to Mr. Bulkley (Customs) copy to Lt. Comm. Hammond, USCG

Signature - Narcotic Agent - Inspector

\*See explanatory notes - other side



## NATIONAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

321-5-8 KCH/IMP

Ottawa, January 2nd, 1948

H.J. Anslinger, Esq., Commissioner of Narcotics, Treasury Department, 1300 E Street, N.W., Washington 25, D.C. Reid 7- com

took enter

Re - Joseph Taylor,
"S.S.Alcoa Pennant",
Halifax, N.S.

Dear Mr. Anslinger.

I am quoting hereunder, for your information, a report dated December 12th, 1947, received from our Criminal Investigation Branch at Halifax, N.S., from which you will note that the above named, a seaman aboard the "S.S. Alcoa Pannant, is suspected of being addicted to the use of marihuana.

"The S.S. 'Alcoa Pennant' is a 10,000 ton merchant vessel owned by the Aluminum Company of America and the local agents are Pickford and Black, Ltd., of Halifax, N.S. This vessel arrived at the Port of Halifax from the British West Indies and South American ports on Nov. 26, 1947.

"In the early A.M. of Dec. 7, 1947, the night guard on duty at Halifax Detachment received a telephone call from one Charles ELLCEY, chief cook of the 'Alcoa Pennant' and this man complained that he suspected Joseph Taylor, boatswain of the same ship, with handling marihuana cigarettes.

"This information was subsequently conveyed to the writer and patrol was made to the above mentioned vessel in company with Cst. K.V.Murray. The Captain, Joseph Castro, was contacted and advised that he had heard nothing of this nature whilst the vessel was in Halifax, but he stated that when the ship was in Kingston,

"Jamaica, prior to coming to Halifax, one of the seamen had come aboard apparently under the influence of liquor and had created such a disturbance that it was necessary to place him in irons. Whilst he was being placed under detention this seaman had struck the first mate and inflicted a cut over his eye. Captain Castro stated that he had heard a rumour at that time that the man was not drinking but had been smoking marihuana cigarettes whilst he was ashore. However, since this incident nothing further had come to light concerning the possibility of the man using marihuana and he had finally come to the conclusion that the man was intoxicated.

"With permission of Captain Castro, the complainant, Charles Ellcey, was interviewed, and stated that on the night of Dec. 6, 1947, he and a number of other crew members had attended a dance at the Olympic Gardens, Halifax, N.S. Members of the crew attending this dance included Joseph Taylor, the boatswain, and James C. Nellui a seaman who is commonly known as 'snake-eyes'. At the hall they met several local girls and at the conclusion of the dance he had accompanied one of the girls, namely Della Rose Doucette, of 15 Morris Street to the Grosvenor Hotel where he engaged a room. He further stated that during the time he was at the hotel with this girl they had been drinking and the girl suddenly passed out. He was able to arouse her after considerable effort and at that time she became very violent and scratched his face. After he had succeeded in quieting her he had asked for an explanation of her conduct and she told him that she had been given a marihuana cigarette by James C. Nellui alias "Snake-eyes", who had in turn obtained it from Joe Taylor, the boatswain. This man also stated that ever since the ship had left Kingston, Jamaica, he had suspected Taylor of smoking marihuana cigarettes and had in fact smelled the odour of the cigarettes around the crew's quarters on several occasions. He also stated that he had been told by Dewey E. Stanford, a steward on the ship, that he had been given a marihuana cigarette by the boatswain in the Casino Cafe, Hollis Street, Halifax, N.S., a few days previously.

"As it was considered at this time that if Taylor had any Marihuana in his possession he would probably be taking it shore during the night of December 7th, as it had been ascertained that a number of the crew intended to visit the Casino Cafe that evening. Arrangements were made whereby we would be notified when the boatswain and James C. Nellui left the ship, and following our departure the above mentioned steward Dewey E. Stanford was escorted to this office for questioning. This man stated that on the night of Dec.2,1947,

"he had visited the Casino Cafe in company with approximately ten members of the crew of the 'Alcoa Pennant'. They had purchased a considerable quantity of liquor during the day and consumed it that evening. He stated that he was well under the influence of liquor and late that night he had been given a marihuana cigarette by one of the crew, but that he was unable to state which particular member had given it to him, as there were about ten of them grouped around one table in the cafe. This man was questioned at considerable length but no further information could be obtained from him. He was detained at this office and the vessel was then searched by D/Sgt. A.M. King, Cst. K.V.Murray, and the writer, assisted by the officers of the ship. No evidence of Marihuana was found aboard the vessel.

