

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 5-6-99
Bill No. Res. 49
Or ASR 49
Subject Indus. Hemp
(Name) CAREN THOMAS
(Street Address or Route Number) 592 GLENCOE RD
(City & Zip Code) GLENCOE, IL 60022
(Representing)

- Speaking in favor: [X]
- Speaking against: []
- Registering in favor: []
- Registering against: []
- Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against: []

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Assembly Sergeant at Arms:
Room 411 West
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 5/6/99
Bill No. ATR 49
Or
Subject Hemp
(Name) Michael H. Speich Spike
(Street Address or Route Number) 1940 Bassett Place
(City & Zip Code) WI Rapids, WI. 54444
(Representing) Self

- Speaking in favor: [X]
- Speaking against: []
- Registering in favor: []
- Registering against: []
- Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against: []

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State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 5-6-99
Bill No. Resolution 49
Or
Subject
(Name) Rich Ray
(Street Address or Route Number) 917 Williamson St.
(City & Zip Code) Madison, WI 53703
(Representing) Hempen Goods

- Speaking in favor: [X]
- Speaking against: []
- Registering in favor: []
- Registering against: []
- Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against: []

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Assembly Sergeant at Arms:
Room 411 West
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

ATR 49 B
45

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 5/6/99
BILL No. ASR 49
Or
Subject INDUSTRIAL HEMP LEGISLATION
JORDAN GRUNOW
(Name)
RT 1 BOX 113 (715) 278 3937
(Street Address or Route Number)
MARINO WI 54815
(City & Zip Code)
PENOCKE MFG HEMP CO
(Representing)

Speaking in favor:
Speaking against:
Registering in favor:
Registering against:
Speaking for information only:
Neither for nor against:

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State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: May 6, 1999
BILL No. HEMP ASR 49
Or
Subject
EDDY NIX
(Name)
2525 MAIN ST.
(Street Address or Route Number)
LACROSSE 54601
(City & Zip Code)
Self
(Representing)

Speaking in favor:
Speaking against:
Registering in favor:
Registering against:
Speaking for information only:
Neither for nor against:

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Assembly Sergeant at Arms:
Room 411 West
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 5/6/99
BILL No. ASR 49
Or
Subject Ind. Hemp
ROSS WERSENSE
(Name)
2020 Walton Commons N
(Street Address or Route Number)
MILWAUKEE 53718
(City & Zip Code)
WISCONSIN BUSINESS COUNCIL
(Representing)

Speaking in favor:
Speaking against:
Registering in favor:
Registering against:
Speaking for information only:
Neither for nor against:

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State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 5/6/99

Bill No. Or. Subject ASR 49

(Name) Beth Unger

(Street Address or Route Number) 5594 County SS

(City & Zip Code) Viola WI 54664

(Representing) Sue's Amazing Lip Stuff

- Speaking in favor: [checked]
Speaking against: []
Registering in favor: []
Registering against: []
Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against: []

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Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 5-6-99 ASR49

Bill No. Or. Subject ASR 49- Hemp

(Name) Gerald Moeke

(Street Address or Route Number) N5268 Moeke Rd

(City & Zip Code) Hilbert WI 54129

(Representing) Self

- Speaking in favor: [checked]
Speaking against: []
Registering in favor: []
Registering against: []
Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against: []

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Assembly Sergeant at Arms: Room 411 West State Capitol Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 5/6/99

Bill No. Or. Subject ASR 49- Hemp

(Name) Betsy Ahner

(Street Address or Route Number) 2317 International Ln #115

(City & Zip Code) Madison, WI 53704

(Representing) WI Fertilizer & Chemical Assn.

- Speaking in favor: [checked]
Speaking against: []
Registering in favor: []
Registering against: []
Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against: []

Please return this slip to a messenger promptly.

Assembly Sergeant at Arms: Room 411 West State Capitol Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: MAY 6 99

Bill No. AJR 49

Or Subject Heamp

(Name) JIM ARTS

(Street Address or Route Number) 202 Shepard Ter

(City & Zip Code) Madison 53705

(Representing) Self

Speaking in favor:

Speaking against:

Registering in favor:

Registering against:

Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

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State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 5-6-99

Bill No. AJR 49

Or Subject

(Name) John Manske

(Street Address or Route Number) 30 W. Mifflin

(City & Zip Code) Madison 53703

(Representing) WI Fed of Coops

Speaking in favor:

Speaking against:

Registering in favor:

Registering against:

Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

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State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 5-6-99

Bill No. AB 49

Or Subject Heamp

(Name) Carol Deane

(Street Address or Route Number) 144 Co Rd C

(City & Zip Code) Bellevue WI

(Representing) 5321 & Deef

Speaking in favor:

Speaking against:

Registering in favor:

Registering against:

Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger promptly.

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Room 411 West
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

* Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: MAY 6, 1999
BILL No. SR 49
Or. Subject INDUSTRIAL HEMP
JEFF GAIN
(Name)
P.O. Box 607
(Street Address or Route Number)
HARDIN, IA 52047
(City & Zip Code)
NORTH AMERICAN IND. HEMP. COUNCIL
(Representing)

- Speaking in favor:
- Speaking against:
- Registering in favor:
- Registering against:
- Speaking for information only:
- Neither for nor against:

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State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 5-6-99
BILL No. ASR 49
Or. Subject
Geof Kime, President
(Name)
1157 Longwoods Road
(Street Address or Route Number)
Delaware, Ontario CANADA
(City & Zip Code) NOL 1E0
HempLine, Inc.
(Representing)

- Speaking in favor:
- Speaking against:
- Registering in favor:
- Registering against:
- Speaking for information only:
- Neither for nor against:

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Assembly Sergeant at Arms:
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State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

* Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: May 5, 1999
BILL No. AJR 49
Or. Subject
Paul Mahlberg
(Name)
Dept. of Biology
(Street Address or Route Number)
Indiana University
(City & Zip Code)
Bloomington IN 47403
(Representing)

- Speaking in favor:
- Speaking against:
- Registering in favor:
- Registering against:
- Speaking for information only:
- Neither for nor against:

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State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 5/5/99
Bill No. Assembly Seat No 49
Or
Subject ~~Wage~~

(Name) Robert BURBIL
(Street Address or Route Number) 2042 Spring Rd
(City & Zip Code) STAUFER, WI 53584

(Representing) Emery Greenwood, Inc.
Emery Greenwood, Inc.
Research and Farming

Speaking in favor:
Speaking against:
Registering in favor:
Registering against:
Speaking for information only:
Neither for nor against:

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Assembly Sergeant at Arms:
Room 411 West
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 5/6/99
Bill No. ASR 49
Or
Subject Industrial Hemp.

(Name) Doug Porter / ABS Global
(Street Address or Route Number) 6908 River Rd
(City & Zip Code) DeForest, WI 53532

(Representing) International Center
of Agricultural Trade & Technology
Speaking in favor:

Speaking against:
Registering in favor:
Registering against:
Speaking for information only:
Neither for nor against:

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Room 411 West
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 5-6-99
Bill No.
Or
Subject Industrial Hemp

(Name) Neal Jorgensen
(Street Address or Route Number) 5979 Woodcreek Ln
(City & Zip Code) Middleton, WI

(Representing) Emeritus Dean College of
Ag & Life Sciences

Speaking in favor:
Speaking against:
Registering in favor:
Registering against:
Speaking for information only:
Neither for nor against:

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State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: May 6, 1999
BILL NO. A.J.R. 49
Or. Subject: Frank Boyle
Subject: 4900 E. Tri Lakes Rd
Superior Wis.
(City & Zip Code) /
3rd Assembly Dist
(Representing)

- Speaking in favor:
- Speaking against:
- Registering in favor:
- Registering against:
- Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

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State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: May 6
BILL NO. A.J.R. 49
Or. Subject: Industrial Hemp
Subject: Rep Gene Herdn
(Name)
(Street Address or Route Number)
(City & Zip Code)
(Representing)

- Speaking in favor:
- Speaking against:
- Registering in favor:
- Registering against:
- Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

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State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 5-6-99
BILL NO. A.J.R. 49
Or. Subject: Prof #49
Subject: WAYNE A Smith
(Name)
73 E Cook St
(Street Address or Route Number)
Portage Wi 53901
(City & Zip Code)
Columbia Co Sheriff
(Representing)

- Speaking in favor:
- Speaking against:
- Registering in favor:
- Registering against:
- Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

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State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702



Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 4-6-99
Bill No. or Subject: N. 49 Industrial Hemp
(Name): Craig Kluge - DOJ
(Street Address or Route Number): 123 West Washington
(City & Zip Code): Madison, WI, 53707
(Representing): WI Dept. of Justice

- Speaking in favor:
- Speaking against:
- Registering in favor:
- Registering against:
- Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger promptly.

Assembly Sergeant at Arms:
Room 411 West
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: May 6, 1999
Bill No. or Subject: Industrial Hemp
(Name): Craig V. Kettison
(Street Address or Route Number): 2820 Walton Commons West, Suite 100
(City & Zip Code): Madison, WI 53704
(Representing): Wisconsin Business Innovation Corp.

- Speaking in favor:
- Speaking against:
- Registering in favor:
- Registering against:
- Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger promptly.

