

Inquiry

By DAVID SIMPSON
Staff Writer

Q) Some friends and I were discussing the price of marijuana the other day. Some said that if marijuana was legalized, it would be a lot cheaper than it is now. Others said that the government would tax it to death. So I would like to know how the price of bootleg whiskey during prohibition compared with the price of legal whiskey afterwards. Can you tell me?
Name Withheld

A) It is hard to determine an exact price range between the sale of alcohol before Prohibition and during. In "The Economics of Public Issues" by Douglas C. North and Rober Leroy Miller, the authors state: "...fewer entrepreneurs were now willing to provide the U.S. public with liquor. Why? Mainly because the cost of doing business suddenly increased. He could look forward to paying off organized crime in addition to the local cops...Prohibition probably decreased the amount of alcoholic beverages that entrepreneurs were willing to provide at the same prices as before. If a bottle of one's favorite scotch was available for \$3 in 1919, either it would cost more in 1920 or it would have been filled with a lower quality product." Thus the lower priced bottles, aimed for sale in poor areas, were those that frequently caused illness, blindness and death. The

authors relate this case of that of illegal drugs. The cost is high due to the security involved with such a product. Also, one is not guaranteed of a high quality product since no legal trademark is affixed to it. This, undoubtable has led to the many "accidental" deaths due to drugs, as it did

during Prohibition due to impure alcohol. If marijuana was legalized, no doubt the quality of it would be raised. North and Miller state: "It is difficult to predict whether the price would raise or fall immediately after legalization. Since consumers presumably would demand more, sup-

pliers would produce more...In the long run...it could safely be predicted that prices would, as usual, fall to a level just covering the costs of production, distribution, and normal profit—which would certainly be lower than the price today."

Gene Gaillard elected president pro tempore

Gene Gaillard, a senator from District 16 (off-campus juniors), has been elected president pro tempore of the USC Student Senate.

Gaillard will serve as a liaison between the executive office of student government and the Senate. He will also act as president in the absence of Senate president, Tim McConnell.

In addition, he will serve as chairman of the Senate Rules Committee which is composed of the chairman of all Senate committees.

Commenting on his responsibilities, Gaillard said, "I will inform the Senate of why and how the executive branch is doing something, and I will also inform the executive of what the Senate is doing."

Gaillard said he will primarily stress the actual functioning of the Senate during its weekly sessions.

"There will be between 20 and 25 freshman senators which will incorporate a lot of newness and inexperience," he said.

"While this should lead to creative legislation, it may hamper the Senate as far as parliamentary procedure goes.

"I will be dealt the responsibility of informing all the senators of what is expected of them as far as orderly procedure."

Gaillard said he thinks one of the major orders of business for the Senate during its next term will be the establishment of a University Senate.

"A University Senate has great potential to be a viable voice in University affairs that the administration would have to listen to," he said.

"Now the administration has to listen to separate opinions from the Student Senate and the Faculty

Senate, and often these opinions are not in accord. This definitely withdraws from the harmony of an idea.

"But with a University Senate, the administration will be facing decisions made by a joint body of students and faculty," he continued. "A University Senate will provide more harmony among two-thirds of the University hierarchy."

Gaillard is entering his third term as a senator. He has also served on the Student-Faculty Awards Committee and the Student-Faculty Scholastic Petitions and Standings Committee.

Student body president David Spinazzolo said of Gaillard's election, "I think the Senate could not have made a better choice. It is a tribute to the man to be elected by acclamations."

USC crime surveyed

A survey of crimes committed on the USC campus since Easter vacation reveals that thefts are the most common type of crime. Drug related arrests are not infrequent.

Following is a catalogue of crimes committed on campus and reported since Easter.

Seven wallets and purses have been stolen from offices and dormitories. Two bicycles were stolen from Capstone and Preston



Cheerleader tryouts

Trying out for the USC Cheerleader's squad calls for many different positions. There are also many positions on the squad to be filled.

—Tom Price

Round-up

Roman Catholics want truce

MIEKE THIENPONT
Staff Writer

INTERNATIONAL

BELFAST, Northern Ireland - Roman Catholics in Belfast have been gathering signatures on petitions for a provincial truce. The Irish Republican Army (IRA) has vowed it would reject such a truce. Premier Brian Faulkner has demanded British military action against the IRA strongholds.

PARIS - The four delegations involved in the Paris peace talks ignored an offer by U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim to help settle the Vietnam War. Each side suggested that Secretary General or the United Nations condemn the other side for escalating the fighting. France is pressing for a resumption of the peace talks that were broken off by the U.S. three weeks ago.

ANKARA - Soviet President Nikolai V. Podgorny arrived in the Turkish capital for a six-day visit. It is the first visit by a Russian chief of state in 300 years.

Soviet Premier Alexei N. Kosygin signed a 15-year friendship and defense treaty with Iraq, which marked the first major diplomatic advance into the Arab world beyond Egypt.

TEHRAN, Iran - A powerful earthquake shook Iran leaving an estimated 4,000 people dead.

NATIONAL

WASHINGTON - The Senate refused to vote directly on a move to declare war on North Vietnam or to make a proposed limitation on presidential war powers.

NEW YORK - "The Last Whole Earth Catalog: Access to Tools." received the National Book Award in the category Contemporary Affair. One judge resigned over its nomination.

LOCAL

COLUMBIA - Law enforcement officers seem to be in disagreement about the arrest of people possessing or selling marijuana.

Donald McNeese, state commissioner of drugs and controlled substances said earlier this week law enforcement officers in South

Carolina had become "more sophisticated" and that they were not arresting people for the use of marijuana.

Richland County Sheriff Frank Powell, however, warned against a relaxation and said arrests will continue as long as the law is on the books.

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