"Patrol was then made to 15 Morris Street and Della Rose Doucette was interviewed. This girl was under the influence of liquor at the time and it was very difficult to get a coherent story from her, but she did state that early in December she had met Joseph Taylor and James C. Nellui in the Casino Cafe and had struck up an acquaintance with them. She stated that she had spent several nights with Taylor and that on one occasion she noticed a very strong odour from the cigarette he was smoking. She had asked him what caused the odour and had been told that he was smoking a doped cigarette. She then asked if she could smoke the cigarette and had taken a couple of puffs of it, but that the cigarette had no effect on her that she could determine. She was questioned concerning the cigarette given to her at the dance hall by Nellui, but denied that he had ever given her a cigarette containing dope.

"Patrol was then continued to the Casino Cafe and Joseph Taylor in company with another seaman was observed standing on the street. He appeared to be under the influence of liquor at that time. He was placed in Police car and conveyed to this office where he was thoroughly searched but no evidence of marihuana could be found on his person. He was questioned concerning marihuana cigarettes he had allegedly given to Della Rose Doucette and certain crew members of the 'Alcoa Pennant'. He freely admitted that he had smoked marihuana on numerous occasions, but stated that he had not brought any to Canada, but that he had smoked a considerable quantity whilst the vessel was at Kingston, Jamaica.

"He stated that the cigarette which he had given to Miss Doucette was not a marihuana cigarette but one that he had purchased at a local drug store for the relief of asthma. He informed investigating members that whilst in company with this girl he had been smoking one of these medicated cigarettes and she had questioned him concerning the strange odour from it, and at that time he had informed her that it was a doped cigarette. It might be stated here that this man undoubtedly does suffer from asthma.

"In the A.M. of December 8th, the 'Alcoa Pennant' was again searched by members of this Section assisted by officers of the vessel, and this search also proved negative. On the same date James C. Nellui alias "snake-eyes" was interviewed by D/Sgt. A.M.King and Cst. K.V. Murray, and denied he had ever received any marihuana cigarettes from Joe Taylor. He did state, however, that he had smoked one marihuana cigarette whilst the vessel was berthed at Kingston, Jamaica.

"From the information received from various persons concerning the use of marihuana cigarettes on the part of Joseph Taylor it is considered quite probable that he is an addict, and it would also appear probable that he had some of the cigarettes in his possession when he arrived at Halifax. It is not considered, however, very likely that he would be able to dispose of any quantity of them in Halifax to drug addicts, as there are no known drug addicts in this area who use marihuana in any form.

"This vessel left Halifax on the 10th instant for the British West Indies and as far as is known at the present time she will be returning to Halifax on Jan. 15, 1948. The captain informed the writer that he was going to make every effort to have Joseph Taylor signed off the vessel as soon as she reached an American port.

"Joseph Taylor states that he is a citizen of Canada having been born at Laval, Quebec, but he has lived in the United States for approximately twenty-five years. This man is approximately 40 years of age, has brown hair, blue eyes, is about 5 feet 8 inches in height, and weighs around 175 pounds. He is partially deaf and wears a hearing device on occasions. He has a flad tattooed on the back of both of his hands. At the time he was ashore at Halifax he wore a

"white cap, dark wind-breaker, dark trousers, and white and tan shows. He gives his home address as 179 Clay St., San Francisco. It is suggested that the name and description of this subject be brought to the attention of proper authorities in the United States in the event he should come to their attention, as it appears probable that he will sign on another ship as soon as he is discharged from his present position.

"This vessel will be visited on her next trip to Halifax and if this man is still aboard search will be conducted under the provisions of the Opium and Narcotic Drug Act."

In view of the fact that this individual gives his home address as 179 Clay St., San Francisco, Cal., U.S.A., and is expected to be signed off the ship at the first American port, I have no doubt that the information contained in the report concerned may be of some interest to you.

Sincerely yours,

K.C. Hossick, Chief, Narcotic Division

1/8/48
copy to Mr. Bulkley (Customs)
copy to Lt. Comm. Hammond, USCG