

NATIONAL LYME DISEASE
AWARENESS MONTH

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 15, 1996

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I had the honor of participating with some of our colleagues in front of the Capitol Building to help call our country's attention to the devastating effects that Lyme disease has on so many of our citizens and particularly on our young children.

In my remarks at the rally I noted: We cannot permit the minds and bodies of those who are stricken with Lyme disease to simply waste away.

I had the pleasure of introducing as one of the principal speakers Mr. Evan White, a 17-year-old resident of Wesley Hills in Rockland County, in my own 20th Congressional District of New York. Evan was diagnosed with Lyme disease 5 years ago. In 1993, he testified before the Senate Labor and Human Relations Committee regarding the severe impact Lyme disease had on his life.

As I stated at the rally regarding Evan and others like him: The grit and courage that he and so many other young people like him have shown challenge us to ensure that the resources to conduct research into this disease are made available. For these young people, Lyme disease often cuts them down and disables them in the prime of their years. Often, they become ill and don't understand why—a condition that is very fearful for a young child.

When Evan White was first diagnosed with Lyme disease at the age of 12, his life and that of his family were turned upside down. He was confined to a wheelchair and unable to speak, read, or write for 3 years as he underwent painful rehabilitation and medical treatment.

Evan missed 4 years of schooling due to his illness, but his perseverance in the face of this adversity is a lesson to us all. His life, and the lives of others like him, challenge all of us to ensure that the resources to conduct research into Lyme disease are made available.

Speakers at the rally other than Evan underscored the importance of Lyme disease research. Dr. Stephen E. Straus of the National Institutes of Health announced the first intramural research on chronic disease and infection affecting the brain. Dr. Duane J. Gubler of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced the establishment of a task force. Karen Vanderhoof-Forschner, cofounder and chair of the Lyme Disease Foundation, Dr. Joseph Burrascano of Long Island, Dr. Anthony Lionetti of New Jersey, and the psychiatrist Dr. Richard Bransfield made excellent presentations regarding progress in the fight against Lyme disease. Ira Maurer, an attorney, discussed the plight of people caught in the middle of health care containment and physicians trying to practice good medicine, and Roberta Bethencourt, addressed the social impacts of Lyme disease. Hillary MacDonald, the daughter of a Lyme disease victim, informed us of the impact the disease had on her family.

In addition, I was joined at the podium by a host of our colleagues who had made names for themselves for their compassion and their

leadership in the Lyme disease crusade: Mrs. JOHNSON and Mrs. KENNELLY of Connecticut; Mr. SMITH and Mrs. ROUKEMA of New Jersey; Mr. VENTO of Minnesota and Mrs. LOWEY of New York. In addition, we were joined by Senator LIEBERMAN of Connecticut and Senators BRADLEY and LAUTENBERG of New Jersey.

Mr. Speaker, I am inserting at this point in the RECORD the poignant remarks made at our rally by Evan White:

STATEMENT BY EVAN WHITE

Hello. My name is Evan White. I'm 17 years old, and I have Lyme Disease.

Five years ago, Lyme Disease took from me everything I had—except my spirit. At twelve years old when I was first diagnosed with Lyme, my life and my family's life changed completely. Hampered by, headaches, severe neurological damage and full body atrophy, I was confined to a wheelchair and unable to speak, read or write for three years. Due to this crippling disease I spent the next three years of my life in the hospital, undergoing various painful rehabilitation and medical treatments.

As my will strengthened during this, mentally and physically draining my time, with my family's support I testified to Senator Kennedy at a senate hearing on Lyme Disease. Although I had great difficulty speaking I told the Senator, that the children with Lyme could not think or sleep and that we needed his help.

That was three years ago, after a year of antibiotic treatment and endless rehabilitation and support from my family, I'm fortunate enough to speak with you here today. After much missed school, I now attend school full time and hope to attend college in a year. Although I still have many painful symptoms of Lyme, with your support I keep fighting to someday be Lyme-free.

But I am here to talk about the children across the country who suffer from Lyme Disease as I did. These children are very sick, very scared and they need your help. The most precious years of their lives are being robbed from a disease which comes from a creature that is barely visible. They can't be with their friends, go to school, play sports or even have fun, believe me I know.

It isn't fair that such young children become so sick. It's not fair that our parents should have to fight like soldiers to ensure that our illness is taken seriously. So to Everyone here today, to everyone in the government, help us, take Lyme seriously. We have to and we can not survive without you.

The children of America are in danger! You must help us by finding a cure now! Please don't forget us!

JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY
GOLF TEAM

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 15, 1996

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special recognition to the Jackson State University [JSU] golf team. JSU is a Historically Black University located in Jackson, MS and recently won its eighth consecutive Southwestern Athletic Conference [SWAC] golf championship.

