

I congratulate my fellow Californian and concerned citizen for a job extremely well done. I am confident in his selfless service to IIAA, his colleagues, and his fellow citizens of Long Beach will continue uninterrupted well into the future.

MSTRAP AND LEAD PROVIDE A TECHNOLOGICAL LEAP

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 1995

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, last week on August 29 and 30, the officers and crew of the U.S.S. *Hayler* made history. In exercises against one of the most sophisticated diesel submarine forces in the world, armed with a full load-out of modern torpedoes, the ship successfully defeated every simulated attack. The state of the art capability that was most professionally demonstrated by the ship's captain, CDR Alan B. Hicks, and the U.S.S. *Hayler* represents a technological breakthrough and a real success story for acquisition reform and reinventing Government. This technological leap was provided by two new systems known as MSTRAP and LEAD that were developed and deployed in a fraction of the time and at a fraction of the cost than traditional Mil-Spec approaches would have taken.

PRESS ADVISORY

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 1995

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to issue a press advisory concerning the coalition to save Medicare.

Earlier this month, a spokesperson for the coalition was quoted as saying—

We want to reform Medicare and we want to save it. That's what it's all about. No one's going to be forced into managed care or anything else. It's so simple and so innocent. I'm just amazed at how it's being depicted. (Associated Press, August 9, 1995.)

The person who made this comment on behalf of the coalition was Claire del Real. Ms. del Real served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs in the Department of Health and Human Services [HHS] during the Reagan administration. Upon leaving HHS, Ms. del Real took a position with International Medical Centers [IMC]. IMC was a private HMO participating in a Medicare demonstration project that promised to provide free prescription drugs, eyeglasses, and doctor and hospital care without Medicare deductibles in an effort to increase competition and reduce costs to the Medicare Program. (The Washington Post, June 23, 1987.)

In reality, IMC President Miguel Recarey was indicted for being one of the most fraudulent parties to ever participate in the Medicare Program, with the fraudulent activity permitted largely as a result of waivers approved by HHS officials. Recarey remains a fugitive from U.S. courts. The inspector general of the Department of Health and Human Services, the

General Accounting Office, and a congressional committee found that—

Between 1981 and 1986, a period in which HHS was making key decisions regarding IMC, numerous HHS employees left Government service for employment with IMC, either directly or as consultants providing services to IMC. ("Alleged Misconduct by International Medical Centers, Inc. Officials," Report of the Office of Special Investigations, General Accounting Office, December 15, 1987.)

Among the former HHS officials hired by IMC was Juan del Real, the HHS general counsel who left the Government in November 1984 to work for a large Washington law firm. The firm began representing IMC several months later and was paid \$800,000 in 1986 by IMC. In June 1985, del Real quit the firm to work for IMC at a salary of \$325,000, four times what he earned as a Government lawyer. IMC also hired his wife, Claire, a former HHS spokesperson at \$130,000 per year. (Miami Herald, 1988.)

McClain Haddow, the chief of staff to the Secretary of HHS, was found to have circumvented his agency's normal procedures, got a secret opinion justifying the waiver to IMC and granted it. Months after Haddow left HHS in 1986, Claire del Real offered him a job and hired him as an IMC lobbyist. ("Medicare Health Maintenance Organizations: the IMC Experience," Hearing of the Committee on Government Operations, December 15, 1987.)

In sum, Ms. del Real was a senior representative in an organization that offered to strengthen, but actually looted, Medicare. Today, she represents an organization with the stated goal of saving Medicare.

"MY VISION FOR AMERICA"

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 1995

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues a letter written to me from the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States regarding the Voice of Democracy broadcast scriptwriting contest. Jennifer Schuler, a senior at Devils Lake High School from North Dakota, has been named a national winner in the 1995 Voice of Democracy Program for her essay entitled "My Vision For America" which emphasizes remembering the positive things in this world. I have included Jennifer's essay for the benefit of my colleagues.

Bullets flagged down thirty protesters in front of the capitol. . . (click) Four B-52 bombers flew over Kwait today. . . (click) A 7.1 earthquake struck southern California. . . (click) The mid-west estimates flood damage to have reached. . . (click) The World Trade Center was evacuated today after a bomb blast. . . (click)

It's hard to watch the news at night and come away with a positive outlook on what the future holds. I, like many other people, get caught up in the media's negative portrayal of the world. If we are so wrapped up in the negative, it closes us off to so many opportunities to see the good that is around us. A perfect example is Susan Smith; the woman who confessed to murdering her two children. The nation, perhaps even the world, was struck to the soul by this story. A shadow fell over the United States filling us with helplessness and now hinders us from seeing the good that so many people are giving.

