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are laying off deputies and closing jail beds. They are talking about being fiscally responsible elected officials, and this is one of the issues that begs the question, is fiscal responsibility more important than a failed drug war?

"If you look at it from a state's rights point of view, from a homeland security and drug war point of view, from an economic point of view, from individual responsibility and civil liberties point of view, these are major planks of the Republican Party platform. I think more Republicans are connecting themselves with this issue and portraying themselves as this being an issue they can lead on."

J.T.: In 2014, there's likely to be a question regarding gay marriage on the Oregon ballot. In Washington, in 2012, there were also questions regarding both gay marriage and marijuana. I'm wondering if you think that there is any link between these two issues socially or politically, and if turnout for one issue might help with turnout for the other.

R.K.: I think that there is a strong correlation between the issues of marriage equality and the issues of regulating marijuana.

If you look at it in terms of turnout or crossover of who is going to support those issues, it tends to be moderates, progressives, young voters and libertarian-minded voters. The midterm elections and non-presidential elections tend to be really suboptimal for marijuana-related initiatives because younger voters tend to come out for the presidential election but sit out the midterm election, and that's a real concern for people trying to get a real critical millennial voice on the issue. In Oregon,

when you have an organization like Basic Rights Oregon that says they'll put the issue on the ballot and then raise millions of dollars to get out the vote, that's a huge opportunity for the marijuana policy movement to leverage that energy and activism.

J.T.: Sanjay Gupta, CNN's chief medical correspondent, had a turnaround on marijuana in a documentary he did for the network. How big a deal is that?

R.K.: I think that, legitimately, that's a big deal. He's a highly respected national and international voice. I'm not fixated on how many people watch CNN or the special he did. But I watched the program last night, and I have been following his evolution on the issue in the past few months. It's a big deal because the concerns that voters might have, a good portion of the voters, especially over the age of 50, are still operating under the framework where "Reefer Madness" is a point of reference, and not an ironic or pop culture point of reference. These are people who grew up hearing about Reefer Madness and raised kids or went to college during Nixon's drug war or Reagan's escalation of the drug war. So there's a lot of misinformation to deconstruct and a lot of new information that needs to be provided. To have a respected physician and scientist say, "I was wrong. I was part of the problem and I have to apologize for being part of the problem as an educated member of society and a physician."

That's why I think it's a big deal. The documentary is good, but the big deal was that a very respected and respectable medical professional apologized for his past view.

Homeless ol' fool

by Jay Thiemeyer

harmless ol' fool
took my fiver
for cigarettes

if you're dying
die comfortable

and not alone

I am your friend old man
could be there
but I'm not
where do we go from here?

I'll see you at the Tenner
when you wander in to talk
about the early days
for us cretins, us simpletons, christians
when it was about
things
unlike today
when people mattered
and money
was not even in
the picture.

It took a world
away-
money. Take it
from me.

So where ya goin ol' man?

cigarettes.

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