Assembly Sergeant at Arms:
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State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 3/6/99
Bill No. or Subject: AR 79
(Name): Paul Zimmerman
(Street Address or Route Number): 1212 Denny Way
(City & Zip Code): Mukwonago WI 53705
(Representing): WI Farm Bureau

- Speaking in favor:
- Speaking against:
- Registering in favor:
- Registering against:
- Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

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Assembly Sergeant at Arms:
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State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: May 6 1999
BILL No. ARB 255672 ASR49
Or. Subject Industrial Hemp
Arthur Woelfel
(Name)
5632 Long Road
(Street Address or Route Number)
Hilbert, Wi. 54129
(City & Zip Code)
(Representing)

- Speaking in favor:
- Speaking against:
- Registering in favor:
- Registering against:
- Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

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State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 5-6-99
BILL No. AJR 49
Or. Subject Hemp
~~Bob Denman~~
(Name)
117 W. Spring St
(Street Address or Route Number)
Chippewa Falls 54729
(City & Zip Code)
Wis. Farmers Union
(Representing)

- Speaking in favor:
- Speaking against:
- Registering in favor:
- Registering against:
- Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger promptly.

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Room 411 West
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 5-6-99
BILL No. AJR-49
Or. Subject Industrial Hemp
John O'Brien
(Name)
Po Box 7882
(Street Address or Route Number)
MADISON WI 53708
(City & Zip Code)
Senator Dave Schultz
(Representing)

- Speaking in favor:
- Speaking against:
- Registering in favor:
- Registering against:
- Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger promptly.

Assembly Sergeant at Arms:
Room 411 West
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 5/6/99
BILL No. Or Subject: Endustrial Hemp
(Name): David R. Muehl
(Street Address or Route Number): 1682 Cty Rd BB
(City & Zip Code): Deerfield, WI 53531
(Representing): self

Speaking in favor:
Speaking against:
Registering in favor:
Registering against:
Speaking for information only:
Neither for nor against:

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Assembly Sergeant at Arms:
Room 411 West
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 5/6/99
BILL No. Or Subject: ~~ASDR~~ ASDR 49
(Name): JAMES L. GIBSON
(Street Address or Route Number): 2820 Wagon Commons W
(City & Zip Code): Madison, WI 53718
(Representing): WISCONSIN AGRI. COUNCIL

Speaking in favor:
Speaking against:
Registering in favor:
Registering against:
Speaking for information only:
Neither for nor against:

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Room 411 West
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 5-6-99
BILL No. Or Subject: ADR 49 Hemp
(Name): Ron Statz
(Street Address or Route Number): PO Box 663
(City & Zip Code): Sauk City WI 53583
(Representing): NFO

Speaking in favor: *Had to leave before speaking*
Speaking against:
Registering in favor:
Registering against:
Speaking for information only:
Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger promptly.

Assembly Sergeant at Arms:
Room 411 West
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

I have to leave at 1 PM to go to another meeting

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 5-6-99

Bill No. ~~AMB~~ 49

Or. ASR
Subject

REP Rick Skindrud
(Name)

(Street Address or Route Number)

(City & Zip Code)

(Representing)

Speaking in favor:

Speaking against:

Registering in favor:

Registering against:

Speaking for information only:
Neither for nor against:

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State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 5/6/99

Bill No. ~~ASR~~ Res. 49 Ind Hemp

Or.
Subject

ERWIN "Bud" Skoltz
(Name)

(Street Address or Route Number)

(City & Zip Code)

Wis. Dept. of Agr
(Representing)

Speaking in favor:

Speaking against:

Registering in favor:

Registering against:

Speaking for information only:
Neither for nor against:

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Room 411 West
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: ~~ASR~~ 5/6/99

Bill No. ASR 49

Or.
Subject INDUSTRIAL HEMP

CLAUDE GILMORE
(Name)

ALLIANCE DIRECTOR FOR

(Street Address or Route Number)

A DRUG FREE WISCONSIN
(City & Zip Code)

(Representing)

Speaking in favor:

Speaking against:

Registering in favor:

Registering against:

Speaking for information only:
Neither for nor against:

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State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: AS? 05/06/99
 Bill No. ASR 49
 Or Subject spour us
 Name HUIRAS
 (Name) VIOCIUMAKER
 (Street Address or Route Number) 8611 Hwy 60 Cedarburg
 (City & Zip Code) FAFU 53010
 (Representing)

- Speaking in favor:
- Speaking against:
- Registering in favor:
- Registering against:
- Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

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 State Capitol
 Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

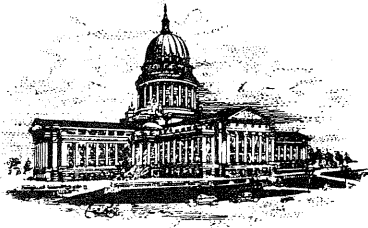
Date: May 6, 1999
 Bill No. ASR 49
 Or Subject Hemp
 Name Ben Masei
 (Name) 1214 E. Miffin
 (Street Address or Route Number) Madison 53703
 (City & Zip Code)
 (Representing)

- Speaking in favor:
- Speaking against:
- Registering in favor:
- Registering against:
- Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

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 State Capitol
 Madison, WI 53702

JAN 27 1999

AJR 49



Wisconsin State Assembly

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

6968 2 3 1999

January 27, 1999

Representative Alvin Ott
Chair, Assembly Committee on Agriculture
Room 318 North, State Capitol

Dear Chairman Ott:

We respectfully request the Assembly Committee on Agriculture hold an informational hearing on the topic of industrial hemp.

In light of the rising scarcity of fiber supplies, faltering state agricultural economy and increased production of industrial hemp in European countries and Canada, we feel that it would be beneficial for Wisconsin to consider the possibility of cultivating industrial hemp.

Invited speakers would address the feasibility and desirability of industrial hemp production in the state of Wisconsin, including agricultural and economic opportunities and legal and economic barriers.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eugene Hahn".

Eugene Hahn
State Representative
47th Assembly District

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frank Boyle".

Frank Boyle
State Representative
73rd Assembly District

EHH:has

Chairman:
Agriculture Committee



Member:
Consumer Affairs
Government Operations
Natural Resources

Al Ott

State Representative • 3rd Assembly District

February 2, 1999

Representative Eugene Hahn
15 West, State Capitol
Representative Frank Boyle
221 North, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representatives Hahn and Boyle:

This letter is to inform you that I have tentatively set Thursday, March 11, 1999 as an Assembly Agriculture Committee meeting date for the purpose of holding an informational/search hearing on the industrial hemp issue. The Committee would hear invited speakers knowledgeable on the hemp issue and would open for public input after the presentations.

Please have a list of anticipated participants to me no later than February 25 so that the necessary public notices could be posted for this meeting. I would ask that we discuss the list of participants before they are contacted. Also, please let me know as soon as possible if this date will not work for either of you.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Al Ott
Chair
Assembly Agriculture Committee

ARO:ln

1940 Bassett Place
Wi. Rapids, WI. 54494

May 5, 1999

Wisconsin State Assembly Committee on Agriculture
Assembly Joint Resolution 49
Hearing May 6, 1999
Dear State Assembly Committee on Agriculture;

I have taken a personnel day of work to try and convince you of the importance of AJR Resolution 49 that you have before you here today. My interest of industrial hemp is two fold. One, the importance of industrial hemp being a cash crop and a turnover crop to rejuvenate soils and reduce weeds. Second, to reduce the belief that law enforcement would be sending the wrong message in that marijuana with THC levels as high as 20% somehow are interlinked with industrial hemp with THC levels of less than 1% are related.

The passage of AJR 49 will send the DEA the message to reevaluate and acknowledge the difference between marijuana and industrial hemp.

In a time when all persons are more alert to pesticides and insecticides, industrial hemp has 300 plants to a square yard that virtually wipe out all weeds for the next years planting.

In a time when farmers in all of the Midwest need alternatives to survive, don't let other world competitors beat us up again. Give them the chance and the option.

In a time when our youth and adults can get instructions and details off the internet to build everything from bombs to "Drain O" drugs, why would be concerned of them smoking something that is probaly comparable to an old oak line fence post. When kids and the public have so many poor alternatives available to them in drug culture world, lets presume they will be able to sort the differences apart.

Lastly, I would never want to hurt law enforcement from doing its job. In this proposal of legalizing industrial hemp, Canada and other countries have setup plot logging, testing for THC, and drawf varieties that would never develop for drug usefulness.

Having grown up in the Woodstock era, we are dealing with a much different world out there ladies and gentlemen. This is a industrial and farmer request of need. They are not your enemy here.

John Speich my late grandfather, John D. Speich, my father, who works daily, and my brother William Speich who is actively works and manages daily, their dairy farm in Clark County. Their hard work, respect for the earth and past track record shows that they and other in farming could use this type of turnover crop. Allow them to grow industrial hemp with monitoring and by growing it, market and products would come with it. The fiber, oil, and its growing advantages will benefit all of us in our daily lives.

Your consideration would be appreciated. Thank you.

Sincerely yours, Michael H. Speich

Chairman:
Agriculture Committee



Member:
Consumer Affairs
Government Operations
Natural Resources

A1 Ott

State Representative • 3rd Assembly District

Assembly Agriculture Public Hearing – Thursday, May 6, 1999

Invited Testimony – Assembly Joint Resolution 49 –INDUSTRIAL HEMP

Rep. Eugene Hahn /Rep. Frank Boyle

Sen. Dale Schultz

Joe Tregoning, Deputy Secretary, Dept. of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

Craig Klyve, Dept. of Justice

Dr. Paul Mahlberg, Indiana University

Detective Wayne Smith, Columbia County Sheriff's Dept.