This unprecedented accomplishment is a result of hard work and determination. When JSU travels to the University of Michigan to participate in the National Collegiate Athletic Association [NCAA] District 6 Central Region

playoffs later this month, they will once again be making history as the first HBCU to be invited to participate in the golf playoffs.

Eddie Payton is in his tenth year as JSU's golf coach. He currently holds a career record of 70 wins with 19 losses while compiling a 54–5 record in SWAC play, including a 52–0 record in the last eight years. He has garnered the SWAC Coach of the Year award eight times and the National Coach of the Year award twice.

Coach Payton also had a stellar football career both at Jackson State University and in the National Football League. As a member of the Detroit Lions, he once returned a punt for 89 yards for a touchdown and a kick 99 yards scoring twice in the same game while a member of the NFL's Detroit Lions.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in congratulating Coach Payton and the JSU golf team for their enormous success during the 1996 season.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION
ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. WILLIAM H. ZELIFF, JR.

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 1996

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3230) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1997 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 1997, and for other purposes:

Mr. ZELIFF. Mr. Chairman, the amendment under discussion is being offered in response to the discovery, in late 1995 and early 1996, of serious mismanagement by the White House Communications Agency, and those who share responsibility for oversight of that agency, including the White House Military Office, headed by Mr. Alan Sullivan, and the White House Office of Administration and Management, headed by Jodie Torkelson.

For those who do not know—and most do not know this—the White House Communications Agency is formally charged with providing telecommunications support to the President, and has existed since the late 1940's. However, today this once small office now spends more than \$ 100 million annually and employs more than 900 persons.

Recent mismanagement of this office has been significant, and necessitates serious reform. Findings and recommendations are detailed in two inspector general reports that were issued in November 1995 and April 1996. Chairman CLINGER's committee, and this subcommittee, have been investigating this office for almost 2 years. And we are planning a hearing on Thursday, May 16 on this very issue.

What we have now had confirmed to us, after extensive efforts by the White House last year to block any congressional oversight, is this.

The White House Communications Agency, which is funded through the Defense Department's Information Systems Agency, has been unchecked and has wasted millions of taxpayer dollars between 1993 and 1995. White House personnel responsible for oversight

have been asleep at the switch, and the Defense Information Systems Agency has been timid in questioning the White House practices.

In particular, the IG's reports reveal that the White House Communications Agency budgets have been unreviewed; the White House Communications Agency annual performance plan has failed to meet Department of Defense standards; acquisition planning has been inadequate, and has included an unwillingness to put millions of dollars' worth of contracts out to bid, essentially ignoring Federal procurement law; wasteful purchases have been made, including the purchase in 1994 of a \$4.9 million piece of mobile communications equipment that the White House now admits—and this is something out of the keystone cops—will not fit on the C-141 airplane that transports such equipment for the President, and was also made incompatible with most hotel electricity units; and the White House Communications Agency has also purchased goods and services without legal authority, and without binding contracts.

In short, this has been a black hole, over at the White House, into which we have been pouring nearly \$100 million annually without any executive branch oversight. It has also become a pot of money devoted to many things that have nothing to do with telecommunications or the President.

For example, the White House deploys Department of Defense moneys to fund an elaborate frame shop in the basement of the White House, which frames any personal picture with the President or anything else a White House staffer brings in to be framed. It funds stenographic services, audiovisual services, photos, and emblems, podiums and other nontelecommunications expenditures.

What this amendment would do is put an end to the broad-ranging mission creep that has occurred, and start us back toward a degree of accountability.

Now, as a footnote to all this, I must say that I am also greatly disappointed in the White House, frankly. After learning of this level of mismanagement and waste, my subcommittee invited them—in particular, Mr. Sullivan, and Ms. Torkelson—who recently herself negotiated a memorandum of understanding permitting this broad mission—to testify before the subcommittee on Thursday.

They were asked to respond to the IG's reports. They were asked because they are operational and have oversight responsibility—or have had until now. —Instead of complying, as has been the track record of this White House on other matters, they are declining to even appear.

I will, therefore, once more ask them—before other measures are considered—to appear and testify on Thursday. In the meantime, I urge support for this narrowing amendment.

USA TODAY RECOGNITION OF WAYNE VALLEY (NJ) HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. WILLIAM J. MARTINI

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 15, 1996

Mr. MARTINI. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity today to commend the community

of Wayne, NJ and its educators for their commitment to excellence in education. In the third article of a five-part series currently running in USA Today, the Wayne Valley High School District was specifically cited as an education system worth migrating to.

