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MARIJUANA

Statement by:

The Honourable Larry W. Campbell

Wednesday, November 7, 2012

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Hon. Larry W. Campbell: Honourable senators, yesterday Colorado and Washington became the first U.S. states to legalize the possession of marijuana. However, the State of Oregon failed to pass their law. Colorado's Amendment 64 will allow adults over the age of 21 to possess up to one ounce of marijuana; however, the public use of the drug is still banned.

Washington's measure establishes a system of state-licensed marijuana growers, processors and retail stores. Washington had a wide variety of sponsors and supporters for the legislation of marijuana, ranging from public health experts, high-tech executives, two justice departments and two justice department top officials in Seattle. According to campaign manager Alison Holcomb, "We are declaring victory."

Supporters of the Colorado constitutional amendment legalizing marijuana declared victory and the opponents conceded defeat after returns showing the measure garnering nearly 53 per cent of the vote.

A measure that would have had Arkansas become the first southern state to legalize marijuana for medical purposes, appeared headed for defeat by 51 per cent with about 80 per cent of the polls in.

In Oregon, the marijuana laws failed to pass. Initiative 80 would have called for some of the nation's most lax marijuana laws legalizing and regulating the production, sale and possession of marijuana for adults.

Recent polls show that 75 per cent of the population in British Columbia agrees that marijuana laws should be changed.

I would like to point out to honourable senators that the report I just read was prepared this morning in my office by a 14-year-old student doing his high school "day at work." He is the great-grandson of the Honourable Bud Drury.

Honourable senators, I will leave you with a few words from John Hickenlooper, Colorado's governor:

Federal laws still say marijuana is an illegal drug, so don't break out the Cheetos or Goldfish too quickly.