Jeffrey Gain, Blue Ridge Co./Bud Sholts, Dept. of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

Geoff Kime, Pres., Hempline, Inc., Canada (teleconference)

Steve Kernan, Dept. of Public Instruction

Jim Arts/John Manske, Wisconsin Federation of Cooperatives

UW Dean Emeritus Neal Jorgensen



*File
Ag Comm.*

WISCONSIN FEDERATION OF COOPERATIVES • 30 West Mifflin Street, Suite 401 • Madison, WI 53703 • Phone (608) 258-4400

BRIEF BIOGRAPHY OF JOHN MANSKE

- Director of Government Relations for Wisconsin Federation of Cooperatives (WFC), since February, 1992. Primary responsibility is as lobbyist for WFC's agricultural interests, such as dairy, farm supply, livestock, etc.
- Born in Rock County, Wisconsin. Educated in Milton, WI. schools.
- Bachelor of Science degree in Education, Broad Field Social Studies major, from the University of Wisconsin, Whitewater, 1975. Graduated cum laude.
- Master of Arts degree in Public Policy and Administration, University of Wisconsin, Madison, 1978.
- State representative from a Southern Wisconsin legislative district, 1982-1987.
- Legislative liaison (lobbyist) for Wisconsin Department of Health & Social Services (DHSS), 1987-1988.
- Executive Director of Common Cause/Illinois, 1988-1991.
- Instructor of social science classes for Milton College, Upper Iowa University, and Mount Senario College, during 1981-1986.

Erwin A. "Bud" Sholts Economist, Chairman, NAIHC, 608-258-0243, PO Box 259329, Madison, WI 53725-9329

Is an economist and has worked in agriculture development in Wisconsin for over 30 years. Projects have involved all phases of agriculture serving farmers and agribusinesses. Serves on the following national offices: Director - National Association of State Aquaculture Coordinators (NASAC); Chairman - National New Uses Council, Inc. (NUC); Chairman - North American Industrial Hemp Council, Inc. (NAIHC). B.S. degree in Agricultural Economics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and his M.S. degree in Agricultural Economics from the University of Arizona. Owns and operates a 110-acre diversified crop farm in Dane County, Wisconsin.

Geof Kime P. Eng./President, Hempline, Inc. 519-652-0440, 11157 Longwoods Road, Delaware, Ontario N0L 1E0

Raised on farm near London, Ontario. Received a bachelors degree in Mechanical Engineering from Queen's University at Kingston, 1990. Ontario-licensed professional engineer since 1993. Holds U.S. and international patents for his designs of plastic processing equipment with the company Big'O' Inc. Successfully carried out the design, fabrication, implementation and support for this equipment throughout North America and England. Founding Director of Hempline Inc., which in 1994 became the first company to legally plant hemp in North America since the 1950's. The company is in the process of establishing a fiber separation process in preparation for future commercial production. Instrumental in lobbying the Canadian Government to legalize commercial production of hemp. Spoken widely on the topic of industrial hemp at numerous conferences and public events in Canada and the U.S.A.

Jeffrey W. Gain Blue Ridge Company 618-576-9392, PO Box 607, Hardin, IL 62047

Currently manages his farm in Calhoun County, Illinois, and is engaged in agricultural policy, marketing and management consulting. Serves as chair of the Alternative Agricultural Research & Commercialization (AARC) Board. Former executive director for the American Soybean Association and CEO of the National Corn Growers Association. One of the founders, and former chair, of the New Uses Council (NUC) which serves as an advocate for the commercialization of new uses and to help coordinate public and private sector initiatives to develop new industrial agricultural products. One of the founders of the St. Louis Agri Business Club and named Agri Business Leader of the Year. Served as member of the USDA's New Farm and Forest Products Task Force which resulted in new industrial uses initiatives in U.S. agriculture. Recipient of the American Crop Protection Association's Outstanding Leadership Award for efforts in new uses and has traveled on various marketing missions around the world. Native of Rushville, Illinois; graduated from the University of Illinois with a B.S. in management. Served as a Public Information Officer and as an admiral's aide in Coast Guard. Served as Executive Secretary for several Illinois County Farm Bureaus and Director of Commodity Programs for the Illinois Agricultural Association.

Senator Lorna Milne - Canadian Federal Senator, The Senate of Canada, 613-947-7695, Parliament Buildings, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A4 Canada (Friday am. Importance of Hemp to Agriculture & Update on Canada's 1998 Success)

She was born on December 13, 1934 in Toronto, Ontario, daughter of William Dennison and Dorothy Bainbridge. She attended Jarvis Collegiate Institute in Toronto and the Ontario Agricultural College in Guelph. She married W. Ross Milne in 1956 and has three children, Rob, Jeanne and Alec. Private Career: Lecturer at the University of Guelph Physics Department, 1956-1957; Census Commissioner, Statistics Canada, 1971 & 1981; Owner of Flowertown Antiques in Brampton, 1972-1989; Residential Coordinator of the Heart & Stroke Foundation of Ontario, Metro Toronto, 1988; Board Member of the Ontario Automobile Insurance Board, 1988-1989; and a self-employed author, lecturer and genealogist, 1989-1995. Activities: Founding President, Brampton & District University Women's Club, 1961-1962; Director, Brampton & District YW-YMCA, 1964-1965; Director, Brampton & District Assn. for the Mentally Retarded, 1964-1966; Chairman, Brampton & District Assn. for the Mentally Retarded, 1967; Director, Rapport House, Brampton, 1971-1972; President, North Peel Unit, Canadian Cancer Society, 1980-1984; Senate of the University of Guelph, 1981-1989; Director, Peel County Heritage Complex, 1983-1989. Political Career: Political Party - Liberal; Trustee, Brampton Public School Board, 1964-1968; Trustee, Peel County Board of Education, 1968-1972; Vice-chairman, Peel County Board of Education, 1969; President, Brampton-Georgetown Federal Liberal Association, 1986-1987, Summoned to the Senate September 22, 1995, by the Right Honourable Jean Chretien; Elected Chair of the Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs, October 1997; and Elected to the executive of the Canada-Europe Parliamentary Association, October, 1997.

Paul G. Mahlberg Department of Biology, Indiana University, 812-855-5980, Jordan Hall, Bloomington, IN 47405

Professor of Biology (plant biology) and Senior Fellow of the Institute of Molecular and Cellular Biology, Indiana University. Received Ph.D. in Botany at the University of California, Berkeley and M.S. and B.S. degrees in Botany at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Has studied cannabis, for over 30 years and has published over 30 articles on cannabis. Wrote Laboratory Program In Plant Anatomy, and published two educational films. Served as a consulting editor to Academic Press in the preparation of ten monographs. Currently collaborating with Dr. Ivan Bocsa, Kompolt, Hungary, in a three-year USDA sponsored research study on hemp, and with Dr. Eun Soo Kim, Seoul, Korea, on organization and composition of glandular trichomes in cannabis and related plants. Served as a consultant to the United Nations Industrial Organization, Vienna, on industrial processing of raw opiates, to the University of Mississippi, School of Pharmacy, in its cannabis program, and to private companies in studies on secondary products of plants. Member of the board of directors of the Door County (Wisconsin) Land Trust which is dedicated to preservation of ecologically important land.

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 49 – Public Hearing, Thursday, May 6, 1999 – 417 North, State Capitol

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Claude Gilmore
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Wayne A. Smith
Columbia County Sheriff's Dept.
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Peter Huiras



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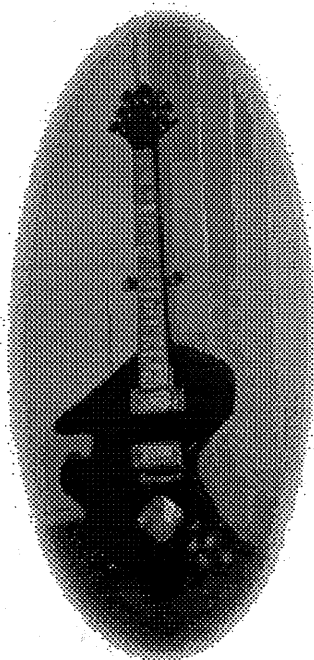
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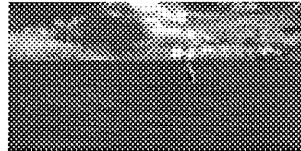
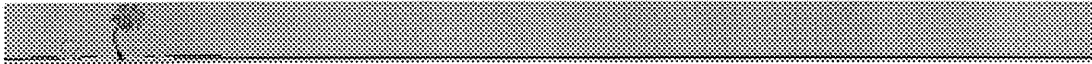
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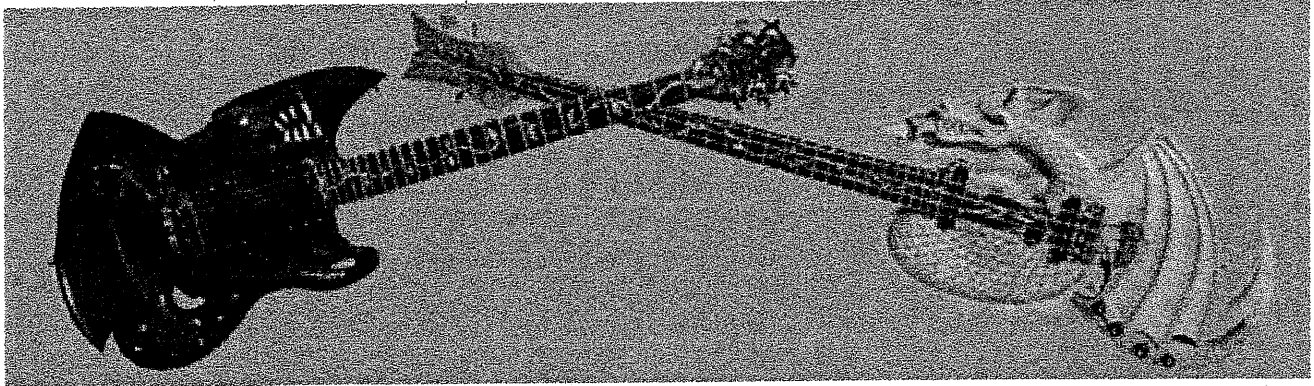
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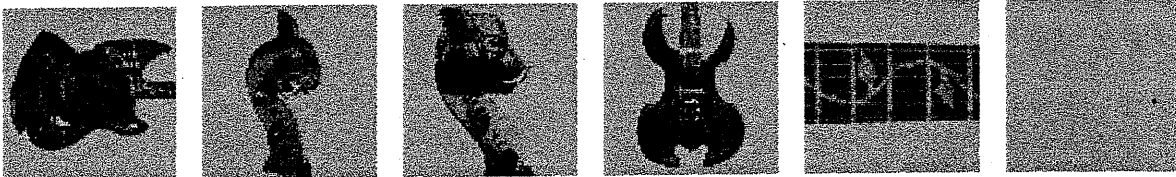


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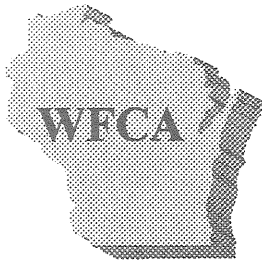
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WISCONSIN FERTILIZER & CHEMICAL ASSOCIATION

2317 International Lane, Suite 115, Madison, WI 53704-3129 Phone (608)249-4070 Fax (608)249-5311

May 6, 1999

Testimony in favor of industrial hemp as a crop for Wisconsin farmers.

