CUP) — All but two student councils from campuses across British Columbia have formed the BC Association of Student Councils.

Representatives from 11 student councils met in Prince George last weekend (Oct. 7-8) and with letters of support from three other campuses voted to form the loosely-knit

organization. UBC student council external affairs officer Teri Ball said the association will not have an executive or an executive office in a deliberate attempt to keep the body unstructured and to keep control equally divided among the campuses. Each association conference will chose a chairman who will run

the affairs of the body until the end of the next conference.

"We won't be paying fees into it either, to keep from getting into all the official red tape kind of hassles," Ball said yesterday (Oct. 11). She said the organization will meet twice a year to make what she called "policy decisions on issues important to BC students."

The association's main function will be to present a unified front on any important issues.

"This will increase our effectiveness 16-fold," Ball said.

She said the association is now promoting a student boycott of Famous Players and Odeon theatres because of the recent cancellation of student rates.

"We staged an informational demonstration at the Famous Players Theatre in Prince George to protest the changes and later talked to the manager.

"We feel the boycott, which we hope will go nation-wide, will serve to point out our dismay at the change, but talking to the theatre officials will likely lead to more action.

"At the moment it seems the theatres might go back to student rates if councils agree to mark student cards with expiry dates," she said.

She said they'll be negotiating

with the managers in Toronto later this year on their way to the National Students Union founding conference in Ottawa.

The association will also try to improve student loan regulations. Student representatives will meet with BC Education Minister Eileen Dailly in Victoria in January.

The organization hopes to arrange for a sharing of resources among member institutions.

Its first newsletter is being handled by the Simon Fraser student council because it has its own press equipment.

The students formed a committee to study the

establishment of a proposed stock rotation system for student-run bookstores throughout the province.

The association's first chairman is University of Victoria student council president Russell Freethy.

The BC organization will meet in Vancouver October 28 to discuss the national students union. It will send about 15 delegates to the national conference who will represent all BC students not their individual institutions.

The only campus that does not want to join the national union is UVic, Ball said.

### Indochina Action Committee

Meeting: Sunday, October 29, 7:30 p.m.  
Room 316, SUB

All welcome, help us plan a teach-in for November 18 and suggest other activities that will help to end the war.

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### Papers biased

#### Election survey taken

by Don Retson

According to a Gazette election survey taken last week, 77.1% of Dal students feel that the local newspapers — Halifax Chronicle Herald and Mail Star, are biased in their election coverage.

The question asked of those taking part in the survey was: "Would you say that the local media (Chronicle Herald-Mail

Star) have presented well-informed, unbiased news coverage of the election?" The election survey was given to 35 students chosen on a random basis. When asked "Which party, if any, would you say these newspapers have favored in their election coverage?" 57.1% identified the Conservatives as the party benefitting most from the papers coverage.

Of the 35 students contacted, only one person felt that the election coverage by the newspapers was satisfactory, the remaining 31.4% were unsure.

It is also interesting to note that those who indicated that they would support the NDP party in this election were most upset by the coverage of these papers.

Several respondents cited the papers headline story of I.H. Asper, "Lewis loses Credibility," as a case of irresponsible journalism at its best. I.H. Asper is provincial Liberal Leader of Manitoba.