



Altered States of America: Full Transcript

[01:00:00:00] - START

[01:00:05:00] - Intro Question - "What happens when state and federal laws disagree?"

[01:00:13:00] FLOYD: Oh man, my research. You know anything about laws? So many laws to worry about. Do you know the governor signed two hundred and fifty-nine bills into law last year? Ha, and that's just here in Colorado. Did you know that in Colorado it's illegal to lend your neighbor a vacuum cleaner? I'm not saying I did, but if I did.

[01:00:37:00] FLOYD: That's why I collect this stuff, just to keep track of it all, man. Like, here, you'll appreciate this. In Louisiana, you can get fined five hundred dollars if you send a friend a pizza, and he doesn't know about it. That's a law dude. Simple pizza prank, and suddenly you're out five hundo. In Massachusetts you're not allowed to own an explosive golf ball. Like, how did that even come up, right? Did someone try to assassinate Tiger Woods? Only Massachusetts knows, I guess. This is where the laws get really crazy, though.

[01:01:11:00] FLOYD: Here we are in Colorado, where if you are over 21, which I am, you can legally possess up to an ounce of marijuana, but not in the seven states surrounding it. So if I had a little weed, and I'm not saying I do, but if I did, and I were to step over the state-line, I'd be breaking the law. Now I'm an outlaw. Now I'm a good boy. Outlaw. Good boy. Back and forth. In and out of the criminal lifestyle.

[01:01:37:00] FLOYD: See, our constitution was designed to let states maintain sovereignty. So, most of the laws that affect us day-to-day are state laws, education, transportation, sanitation. That reminds me. Recycling: state law. But it's not that simple, man. Because the federal government has laws of its own, and when state and federal laws conflict, article six of the constitution says the federal law wins out.

[01:02:09:00] FLOYD: Now, marijuana is legal here in Colorado, but it's illegal anywhere in the US under federal law. See the problem? Legal and illegal. Oh yea. Now, technically, the feds could come arrest people here in Colorado at any time, but right now they're choosing not to. It's like an experiment. The feds can sit back and see how new laws work on a state level. Sometimes the experiments work, sometimes they don't. It's like the bubbling laboratory of democracy.

[01:02:50:00] FLOYD: Of course the courts do get involved if the state law discriminates unconstitutionally. Then again, sometimes those experiments do work, deregulation, welfare reform, health insurance. Stuff like that starts locally and drifts up to the federal government. So like one day, maybe, one day marijuana will be legal everywhere.

[01:03:19:00] FLOYD: Wait, what are you, why are you here again?

PIZZA GUY: I still need my fifteen seventy-five.

FLOYD: Ah, right, let me go upstairs and scrounge up some change. Oh man, my research. You know anything about laws?

[01:03:33:00] - OUTRO CARD - *"THINK. SHARE. VOTE. WEtheVOTERS.com"*

[01:03:42:00] - END