Betsy Ahner, Executive Director, WFCA

I am speaking today on behalf of the 495 members of the Wisconsin Fertilizer and Chemical Association. Our members are the retailers, distributors and manufacturers of the fertilizer and agricultural chemicals that are used by Wisconsin farmers. We support the growing of industrial hemp in Wisconsin for the following reasons.

- 1) Farming is a difficult way to make a living, but the present farm economy is making it all but impossible. There seem to be no bright spots in today's agricultural economy. For Wisconsin's agricultural industry to survive, our growers must be able to make a profit. We believe industrial hemp would be a profitable crop for Wisconsin farmers.
- 2) Industrial hemp is environmentally friendly because it needs no herbicides and few if any insecticides. This makes it an economical crop to grow and it should be easier for growers to realize a profit. (Hemp does require fertilizer).
- 3) Industrial hemp is a good rotational crop. Studies in Canada are showing a reduction of soybean cyst nematode when it is grown in rotation with soybeans.
- 4) Fast growing industrial hemp can be another tool for farmers in the battle of weed control. Because hemp plants grow close together they crowd weeds out of the field without herbicides.
- 5) An industrial hemp industry in Wisconsin will mean additional jobs at processing plants that will separate fibers, seeds, oils, etc. and prepare them for shipping to manufacturers of hemp products.
- 6) We expect that any legislation to allow the growing of industrial hemp will contain safeguards to prevent the illegal growing of marijuana. We support reasonable safeguards and licensing requirements.

In summary, the WFCA believes industrial hemp is a crop that will benefit Wisconsin farmers and consumers. We urge you to support AJR 49.

BETSY AHNER
Executive Director

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Alvin Ott
Chairman
Wis. Assembly Ag.

File
APW

5-24-99

MAY 25 1999

Dear Al,

I wanted to register in favor of the Industrial Hemp legislation. From what I can see and read the legislature needs to show leadership in this issue.

It looks to me to be a tool we Wisconsin farmers need, to be able to grow this very diverse crop. It is obvious that we grow too much corn & soybeans.

Give this legislation all the push you know how. Thanks -

Sincerely,
Phil Peterson

Presentation by: Alliance Director For A Drug Free Wisconsin

Issue: Legalization of Industrial Hemp

Background: *Claude Gilmore*

My comments relate to the ultimate message we send to our youth at a time where adolescent drug use remains widespread.

Marijuana, the most widely used of the illicit drugs, accounted for most of the increase in overall illicit drug use during the 90s and it now accounts for much of the observed decrease. There was some gradual downward movement in all three grades in those reporting any use of marijuana in the prior 12 months---that is, in annual prevalence. In fact, this is the second year of decline among eighth-graders. Even though; marijuana use is decreasing, it is still widespread. This year, nearly a quarter (22 percent) of all eighth-graders said they had tried marijuana, and about half (49percent) of all 12th graders said they had done so.

Johnston and his collaborators, Jerald G. Bachman and Patrick M. O'Malley, have found that certain attitudes and beliefs about a drug (in particular, the risk of harm young people see associated with use, and the extent to which they and their friends disapprove of use) plays an important role in driving changes in actual use of the drug. The increase in marijuana use in the 90s was accompanied by, and to some extent preceded by, a downturn in the risk perceived to be associated with using that drug. Peer norms against use also weakened. However, Johnston notes, "over the past two years, we saw an end to the decline in the risk that young people associate with marijuana use, and now evidence of some turnaround in this important belief, especially among eighth-graders." Personal disapproval of marijuana use has shown a similar cross-time change.

Industrial hemp is, and for those who support it, tied to the potential economic benefits. This potential should be explored but within the context of similarities of marijuana production. There are legal and societal implications of all policies so we need a balanced approach.

I recommend that the following courses of actions:

1. That this matter be referred to the State Council on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse for further study.
2. That any legalization of industrial hemp be coupled with law enforcement inspection sweeps for compliance with the levels and illegal marijuana growth.
3. That any infraction of the above issued be presented as any other illegal drug activity.

Industrial Hemp/Marijuana Legislation in Wisconsin Local Concerns

Assembly Joint Resolution #49

1. Introduction:

Detective Wayne Smith
Columbia County Sheriff's Office (WI.)

Det. Smith has been serving as a Columbia County Sheriff's Deputy since 1990. Det. Smith has been assigned to various duties and is currently a Detective assigned to investigations, in addition Det. Smith is the Project Director for Columbia County's multi-jurisdictional anti-drug task force (CCDEE), County coordinator for CEASE (Cannabis Enforcement and Suppression Effort) and a member of The Wisconsin Narcotics Officers Association. Detective Smith has served as an undercover narcotics investigator, and has received training in counter-drug investigations/identification from sources such as the DEA, State of WI. DNE, State of Wisconsin Crime Laboratory, and senior drug investigators.

2. Local Concerns:

Columbia County has experienced numerous problems with wild marijuana. Reports of subjects trespassing on farmland and other property to commit criminal activity have been frequent. The most common complaint is subjects harvesting wild marijuana for illicit purposes; frequently these have been younger offenders (typically juveniles). Juveniles have been arrested in Columbia County from as far away as Grafton, WI. These juveniles after learning at school of the locations of wild marijuana fields in Columbia County, have driven to this area to harvest, use and sell wild marijuana. Additionally with the current climate of school related violence, Columbia County has experienced acts of violence at area schools. Within the last week area schools have received four bomb threats. Of those four incidents four juveniles were referred to juvenile court officials on criminal charges, two of the juveniles were users of marijuana. Juvenile crime and drug abuse has continued to grow in Columbia County, a majority of crimes are committed for controlled substances or because of the use of controlled substances. To legalize production of Marijuana sends an inappropriate message to our youth.

Some recent wild marijuana related events (Columbia County)

- 07-18-97...97-5723...Two younger Adults were arrested after harvesting wild marijuana. Marijuana was being dried at residence and being prepared for sale and use.
- 07-22-97...97-6101...318,182 wild marijuana plants eradicated from a field after farmer experienced problems with people trespassing on land and harvesting marijuana.
- 08-14-97...97-5583...314,149 wild marijuana plants eradicated from a field. Evidence of trespassing to harvest wild marijuana.
- 09-13-97...97-7504...453 wild marijuana plants eradicated after reports of persons harvesting received.
- 09-25-97...97-7850...one adult arrested after harvesting wild marijuana.
- 09-30-97...97-7425...four juveniles referred to juvenile court officials for harvesting wild marijuana.
- 12-10-97...97-10281...arrested one and referred four more teenage subjects for harvesting wild marijuana to sell in Columbus, WI.

All incidents involve subjects harvesting for use or sale wild marijuana (hemp).

Columbia County due to numerous problems with wild marijuana (hemp) has actively eradicated wild marijuana fields in county. In 1997 4,376,954 wild marijuana plants and in 1998 1,982,761 wild marijuana plants were eradicated.

The Columbia County experience is not unique to this Wisconsin County alone, as several CEASE county coordinators have expressed concern. Columbia County's problem with marijuana, high grade or wild (hemp), continues today. To legalize production would create built in possession defense... 1% THC marijuana (hemp) versus high-grade marijuana. Currently only the presence of THC is tested not quality (THC level). It is difficult to receive tests now for court due to backlog at the Crime Lab. To require additional testing will create greater expense, greater backlog and confusion on the street level enforcement of possession cases regarding marijuana. When does one arrest, possession of marijuana or possession of greater THC content marijuana as low grade or 1% marijuana would be legal under Assembly Joint Resolution #49.

3. Problems in Canada with Industrial Marijuana:

In recent a sharing of information with Law Enforcement in British Columbia, Canada (SGT. Dave Mann, Victoria Police Department) it is learned that; Canada which has some legal marijuana (hemp) production also has problems due to it's legalization.

- A farmer recently tilled under ten acres of marijuana (hemp) after locals continued to steal from the field. The farmer had had enough and destroyed the crop. Cannabis Sativa L, the botanical name for hemp and marijuana, is the same plant. They look the same and people will steal them because:
 - They can still get high on .25% THC.
 - They dry it and sell it on the streets for quick money.
 - They convert it to high THC oils.
- Another farmer on the Island (Victoria) was required to till his crop because the THC testing showed his crop exceeded the allowable .3% (Canada) THC limit. He used seeds that were not permitted to grow the crop.
- In Canada there is no location that hemp growers can mill their crops. Most are storing the stalk in hope that a mill will be developed. People soon forget that it is the stalk that is milled. The flowering top is discarded in the textile industry.
- The only ones bragging about the hemp industry in Canada appears to be the proponents. They report a bumper crop...but then what. Hemp stores in Canada that sell clothing and other articles remain higher priced then normal clothing stores. It was also noted that their genuine hemp clothing often contains a blend of linen and flax, hemp often being a blend of less then 40%.
- When it is said that hemp production in Canada has proven success Sgt. Mann is in awe. There has been no statistical information gathered or analyzed to his knowledge. Most reports are from hemp farmers who are tied to a hemp movement. No unbiased, outside scientific data seems to have been collected.

