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One 2nd generation lifetime farmer "Sara" explained to Greenfuse, "Legalization is a scam and ruining the lives of many. I can't afford to go legal because I never blew it up, I grew just enough to support my family. That's the case for most people I know. There are exceptions of course, but for the most part the people who can afford to go legal you'll notice destroyed the environment, and/or took advantage of workers. So that means honest, hard working, non-profit supporting, permaculturalists such as myself are at a total disadvantage and now more pressured by government agencies and police... Ironically the damage I'd have to perpetrate to go legal according to the county- like a 3 acre conversion- is something I would never do to the land because I respect it."

Greenfuse spoke with a longtime worker from the free market in District 2 for over 10 years, who recently made the shift to get permitted at the farm he manages, "Brown" explains, "People are going to loose their property no doubt. Mainly mom and pops, those who did the minimum, environmentalists ironically, they are all going to go out of business. Where I work we realized the only way to make it work anymore is to run it like any other capitalist enterprise, and consider the cost of the pounds now (which he explained took the sharpest decline he has ever experienced in fall of 2017). Now you got to take away the cost of the trimmer, cost of supplies, cost of legalization, taxes, employees to help, and there ain't much left of that cherry pie, no room in our shrinking budget for what we once spent, tediously nurturing high-quality cannabis. This will undoubtedly change the face of our community, not to mention diminish the product."

Consider how many people you know who subsidize their low wages or put themselves through college because of trimming on the side. Think about all the sweet little commune-type communities' that popped up all over the mountaintops, full of locals blended with international travelers, creating conversations and a culture like no other. Those days are over. Which highlights another key component completely overlooked by the county.

3. The total demise of the working class. What has sustained the majority in our community and thriving small business' for the past two generations or more (even through the economic collapse of 2008), is undergoing a massive upheaval. It is said (NCJ) that **upwards of 85% of the entire Humboldt economy is based on "black" market cannabis profits.** So what happens when the free market has plummeted so hard, so fast, post legalization? Well surprise

surprise just like other industries, you can no longer afford the cost of workers at all, or to frequent stores as prevalently and so bye bye



economic affluence and so long non-profits and small business'. Consequentially all across the county (in and out of the biz) you'll notice owners laying off their work force, looking for ways to minimize costs, atomize, outsource to affordable-currency-users, cutting share-cropping out completely and determining how they will run an hourly one man ship next year, if they can afford that. The days of workers having workers are certainly over and it may even be time for property owners to learn how to work themselves-gasp.

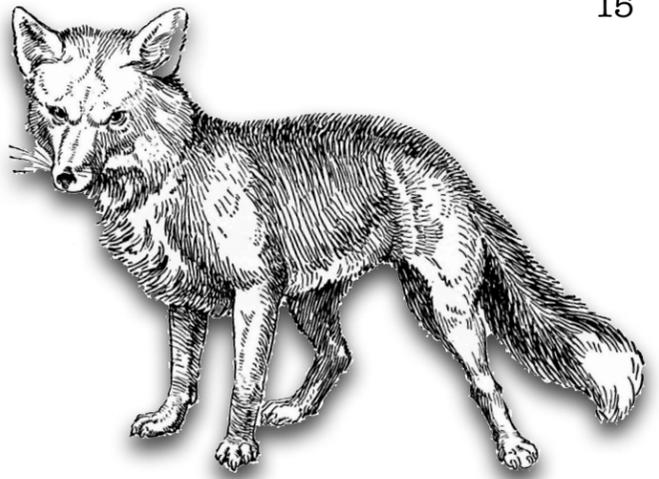
4. The county continues to treat farmers like criminals, while simultaneously broadening criminality of cultivating, transporting and even consuming cannabis. It's not called Commercial Marijuana Cultivation for nothing folks. "Marijuana," (what headier cultivators and consumers commonly call "cannabis,") has always been a divisive slur. Not much has changed since it's racist inception, not coincidentally in 1910, which was only a few years before the first bill in CA was passed to ban use, prior to the infamous "refer madness" propaganda campaign which ushered in full federal prohibition in the 1930s. Over 100 years later many are still falling for the same political tactics of good guy/drug v. bad guy/drug.

Leafy highlights this common fear tactic used a century ago, in 'The Origins of the word Marijuana,' "The Great Depression had just hit the United States, and Americans were searching for someone to blame. Due to the influx of immigrants (particularly in the South) and the rise of suggestive jazz music, many white Americans began to treat cannabis (and, arguably, the Blacks and Mexican immigrants who consumed it) as a foreign substance used to corrupt the minds and bodies of low-class individuals." Sound familiar? Eerily so, indeed.

Few seem to mention or care about what happens to the majority of people living off of the 'free market', some for their entire lives who know nothing else but growing cannabis. Ironically many of the same people complaining about the state of Humboldt's streets, from addiction, to pharmaceuticals, meth, heroin, to crime, violence, homelessness, etc. you know direct results of a crashing economies, are some of the same people supporting legalization which will make all of this much worse. A sort of insane self-fulfilling prophesy, bringing more extreme economic inequality.

Have you noticed the prevalence of out of state busts this year originating in Humboldt, interestingly many are from permit holding businesses (Ex. Eden Farms and Jacks)? Get used to this too, it will become more and more common as supply and demand grow exponentially contrasted in CA and people are forced to flee the state to find sustainable markets, even just to fund their permitted business. And get used to more 'good grower v. bad grower' distinction-setting propaganda. Falling for it on the other hand is on you.

Another 2nd generation small farmer "Chris" still surviving in the "free market" said, "For a legal industry it sure doesn't feel like criminalizing our



community for growing a plant is letting up at all. They are still treating farmers like drug dealers. No other industry is held to such impossible standards; what about tomatoes, wheat or corn? This isn't legalization, this is increased criminalization and that's why I am entirely against it. There are thousands of farmers here and probably a hundred thousand workers relying on them who are about to loose everything they have and have ever known."

The most shocking matter surrounding legalization is that found in Measure S, the 'Commercial Marijuana Tax' that had enormous support, with 65.8 % of voter approval in Humboldt County. One of few urging voters to vote against the CMC tax in an open letter, Sunshine Johnson warned of this "unprecedented tax" stating,

"No other crop in California is singled out in this manner and subjected to its own special tax by a county. The well-known wine growing counties in the state do not tax growers on the square footage of vines planted. This tax potentially sets a reckless precedent of area-based taxation on crops produced for human consumption. This proposed excise tax, as currently structured, represents yet another economic barrier for Humboldt County's smallest, and often, most environmentally friendly cultivators."

The most shocking element of the tax goes way beyond it being another brand of criminalization. The tax is beyond poorly written, it was changed substantially after being voted on, so much that it is totally illegal.

4. Measure S mistakes mean no one owes taxes. The most recent Board of Supervisors and County Counsel tax scandal are the changes made to Measure S after the voters voted on the Measure, which is illegal and contradicts the entire notion of democracy. Basically the measure voted on in November 2016, then revised in June 2017 expanded the definition of cultivation space, changed who owed the CMC tax, and added the fact that they owed the tax regardless of cultivation activities year around. Most stunning error is that in effect the Measure's text invalidates itself by being so poorly written in requiring federal government law adherence for a tax to be owed.

The County Council and Board of Supes revisions added a hefty one million in taxes to the general fund, which is directly in conflict with what was voted on as well.

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