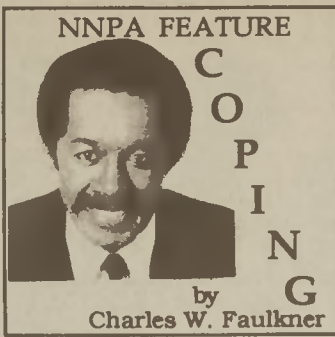


Nationwide War On Drugs?

Federal drug czar William Bennett plans to make Washington, D.C., (the so-called "Murder Capitol" of the USA), the showcase of the nation in his war on illicit drugs. Washington is a great place to start (from Bennett's perspective) because it is the most famous city in the world. Another more important reason (again, from Bennett's perspective) is that he will make himself and the Bush administration look good if he can get drugs off the streets of Washington.

Contrary to the views of many, he will succeed in D.C. but don't expect the same success in any other city in the USA because Bennett doesn't have the resources to go beyond D.C. So, when he cleans up D.C., you will think that great things are happening nationwide, but that won't be true. Sorry, Chicago, Detroit, New York (even Baltimore), you'll have to live with your drug problem.

Washington, D.C., is unique in that it has more police forces than any other city in the country. Some of the police forces that exist in D.C. are the District of Columbia Police, Park Police, the Executive Protective Service (which guards embassies), the Secret Service, Capitol Police (guards the Capitol and congressional buildings), a force that guards federal office buildings, a force that guards D.C. office buildings, the Drug Enforcement



NNPA FEATURE
C O P I N G
by
Charles W. Faulkner

Administration, Bureau of Alcohol, Drugs and Firearms, the investigative arm of the Internal Revenue Service, the National Guard, U.S. Marshals Service, the FBI, CIA, several secretive federal investigative agencies and more than 50 private police agencies. Whew! That's a lot of police. And drug czar Bennett has the authority to use many federal police agencies to combat drug use and sale in D.C.

There could virtually be a policeman for every 10 citizens in the District of Columbia. Most D.C. residents will be under sur-

veillance. Now what happens when the ratio of police officers to citizens is raised to this abnormally high level? False arrest, violation of civil rights, police brutality and invasion of privacy. This is the price that citizens have to pay for the war on drugs. So if any innocent D.C. resident complains about being roughed up by the police, the standard response that he will receive is, "Do you want us to get rid of drugs or not? You begged for help, so here it is. Stop complaining!"

The pathetic thing about Bennett's war on drugs in Washington, D.C., is that it won't reduce the use and sale of drugs a single bit. Soon, drug dealers and doers may not be quite as visible on the streets of Washington, D.C. But that is only because they will have gone indoors. Or, to Baltimore, Md., Alexandria, Va., New York City or elsewhere to get and sell their drugs. "Don't make me laugh. (p.s., want to see a real war? Watch for the war between drug czar William Bennett and Washington, D.C., Mayor Marlon Barry.)"

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Brandi S. Johnson, 8, was the winner of a poetry contest held at Northside Christian Academy. She is the daughter of Aaron and Sylvia Johnson.

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