Canada has been addressed as a country in which hemp is a valuable agricultural product (Assembly Joint Resolution #49).

4. Hemp Subsidies Cut in Luxembourg:

June 25th, 1998 *Reuters* reports that European Union farmers agreed to cut subsidies to hemp growers in a bid to curb a massive increase in production fuelled by illegal cannabis cultivation and growing purely for aid.

5. US Air Force Bans Hemp-Seed Oil:

February 8th, 1999 *John Pulley* reports the US Air Force has had to ban hemp-seed oil containing foods and health supplements. The extract was weeded out because it threatens the integrity of the Air Forces' drug-testing program. Hemp-seed oil contains THC. People who use it may test positive for marijuana use.

6. Summary:

In closing I request that Assembly Joint resolution #49 be opposed. We must not rush to judgment based on promises of good fortune. The advent of legalized marijuana (hemp) is nothing more than magical elixir, snake oil if you will being sold to our farmers. The movement to legalize all marijuana use can only follow. By supporting this resolution you openly invite legalization of marijuana, record yourself in history as a supporter of legal marijuana and undermine law enforcement efforts to fight crime. You tell our children, "Marijuana is okay". Is this the legacy you desire? I urge you to consider your vote strongly.

Wayne Smith, Detective
Columbia County Sheriff's Office (WI)

▼ FIRST COMMERCIAL HARVEST

Times Colonist Sept. 19, 1998

Farmer plows under hemp crop

By Bill Cleverley
Times Colonist staff

The first commercial hemp planted legally on Vancouver Island in 60 years was destroyed Friday as farmer Vern Mitchell could no longer put up with the thieves plundering his crop.

Even as Vern Mitchell's tractors plowed under the 10 acres of plants, two youths were being arrested by Central Saanich police. They had just been caught trying to make off with a knapsack full of the hemp. They wouldn't have gotten high if they smoked the whole lot, but said they didn't believe that and wanted to try it any way.

The two were to be charged with theft, and even though industrial hemp is a non-narcotic cousin of marijuana, they will also be charged under the Controlled Substances Acts with possession.

"It's still considered illegal unless you have a special licence," Acting Sgt. Dave Glancie said.

Hemp is used to make a variety of prod-

ucts, including textiles, rope and taco shells.

"It kind of hurts to see it, but we had to make a decision and we had to make a decision quick," said Mitchell as he watched the crop plowed under. He will absorb about a \$10,000 loss on the one million plants he destroyed.

He said he couldn't put up with any more thefts, and estimates he's personally run across about 100 groups of mostly youths wandering up to the field adjacent to Island View Beach.

Most were simply curious, asked a lot of questions and moved on, Mitchell said. But of late some of them — including members of Victoria's street community — were quite nasty. And farm workers could be putting themselves in danger trying to stop the trespassers.

Police made about half a dozen arrests within the last month, including two people who tried to take about nine kilograms of hemp.

"The plan was that they would take the

plants and in turn sell it to unsuspecting youths as real marijuana and make some money," Glancie said.

Glancie said the crop's location was a problem — near popular Island View Beach.

"Every kid on the Peninsula goes down there," Glancie said.

Unlike marijuana industrial hemp has only .03 per cent THC (the active ingredient that gets one high). Regular marijuana is 15 to 40 per cent THC.

There certainly is a difference in price. A similar size field of marijuana would be worth about \$800 million, Mitchell said.

This is the first year industrial hemp has been planted on the Island. A total of 35.6 acres have been planted on the Peninsula, in Cobble Hill, Campbell River and Qualicum Beach.

None of the other hemp crops have seen the same theft problem as Mitchell's, said Brian Johnson, the Victoria businessman who led the push to start an Island hemp industry.

EU trims hemp aid to curb illegal cannabis growing

LUXEMBOURG, June 26 (Reuters) - European Union farm ministers on Friday agreed to cut subsidies to hemp growers in a bid to curb a massive increase in production fuelled by illegal cannabis cultivation and growing purely for aid.

Aid levels were cut by much less than originally proposed but still dropped to 662.88 Ecu per hectare from 716.63 Ecu.
(= \$ 295 acre) (= \$ 319 acre)

The EU has argued its expenditure will rise to around 30 million Ecu next year if it continues to subsidise hemp production at the current rate. Current aid is so attractive that the area under cultivation in the bloc has doubled within the last year to some 40,000 hectares, it says.

"The area has expanded massively leading to two main problems - the premium hunters and the question of controls," EU spokesman Gerry Kiely told reporters.

In response, the European Commission initially proposed a 25 percent cut in the level of aid for hemp and a tighter system of controls to crack down on possible fraud. Hemp and cannabis are different varieties of the same identical-looking plant.

Lengthy bargaining between farm ministers seeking the best deals for their countries on a wide ranging agricultural package, which also included reforms to the EU's regimes for bananas, olive oil and tobacco, saw the rate cut pruned to 7.5 percent.

EU hemp producing countries - Britain, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Spain - had opposed a cut in aid levels whilst accepting new anti-fraud rules.

The EU subsidises hemp growing for plants with a level of THC, the chemical responsible for the intoxicating effect of cannabis, of below 0.3 percent.

The rate cut will apply from the 1999/2000 marketing year.

22:11 06-25-98

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Air Force Times

Published: 02-08-99

AIR FORCE SNUFFS OUT HEMP-SEED EXTRACT

By John Pulley

Health supplements and foods containing hemp-seed oil have been banned from use by Air Force members.

The extract was weeded out because it threatens the integrity of the Air Force drug-testing program, service officials said.

Hemp-seed oil contains tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC, the psychoactive ingredient that makes marijuana users feel high. People who use products made from the oil don't get stoned, but their drug-test results look like they did.

Ingesting the oil before being screened for drug use can cause a positive result that is indistinguishable from the test of someone who used marijuana.

Air Force members who balk at the ban on hemp oil could be charged with violating a regulation.

Conviction would carry the same maximum punishment as marijuana use.

Acknowledging the effect of hemp oil on drug tests could open the door to appeals by military members, especially if a drug test was used to convict them of marijuana use. The burden would be on the defendant to prove that hemp oil caused a positive drug test.

Among the diverse products containing the extract are cosmetics, soaps, snack bars, salad dressing and tofu substitute. The products typically are marketed as containing hemp.

Body builders beware

But it was Hemp Liquid Gold, a dietary supplement made with hemp oil and used by body builders, that set in motion events leading to the ban.

The hemp-oil supplement was central to the defense of Chief Master Sgt. Spencer Gaines, an aircraft maintenance mechanic at Dover Air Force Base, Del.

Gaines, a weight lifter with 22 years service in the Air Force, claimed that the oil in Hemp Liquid Gold caused him to twice test positive for marijuana use. A military court acquitted him of drug charges Dec. 23, 1997.

"The government expert couldn't rule out innocent ingestion of a legal product as the source" of THC, his lawyer, Charles Gittins, said at the time.

His case was strengthened by results of a study reported in the Journal of Analytical Toxicology. Seven people were given a single dose of Hemp Liquid Gold, then tested positive for THC.

The Air Force realized its drug-testing program was in jeopardy.

About 2.7 million samples provided by active-duty and reserve military members are tested for drug use each year.

The Air Force and the Defense Department reviewed their options during the past year. Working jointly, the Air Force Judge Advocate General and Surgeon General agreed to the ban on hemp oil.

Without the prohibition, virtually any drug user who tested positive for marijuana could acquit himself by claiming use of hemp oil.



Wisconsin Agribusiness Council, Inc.

2820 Walton Commons West, Suite 100 • Madison, WI 53718-6797 • Phone (608) 224-1450 • Fax (608) 224-1452 • www.wisagri.com

The Wisconsin Agribusiness Council is coordinating the WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVE FOR INDUSTRIAL HEMP

We are

FIGHTING 60 YEARS OF MISINFORMATION WITH 10,000 YEARS OF HISTORY AND FACTS

This initiative is endorsed by the following organizations:

- Wisconsin National Farmers Organization** -----Ron Statz (608) 643-3341
- Wisconsin Agribusiness Council** ----- Russ Weisensel (608) 224-1450
- Wisconsin Federation of Cooperatives** -----John Manske (608) 258-4400
- Wisconsin Farmers Union** -----Robert Denman (715) 723-551-
- Wisconsin Fertilizer & Chemical Association**-----Betsy Ahner (608) 249-4070

Please feel free to contact any of the above for more information about our efforts.

! AND OUR SUPPORT IS GROWING !

In addition to the core supporters of our Industrial Hemp Initiative listed above, the following have indicated their support either with a resolution at a recent annual meeting or by direct contact to us: **Michael Fields Agriculture Research Institute, Wisconsin Business Innovation Corporation, Wisconsin Corn Growers Association, Wisconsin Farm Bureau, Wisconsin State Grange Wisconsin Women for Agriculture, and many individuals including: UW CALS Dean Emeritus Neal Jorgensen and Outreach Specialist at the UW Center for Cooperatives, Will Hughes.**

It is claimed that there are 25,000 uses/products from Cannabis sativa L. Two uses, Recreational and Medicinal, are from the high THC variety of cannabis known as marijuana.