This May 15, 1996, article on education in the United States focused on the importance of residential location and school districting when families make decisions on where to raise families. The story pointed out that "real estate agents, appraisers, home builders, and tax authorities overwhelmingly agree that proximity to high-quality schools is now the No. 1 factor in determining what a home is worth in any given market."

Citing schools as her top priority, the article specifically mentioned Ms. Alice Li of Wayne, NJ. Ten years ago the Li family, with very young daughter Winnie, moved from Pennsylvania to New Jersey. Although her daughter was very young, Ms. Li cited the talented and gifted program of the Wayne School District as an important factor which brought them to the 8th district.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Li had the foresight to plan for young Winnie's future education. The result: Winnie has scored perfectly three straight years on the National Latin Exam, is the editor of the school newspaper, and will graduate Wayne Valley High with a 4.0 grade point average. It comes as no surprise that with such strong academic credentials, Winnie will attend Harvard University in the fall. I commend Winnie for her achievements and certainly wish her continued success in Cambridge, MA.

Mr. Speaker, this article is just another example of how vital quality school systems are to our communities. Without responsible teachers and challenging curricula in place, towns and cities have very little to offer parents and would be residents. Strengthening education programs remain a top priority for me and I will continue to work toward raising the standards by which our schools measure themselves. I am pleased that Wayne, NJ and one its stand-out pupils have been recognized in this capacity.

Again, I commend Ms. Alice Li, her daughter Winnie, and the Wayne Valley High School District.

ANTI-DRUG EFFORTS

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 15, 1996

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, May 15, 1996, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN FROM DRUGS

An estimated 12.2 million Americans consume illegal drugs at least once a month, causing enormous human costs in terms of lost productivity, drug-related violence, and ruined lives. Over 20,000 Americans die each year in drug-related deaths. Fighting drugs is not cheap. The federal government will spend \$15 billion this year, and local governments spend far more. Yet half of Americans say that they, or someone in their family, or a close friend, has used illegal drugs, and drug use is increasing among young people. We may not have lost the war on drugs, but

neither are we winning it. We must reassess and revitalize our efforts.

Fighting drugs requires a systematic approach on a number of fronts. There are four key elements to drug control policy:

LAW ENFORCEMENT

There is no question that cities have felt the brunt of drug-related crime, but law enforcement officials in our small towns and rural areas express their concern that theft, domestic violence, and juvenile crimes are increasingly linked to illegal drugs. I answer letters each week from Hoosier children who are worried about drugs and violence in their schools.

In southern Indiana, federal funds support local police officers, Drug Enforcement Agency officers, and the Southern Indiana Drug Task Force for undercover operations. The National Guard and the Civil Air Patrol eradicate billions of dollars of marijuana and other plants each year. We must focus on youth, gangs, and domestic violence, and give law enforcement officers, judges, and prosecutors the resources to provide swift justice. Prosecutors must focus on key drug crime figures, and judges should be given tough but flexible sentencing guidelines to ensure that first-time offenders do not become addicts, and that drug traffickers are severely punished.

EDUCATION, PREVENTION, AND TREATMENT

Law enforcement officers tell me that, unless we reduce the demand for drugs, no level of punishment or eradication will be able to win the war on drugs. Drug education programs have helped stigmatize drug use in schools and the workplace, and treatment—when available—has proven successful in getting people off drugs. Federal funds help numerous southern Indiana drug prevention programs in schools and community agencies. Studies show that, for each \$1 spent on prevention, \$7 is saved on crime, health, and welfare costs. Treatment can be improved with more research, early access to treatment, and compassionate care to the victims of drug abuse. We should also consolidate and streamline the dozens of government prevention programs, working hand in hand with America's religious, community, and educational groups.

INTERDICTION AND ERADICATION

The main focus of U.S. counternarcotics efforts should be here at home, but there is a key international dimension—eradicating drug crops abroad and stopping the narcotics flow across U.S. borders. Most illegal drugs enter the U.S. along the Florida shoreline or the Mexican border. Federal interdiction efforts include border control and interception of drug planes and ships in international territory. We must use the most sophisticated intelligence, technology, and science to shield our borders from the drug threat.

SOURCE COUNTRIES

Drug traffickers can best be stopped by arresting, convicting, and incarcerating them on their own turf, and other countries must do their share. Money laundering, drug production, and organized drug cartels are international problems, and cannot be solved by the U.S. alone. We should strengthen foreign law enforcement and judicial institutions. Cooperation with Mexican authorities has improved, as demonstrated by the recent destruction of a major Mexican-American drug ring. We should reward countries that convict drug traffickers, eradicate cocaine and heroin farms, seize drug shipments, and aggressively pursue illegal drug labs. We should punish countries that do not do their share by linking drug cooperation to trade sanctions and foreign assistance. We must use the U.N. and other multilateral organizations to share the burden and the costs of narcotics control.