

Pot is helping cancer patients

SALEM, Ore. (AP) — Three puffs of marijuana — "that miserable roll-your-own" — and there was "no more sickness," says 54-year-old Jean Lovejoy, who claims marijuana helped her fight the side-effects of cancer treatment.

"My husband rolled my first joint and I took three puffs. It was incredible," Mrs. Lovejoy of Grants Pass told a legislative committee.

"It was amazing," she said. The illegal weed soothed the severe nausea caused by chemotherapy and enabled her to regain some strength, she said.

Oregon's House of Representatives human resources committee is considering a bill to establish a marijuana research program at the University of Oregon Health Sciences Centre. The bill would allow authorized physicians to prescribe marijuana for cancer and glaucoma research.

Two witnesses testified

in favor of the research. The committee plans another hearing later in which opponents may testify.

"I strongly urge the

passage of this bill so that suffering Oregonians can receive the relief they deserve and the University of Oregon's Health Sciences Centre can research the

effects of this drug . . . to determine the potential of this promising medication," said Representative Cecil Johnson of Grants Pass, the bill's sponsor.

Marijuana 'criminals' wait for election

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Agreement of all political parties in Canada on an issue is a rare and welcome thing. Now all federal party leaders are on record as being in favor of removal of criminal records for possession of marijuana. For months before dissolution of Parliament, the Commons justice committee worked on a long-awaited change in the laws which Justice Minister Marc Lalonde said were proceeding

"on an urgent basis."

As a result of this snail-paced haste, we now must wait for the country to select a federal government while the present laws governing marijuana create criminals out of Canadians at the rate of almost 600 per week. The Liberal government's promise of haste is little comfort to those who must live with a criminal record.

Why does the government seem so reluctant to do what all agree must be done? If Lalonde wants us to believe that this is a demonstration of his government in haste, then it's time to see what a new government looks like in action; a government that will not fiddle while Canadians get burned.

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