The Wisconsin Initiative for Industrial Hemp is only interested in the other 24,998 uses from the hemp varieties of Cannabis sativa L with a THC content of 1 percent or less.

* * * * *

Section 802. Definitions; Chapter 13 - Federal Drug Abuse Prevention and Control - Controlled Substances Act:

" (16) The term "marijuana" means all parts of the plant Cannabis sativa L., whether growing or not; the seeds thereof; the resin extracted from any part of such plant; every compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture, or preparation of such plant, its seeds or resin. Such term does not include the mature stalks of such plant, fiber produced from such stalks, oil or cake made from the seeds of such plant, any other compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture, or preparation of such mature stalks (except the resin extracted therefrom) fiber, oil, or cake, or the sterilized seed of such plant which is incapable of germination."

The fiber is legal, we just aren't allowed to grow it!

AMERICA'S HEMP KING

BY DENNIS RENS

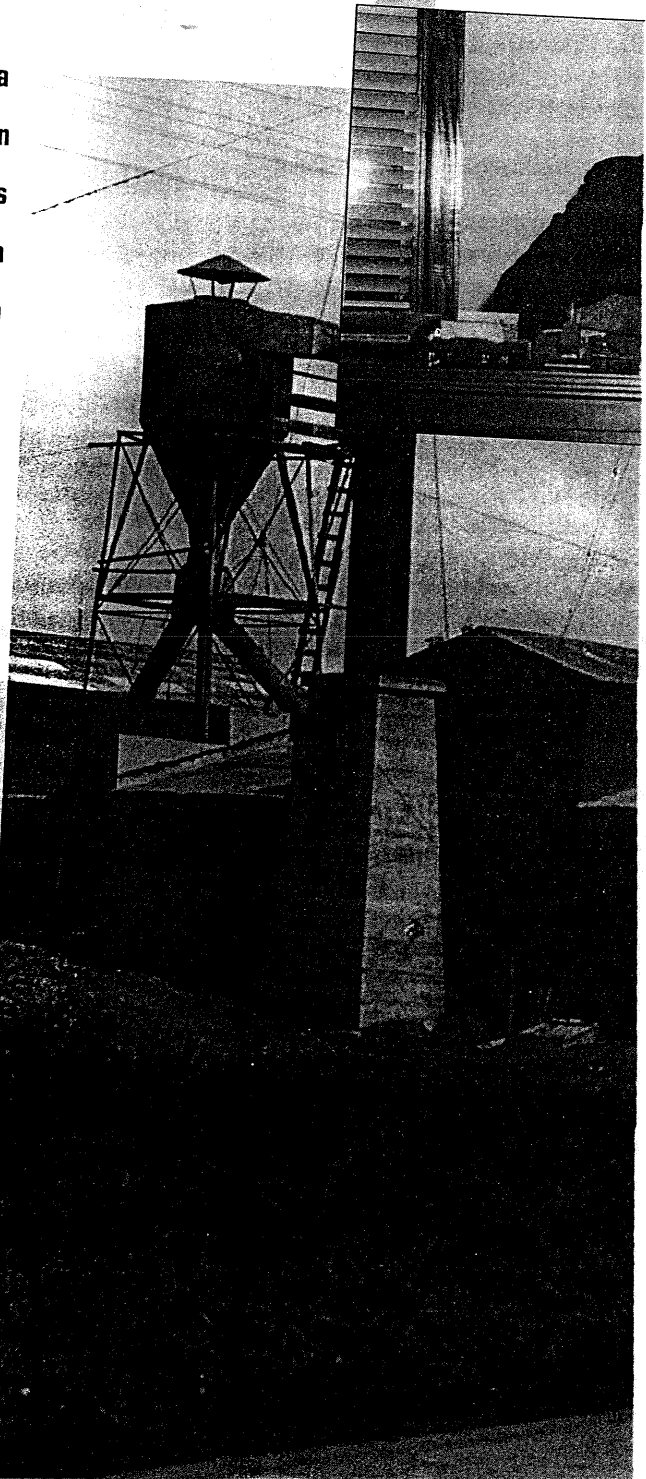
I grew up literally surrounded by hemp. Raised on a Wisconsin dairy farm between Waupun and Brandon in the early 1940's, one of my earliest memories was that of me and my older brother Matt trampling down patches of hemp in the middle of my dad's hemp field to create 'rooms' for the hemp house we were 'building'. I also remember that Dad wasn't too pleased when he stumbled on our creation one day. Something about ruining his profit, as I recall. It was only many years after Grandpa Matt's death in 1950 that I discovered that he was pretty famous in some circles and known widely as 'America's Hemp King'.

EARLY TIMES

Sources indicate that hemp dates way back to the Emperor Sun Nung of China in 28 BC, and that 2500 years ago the Scythians found hemp valuable for rope making. When the pilgrims arrived in America in 1620, they brought hemp along, and grew America's first known hemp crop. The hemp plant was valued for the fiber it produced for making strong, desirable twines, threads, and ropes.

Beginning in 1908, Wisconsin farm land appeared so favorable for the growing of hemp, the Wisconsin State Prison in Waupun built a binder twine plant and experimented with hemp production and processing. The University of Wisconsin was encouraging farmers in the Alto, Brandon, and Waupun area to grow hemp to help meet the increased war need. Matt Rens owned a farm on highway 49 between Waupun and Brandon and was one of those farmers who grew a hemp crop in 1914.

At the time, the process used for turning the grown hemp into a marketable fiber product was laborious, inefficient, and unacceptable to Wisconsin farmers. The only machine used in the entire process was a crude decorticating machine that removed the fiber on the outside of the stalk from the rest. Working with the University of Wisconsin and the US government, Matt and area farmers encouraged the





Matt Rens Hemp Company

MILLERS OF HEMP FIBRE

Brandon, Wisconsin

As you see the different steps in the harvesting and stacking of the hemp in these pictures, you may wonder why we took the extra effort of cutting, binding, shocking and stacking, etc. The only way to produce an acceptable fiber for our spinner customers was to have a retted fiber which was controlled by these processes.

The hemp had to be sufficiently retted, a process which stopped at a point where it still had strength in the fiber. Since we processed the hemp in the Winter months, it had to be available and in a relatively dry state. Sometimes the hemp was stacked immediately after binding it into bundles. The bundles of hemp had to be stacked so that the moisture would be shed at the top and not get saturated throughout, as that would be frozen solid in the winter. Or maybe the retting would be continued so that the strength would be poor.

We had one year, 1950, when we did not get enough moisture to ret the hemp properly and produced a poor fiber. That year the government shut down a hemp mill in Minnesota for a few months when they charged the farmers with transporting marijuana leaves, which they called a public hazard. It took some persuasion of the officials to allow the farmers and mill to finish milling the crop. In the year 1954 we had too much moisture in Wisconsin and some of our crop became over retted. We even burned some because there was no strength left in the fiber. That shows how important it was to have the proper field care before delivery to the hemp mill for processing.

Willard Rens, Partner
Matt Rens Hemp Company

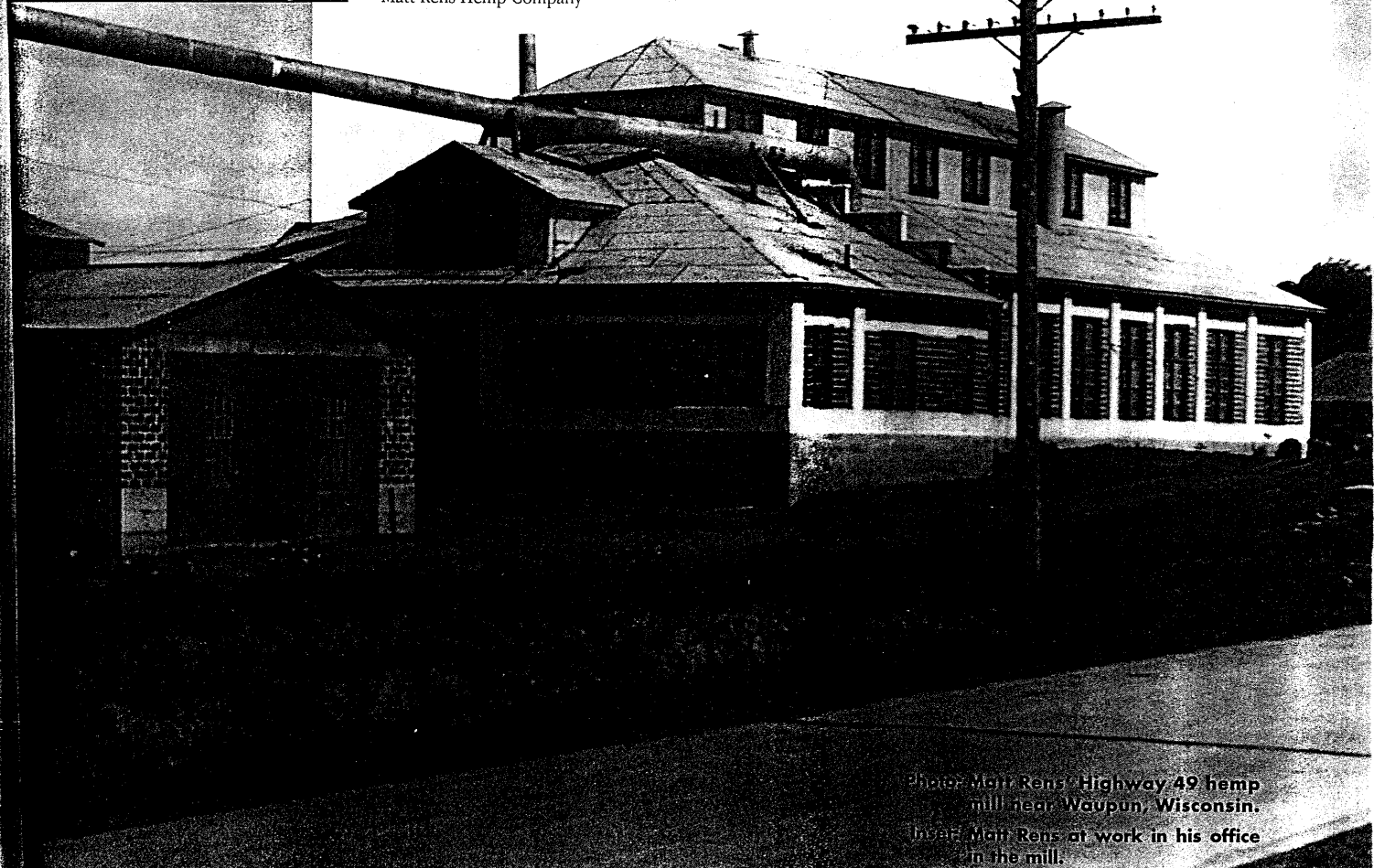


Photo: Matt Rens' Highway 49 hemp mill near Waupun, Wisconsin.