My vision is that people stop and take the time to see what is actually being accomplished for the better good of this nation. Look for the people who haven't given up on our country. Look at our teachers. Everytime that a teacher helps just one student understand, is another step forward. Look at the organizations dedicated to helping citizens of our own United States and the world. Consider for example, Mothers against Drunk Driving, or students against drunk driving. Everytime their message touches a parent or a child, chances are that someone will be spared from an alcohol related accident. What about UNICEF. Does anyone know what UNICEF stands for anymore? The Jerry Lewis Telethon or the March of Dimes. These organizations, too, are fighting for the people. The people of the United States. It's not just organizations who are making the world a better place. Individuals who donate organs, give up a half an hour of their time to tutor someone, or organize a program like Just Say No are all contributing to the positive side of America.

Certainly our world is not a perfect place. It does have its share of problems. But rather than making these problems so large that they seem impossible or insurmountable, doesn't it make much sense to look at what has already been accomplished. There are many people who have not let the negativism of our country to pull them down. Would African American's have their rights and freedom if Martin Luther King, Jr. hadn't had the courage to bring his dream to life? Would women have won the right to vote if Susan B. Anthony had not held fast to her vision? The Wright Brothers may have not have even attempted to design or construct a plane if they had let the negativism and ridicule of their peers influence their vision that flight was possible. Without these visions, if people had not blocked out the negative, America would not be a safe haven for refugees and immigrants. Without a vision, America would international relations be possible? Take for example Space Station Alpha. Would this be an all-American project with closed doors to the world if someone had not had a vision? In reality, the U.S., Europe, Canada, Japan, and Russia have all bonded together to create Space Station Alpha. This station is a vision to our future.

We all have visions of what we want America to accomplish. Some examples are world peace, hunger relief, a cure for Aids, or even a unified nation. But my vision is simple. All I ask is that we remember the good, while we're dealing with the bad.

LEGALIZATION OF MARIJUANA

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 1995

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, September 6, 1995, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

WHY I OPPOSE LEGALIZING MARIJUANA

I am almost always asked during high school convocations in southern Indiana whether I think marijuana should be legalized. The question reflects a widespread perception, particularly among young people, that marijuana is a "safe" drug and, like tobacco, should be made legal. I do not agree with this view. Recent scientific studies continue to demonstrate that marijuana is dangerous and can cause significant health problems for those who consume it.

WHAT IS IT

Marijuana is a product of the hemp plant, a crop which has been harvested for thousands of years and whose fibers have been used to make rope, canvas and paper. Marijuana derives from the sticky resin of the flowering tops of the plant.

WHERE IS IT GROWN

Most marijuana consumed in this country is grown in Mexico, Colombia and Jamaica. The amount grown in this country, however, has increased in recent years, and now accounts for about 20% of the entire U.S. market. Marijuana is the largest cash crop in the U.S. Earnings from marijuana are estimated at \$32 billion per year, far outstripping corn (\$14 billion) and soybeans (\$11 billion). The highest quality marijuana is cultivated indoors on the West Coast, but the largest volume is grown in the Midwest, including Indiana. The Indiana National Guard, for example, eradicated almost 80 million marijuana plants in Indiana last year.

WHAT IS THE LAW

Under federal law, it is illegal to buy, sell, grow or possess any amount of marijuana anywhere in the United States. Penalties for a first offense range from probation to life imprisonment, with fines of up to \$4 million, depending on the quantity of marijuana involved. Under civil forfeiture laws, real estate, cars, cash and any other property connected with a marijuana offense are subject to immediate seizure. The federal government need not prove that the property was bought with the proceeds of illegal drug sales, only that it was involved in the commission of a crime—that marijuana was grown on certain land or transported in a particular vehicle. There are state marijuana laws as well. In 1993 more than 380,000 people were arrested nationwide for violating marijuana laws; marijuana convictions in that year outnumbered those for heroin, cocaine and LSD combined.

WHO USES IT

Close to 70 million Americans have tried marijuana at least once, according to a recent government survey. The number of regular users, however, is far smaller, perhaps around four million people, and overall marijuana use has declined from peak levels in the 1970s. Even so, marijuana consumption among American teenagers has been on the increase over the last three years. Thirteen percent of eighth-graders reported having tried marijuana at least once in 1994, up from 6.2% in 1991.

WHY THE INCREASE

During the 1980s, increasing concerns about the dangers of marijuana and other drugs contributed to a sharp decline in use. That attitude is changing. More and more young people today believe that marijuana is not a dangerous drug—that, unlike cocaine for example, the drug is not addictive, does not kill people and does not produce violent behavior. Furthermore, marijuana is said to have certain medicinal properties, whether it is used by cancer patients to ease the pain and nausea associated with chemotherapy or by a recreational user to relieve stress. In this view, marijuana should be treated like tobacco and made legal.

WHAT ARE THE HEALTH DANGERS

Numerous scientific studies have demonstrated that marijuana does in fact pose serious health dangers. It damages short-term memory, distorts perception, impairs judgment and complex motor skills, alters the heart rate, can lead to severe anxiety, and can cause paranoia and lethargy. It may not kill people by an overdose, but young marijuana users are more likely than nonusers to consume other illicit drugs, to

have car accidents, and to be arrested. In 1993, twice as many teenagers ended up in emergency rooms for marijuana use as for heroin and cocaine combined.

