

GROW HEMP FOR THE ENERGY WAR

THE ENERGY CAPER

or

Nixon in the Sky with Diamonds

a novel by

William Scott Morrison

This is a retouched reproduction of a U.S. Department of Agriculture poster from the *Hemp for Victory* campaign in World War II. It hung on the walls of thousands of post offices, grange halls, and USDA extension offices all over the midwest. The *Hemp for Victory* program was so important to the war effort that any farmer and his sons who signed up were exempt from military service for the duration of the war.

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The *Energy Caper* is a romp in an alternate universe with President Richard Nixon, his arch-enemy and guru of the counter-culture, Dr. Timothy Leary, and a band of idealistic twenty-somethings out to change the world. Nixon is the same profane, venal S-O-B that made him such a hit in our universe, but on Earth One he is unleashed into a world where there was no Vietnam War and Watergate is just a fancy hotel. As he battles the energy crisis and the Arab oil embargo he learns of a plant which, if grown for methanol—the same fuel used in Indianapolis racing cars—America could farm its way to energy independence in just five short years. The only problem is that this plant, which Thomas Jefferson called “America’s most valuable crop,” is now illegal to grow. America is in a war—an energy war—and if Nixon can convince conservative voters that America’s national security depends on the cultivation of a forbidden crop and lead America to energy independence, the final spot on Mt. Rushmore will be his.

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