Inset: Matt Rens at work in his office in the mill.

International Harvester Company to invent machines that would cut the hemp and another that would decorticate it, or separate the fiber from the stalk.

This decortivating machine made Matt famous as America's Hemp King. He saw that the decortivating process in individual fields was very inefficient. He also noted that the moisture content of the hemp varied and that dryer hemp typically provided better quality. With that, the idea of a hemp mill was born - a place where farmers could bring their hemp so it could be dried and then decorticated. In 1915 Matt, in partnership with the owner of the decortivating machine, built and opened the nation's first hemp mill. Within a year, he bought out his partner.

The busiest times for the mill were in the fall and winter when the farmers brought their hemp to the mill. As the mill jobs were seasonal, it was not always easy to find workers. In one of the early years, African Americans from Kentucky were brought in to help. In another year, inmates from the State Prison helped out.

In 1920 the mill burned down. However, Matt built a new and improved version. The success of Matt's hemp mill soon caught the eye of other astute businessmen, and by 1920 approximately fifteen mills were built in such area towns as Waupun, Brandon, Markesan, Fairwater, Horicon, Beaver Dam, Union Grove, Roberts, Juneau, and others.

FARMING AND PROCESSING

Initially, farmers brought their hemp to Matt's mill at a set price per acre, and Matt then sold the processed fiber by the pound to spinning companies around the country. Working with Andy Wright, a University of Wisconsin agronomist, Matt then developed a system where he and the farmers shared the sale price of the fiber they delivered to his mill. He also purchased all the farmers' machinery, maintained it, and rented it back to them when they needed it.

Wisconsin farmers relied on Matt to purchase seed from Kentucky where all the nation's seed originated. It was of Chinese origin and

was purchased by the bushel. Just as two year-old seed didn't germinate well, neither did immature seed. Ideally, the seed had an oil content of 29-34%, it had to be kept in a cool and dry area.

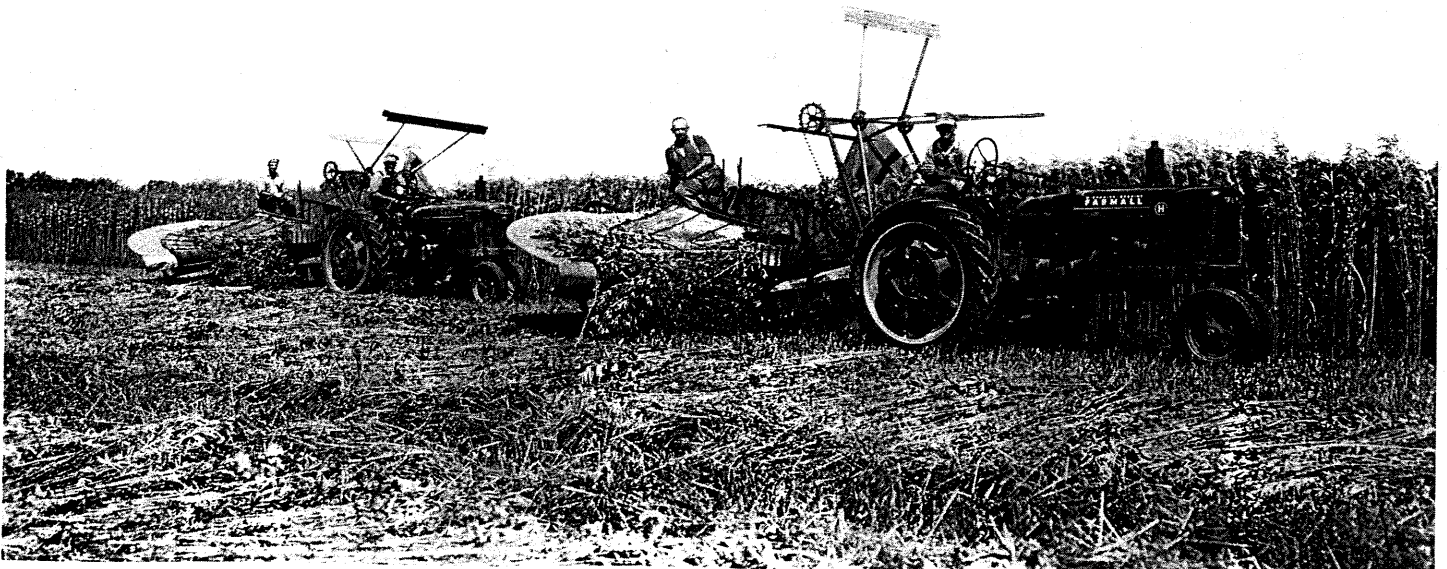
Experiments conducted by Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa, indicated that the highest hemp yields followed those crops that left the most available nitrogen in the soil, like alfalfa. One of the best fertilizers was plain old barnyard manure.

Fields were plowed in the fall and planted in the spring. The seeds were planted with approximately one bushel per acre, in fields that had good drainage. Most farmers limited their crop to no more than ten acres. By late August or early September, the hemp typically had grown six to eight feet tall.

It was important to cut hemp just prior to the formation of seed which reduced the softness of the fiber. If the hemp was harvested too early, a finer and softer, but weaker fiber would result. If it was harvested too late, coarse, brittle fiber resulted.

Matt's son Willard described the hemp harvester as "a seventeen-foot wide machine that would cut a swath about seven feet wide. A large, movable reel would bring the cut hemp back onto a platform. A canvass apron then elevated it to be caught by a circular apron and brought around at a ninety degree angle and spread on the ground."

Retting permits the fiber to be easily separated from the woody core of the stalk. The hemp was left on the ground for from four to six weeks, exposed to the rain and dew, and turned over at least once during the retting process. This process, a partial rotting of the hemp, was called 'dew retting', as opposed to being 'vat retted' in large ponds. The question of the day come October was to ret or not to ret as a few days too long in the field could mean the difference between retting and rotting. If the hemp was over-retted, the fiber was weak as the adhesive substance between fiber cells broke down. This then produced short, broken strands of 'tow fiber', which were less valuable than the long strands called 'line fiber'. If hemp was under-retted, the fiber would not separate well from the stalk, or woody 'hurds', of the plant, and the fiber would not



spin into a good quality twine.

Personnel at the hemp mill performed several tests described in a 1943 US Agriculture Bulletin:

1. Break Test - three to six stalks are bent back and forth. The fiber shouldn't break when the woody core crumbles and the hurds fall free.
2. Bowstring Test - one to five percent of the fibers are in a bowstring shape.
3. Peel Test - the fiber peels freely away from the stalk.

After retting, the hemp was tied into bundles with a harvester machine called Gather-Binder. While occasionally these bundles were then shocked in teepee-like stacks, the hemp was often delivered to the mill shortly after tying it as the bundles would sometimes freeze to the ground.

The only hand process involved was the 'hackling', or combing out, of the fibers. The number one grade of hemp is called 'line fiber', while the number two grade is listed as 'tow'. The United States Navy, of course, required the number one grade."

At the mill, the hemp was laid out on a conveyor ten feet wide and one hundred feet long and went through a drying kiln. This process took approximately one and a half hours. Once dried, the hemp was crushed in the 'breaker' with about fifteen sets of corrugated rollers meshing into each other. The short pieces of crushed stalk, called 'hurds', were carried by an overhead hopper system to the boiler room, where they were used for fuel for the two steam engines that ran the plant. Any extra hurds were given to the farmers for cattle bedding.

When the hemp came out the other end of the breaker, it was carried along by a heavy chain where two sets of revolving scutcher drums combed out the hurds and short pieces of snarled fiber. These were fed into the 'tow machine', a small breaker, and came out as loose tow. An average bale of tow weighed 350 pounds. The longer and more valuable 'line fiber' was caught out of the scutcher by workers and made into handfuls of 'hanks', which were combed by

hand and twisted in the center. Hank bales averaged about 50 pounds or more.