Contrary to popular belief, marijuana is also an addictive drug. More efficient agriculture—new methods of harvesting and processing marijuana plants—has made the drug about 20 times more potent than the marijuana on the street in the 60's and 70's. Marijuana is frequently mentioned by drug-control specialists as being a stepping stone or gateway to drugs such as crack cocaine and heroin. About 43% of young people who use marijuana before age 18 go on to use cocaine. Legalizing marijuana would almost certainly cause more young people to use—and become addicted to—marijuana and other drugs.

WHAT ARE THE SOCIAL COSTS

There are numerous social and economic costs associated with increased marijuana use. First, its use can impair academic performance among young people. Marijuana is associated with increased truancy, poor attention span and under-achievement in school. Second, and more broadly, its use causes damage in our workplace. Few Americans realize that three-fourths of regular drug users are employed. According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, employed drug users are 33% less productive than their colleagues. They are likely to incur 300% higher medical costs and benefits. Third, marijuana use has been linked to other crimes.

WHAT CAN BE DONE ABOUT THE PROBLEM

A key step to reducing marijuana use, particularly among young people, is to educate them to its dangers. It is critical to reach kids early, before they have begun to use drugs, with clear information about marijuana and with positive alternatives for their time. Children typically have very strong anti-drug attitudes, and most young people today don't use drugs. It's essential to reinforce these views.

Our message must be clear and consistent. The message in the 1980's was, "Just say no to drugs," and the message for the 1990's must be the same. Marijuana use is illegal, dangerous and unhealthy. It is not cool. It is not respectful of your body. If you use drugs, stop, and if you can't stop, get help.

We know that young people need to hear antidrug messages where they live, study, work and play. This education effort must be a group effort, involving the public and private sector, but particularly parents, teachers and neighbors.

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH ALVARADO AND LOU MARTINEZ

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 1995

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today and pay tribute to two celebrated community servants, Mr. Joseph Alvarado and Mr. Lou Martinez. On September 8, 1995, Joe and Lou will be honored for their contributions to northwest Indiana and the Hispanic community by the Northwest Indiana Hispanic Coordinating Council. This testimonial dinner will take place at the Casa Blanca Restaurant in East Chicago, IN.

We are all very fortunate to have dedicated people, like Joe and Lou, who are sincerely proud of their Hispanic heritage and have taken an active role in promoting the progress of the Hispanic community in Indiana's First Congressional District.

Joe Alvarado is a native of East Chicago, IN. He is also a fellow graduate of the University of Notre Dame, where he played varsity football for the Irish. He later received his masters degree in finance from Cornell University. Joe returned to East Chicago and started his career with Inland Steel Co. in 1976. Since that time, he has steadily risen through the ranks from the days when he was a finance trainee to his current position as president of Inland Steel Bar Co.

Lou Martinez, a classmate of mine at Andrean High School in Merrillville IN, has been with the United Way system since he joined the Lake Area United Way in Griffith, IN, in 1979. In my personal experience with Lou, I can say that he is one of the most dedicated and unselfish individuals I know. His desire to serve his community has allowed him to prosper in an organization like the United Way, whose focus is community service. As president of the Lake Area United Way, Lou has realized his leadership potential and he has played a big part in touching the lives of so many who are in need in northwest Indiana.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my heartfelt congratulations to these two very special men. Joe and Lou's large circle of family and friends, as well as the entire Hispanic community of northwest Indiana, can be proud of the contributions these prominent individuals have made. They have proven themselves to be distinguished advocates for the Hispanic community, and they have truly made northwest Indiana a better place in which to live.

A SPECIAL MEMBERS' PRAYER
SERVICE ST. PETER'S CATHOLIC
CHURCH, 313 2ND STREET,
SOUTHEAST ON WEDNESDAY,
JANUARY 4, 1995 AT 9:00 A.M.

HON. BILL EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 1995

Mr. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, the opening day of this Congress began, at the request of then Speaker-elect GINGRICH, with a Members' Prayer Service which was held at St. Peter's Church on Capitol Hill. It was a significant event in the history of this Congress and the House of Representatives. The many Members, Members-elect, and their families who attended, and the many Americans who viewed this Service on C-Span, found it inspiring and poignant.

As we return from our prolonged August recess it seems altogether appropriate that we pause and reflect again on the importance of keeping all our endeavors in perspective through our faith. It is in this spirit that I submit for the record the following transcript of this Members' Prayer Service.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN—"GUIDE ME O THOU
GREAT JEHOVAH"

He will be our guide even to the end. Ps. 48:14
Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim
through this barren land;

I am weak, but thou art mighty; hold me
with thy pow'rful hand;

Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven, feed me
till I want no more, feed till I want no
more.

Open now the crystal fountain, whence the
healing stream doth flow; let the fire