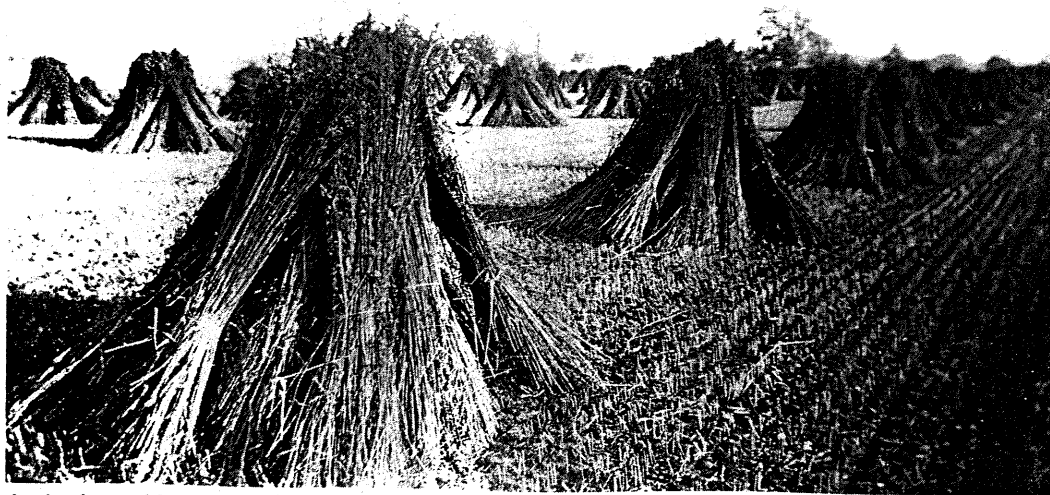
BOOM TO BUST TO BOOM

Hemp was a cyclical business by nature. WW I and immediately thereafter were boom times. As a result, competition took notice and increased, making business tougher. In 1928, a slick Chicago businessman made Matt an offer, and Matt sold his hemp mill - just at the exact right time. When the great depression set in, Matt bought back his mill and the one in Waupun besides, and he and Garret Greenfield, the manager of the Waupun plant, rescued the area farmer by processing their hemp. In 1930 Matt closed the Waupun plant; he later donated the property to the City of Waupun, and it is today the site of the Waupun Hospital.

Times were so difficult in the early 1930's that all the Wisconsin hemp mills except for Matt's and the ones in Juneau and Beaver Dam closed. Matt's farmers grew 375 acres in 1935, and in the 1936-1941 period between 500-600 acres were planted annually. In 1939 the spinning companies began asking for more fiber, amongst them Ludlow Manufacturing Company, the Linnen Thread Company, the Hanover Cordage Company, and the Navy.

In 1940, Matt bought the Markesan Hemp Company and regenerated the plant to help respond to the burgeoning need. The next year, his farmers in the Alto, Waupun, Brandon Fairwater, and Markesan areas grew 2700 acres of hemp, or nearly five times their previous annual production. Matt's oldest son, Dayton, managed the Markesan plant and remained there through the peak war years.

Working with Matt, the John Deere Implement Company converted their rice harvesting machine to a hemp harvester. Another small implement company developed an improved gather-binder machine. And he also helped to develop a turning machine that turned the retting hemp at a rate of fifteen to twenty acres per day as opposed to the laborious hand-turning method which turned just three acres per day.



Stacks of retted hemp stalks in a field.

HEMP FOR VICTORY

The Farmers Bulletin Number 1935 from the US Department of Agriculture reads:

"Hemp is now a strategic war crop... Your Government is sponsoring the expansion of the hemp industry, and farmers will be assisted in the production, handling, and marketing of this crop."

In 1941, imports of Abaca (manila hemp) and sisal fibers were cut off by the Japanese in the Pacific. One year later, the US Government drafted a plan to build forty-two government-owned and operated hemp mills in Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota, and Wisconsin as well as Kentucky. First, they consulted Matt on how to expand production, build mills, train managers, and process hemp. Second, they contracted with Northwest Flax Industries in Winona, Minnesota, to construct hemp breaking machines for installation in their plants. Third, they opened a special training school in Fond du Lac,

Wisconsin. And finally, they constructed their forty-two mills. The goal was to plant between 300,000 to 450,000 acres of hemp in 1943 that could then be processed for its fiber.

It has been reported that during this period Wisconsin supplied about three fourths of the hemp raised in the country and that Matt, in his two mills, produced more hemp than any manufacturer in the United States. In fact, a 1940 Milwaukee Journal article reports that at the beginning of the war Matt's mills processed ninety-five percent of the country's hemp.

Prices were cyclical in the business and generally depended on the availability of foreign fibers. In general, however, 2.25-2.5 tons of air-dry retted hemp stalks were produced per acre, and those 2.25-2.5 tons of stalk produced approximately 1000-1100 pounds, over half of which was high-quality 'line fiber'. The Government was paying anywhere from \$65-\$125 per acre during peak war years. There was good money to be made in the hemp milling business.

REEFER MADNESS

The authorized purchase of hemp seed and the planting and growing process were carefully monitored by the United States Government. Major political interventions centered around two factors - war and drugs. In both wars, Matt not only delivered a quality product, but refined the industry, helped create more efficient processing methods, and loaned his expertise to the government. On the narcotics front Matt has this to say in a 1940 Milwaukee Journal article:

"We have enough marijuana on hand in stacks and in our warehouses to drug the nation, but I can't recall a single case since I've been in the business where farmers or help around here smoked or put marijuana to improper use."

In 1945, Matt testified before a Senate Finance sub-committee in Washington DC. He told them their newest regulation of requiring farmers to remove all leaves and flowers from the hemp plant in the field would produce inferior quality and would force them all out of business.



The gather binder rolled retted hemp into bundles at a rate of 10-12 acres per day.



Stacks of retted hemp shocks outside the Rens mill await processing during the winter months. The hemp was stacked this

By the end of 1944 the government got out of the hemp production business. Most of their mills had been used for only one year and then were sold to various industries at a low price. Because they had created a glut, the fiber market was extremely competitive in the mid to late 1940's. The government provided a one-year guaranteed fiber price, and in 1946 purchased upward of 500,000 pounds of Wisconsin fiber in their price support program. The purchasing program was completed by May of 1948.

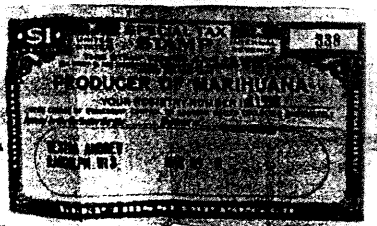
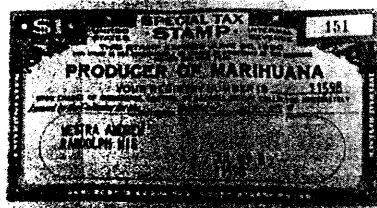
One government scheme was to send millions of pounds of fiber to France in 1950. So another large hemp acreage was planted in 1949, only to have the government change their plans and create another huge fiber glut in 1950. Seventy carloads of hemp fiber were left with no potential buyers in sight!

In 1950 Matt Rens died and no crop was grown.

POSTMORTEM

While efforts were made by Matt's family to maintain the business after his death, the need for US-grown fiber was spotty at best. In 1951, the Linnen Thread Company bought the remaining fiber for use in cellulose sponges. The next year another crop was grown for them. 1953 was a poor retting year, and the Markesan plant was sold to a Milwaukee family for use as a machine shop. Since 1978 it has been Robin II, a company which creates expandable polystyrene molds for use in packaging and as coolers. A major portion of the original hemp mill structure remains today, unchanged since the early 1900's.

In 1954, a moderate acreage was again planted, but monsoon-type rains hit and two-thirds of the crop were over-retted. Finally, in 1957 the last hemp crop was grown to be processed at the Matt Rens Hemp Company, and it was a good one. But it took over a year to sell the high-quality fiber. It seemed the hemp industry no longer served a purpose or responded to the market in a cost-effective way. In the end there



simply was no more demand for hemp products.

Looking back I see several things that contributed to the industry's decline:

1. Hemp fiber quality was dependent on the vagaries of nature.
2. Gummed tape was developed, eliminating the post office market.
3. Synthetic fibers could more consistently control strength.
4. The issue of marijuana control became more important.

As a final act of closing, Matt's son Willard Rens personally degerminated 2000 bushels, or 88,000 pounds of hemp seed that cost \$9-\$10 per bushel and sold it for bird seed at \$2 per bushel. The Matt Rens

PRESERVING A HEMP LEGACY

Dennis Rens wrote his family's history book, *America's Hemp King*, as a labor of love. Having grown up on a hemp farm, then watching the hemp culture disappear from his family's memory, he sought to preserve the story as a legacy.

"I realized that I didn't know much about it, and my children certainly didn't know anything about it, so this knowledge was lost to the family", Dennis said.

Dennis wrote to his uncle Willard, age 81, gave him a list of questions, and asked him to simply talk into a tape recorder. Willard Rens replied with two full cassettes, and a stack of newspaper articles and research bulletins dating back to the turn of the century. Later, Uncle Willard found an 8mm film buried in the back of a file cabinet, and it was perfectly preserved! The film, now transferred to video, documents hemp farming in Wisconsin, and the fiber processing done at the Rens mill. In spite of it's home movie feel, the camera work is excellent and the portrayals are intimate and natural. This film puts *Hemp for Victory* to shame.

In the midst of his book project, Dennis received letters from friends and relatives who expressed only favorable memories of the family hemp business. I asked Dennis how much government intervention his grandfather experienced and he said the Matt Rens Hemp Company had no record of any harassment or interference by government agents. He found that, contrary to popular belief, the government was less of a cause of hemp's demise than market forces. Just like today, cheap imports can cause the decline of any domestic industry. The Marijuana Tax Act may have forced farmers to register their hemp crops for one dollar, but evidently that license in itself did not impede the growth of the hemp industry. Old fashioned competition took care of that.

Dennis is dismayed at the mass amnesia experienced by most Wisconsiners of his generation. He said "they lived through the era when hemp was grown in that area. When you mention hemp they immediately think 'marijuana'. And when you talk about the fiber business, they are really inquisitive because they don't remember that it was grown just outside their city, and that the government was promoting it, wanting more of it to be grown because there was a shortage. All that is lost."

Dennis Rens wants Wisconsin to remember hemp.

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