

date because it is certainly inconsistent with what we demand and what the American people I believe want to see happen in the area of prison reform.

I thank the Senator from Georgia.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. COVERDELL. I wonder if the Senator from Michigan would stay just a moment to see if I get the sequence of these events down. We had a condition of legal frivolity—if you froze an ice cream or not. I think any American who would hear this just would be dumbfounded. But your legislation put an end to that and put an end to judicial management of prisons. And the President vetoed that.

Mr. ABRAHAM. That is correct.

Mr. COVERDELL. Then you came back again, passed the essence of this legislation, and he signed it, but his Justice Department has subsequently been engaged in an overt attempt to undo it?

Mr. ABRAHAM. That is accurate. I would say to the Senator from Georgia, we were told when the first veto occurred, because this legislation was included in a broader bill, that the legislation, the Prison Litigation Reform Act, was not the basis for the veto; that, in fact, it was supported.

When the second bill was signed, we assumed the Justice Department would seek to make sure the provisions of that Litigation Reform Act would be enacted and followed by the courts. Instead, what we have seen is the Department of Justice intervening in lawsuits in a way that would, in fact, preclude, rather than allow, States to extricate themselves from these various judicial circumstances where judges were running the prison systems with no clear evidence of a constitutional violation ever having occurred. Instead, we find the Justice Department finding ways to allow the judges to stay in charge and to allow for various things such as we have seen around the country, where these prisoner lawsuits are growing in number, where judges are requiring prisons and State authorities to expend millions of taxpayer dollars simply to ensure and improve the comfort of prisoners. We think that is the wrong direction.

CRIME IN AMERICA

Mr. COVERDELL. I thank the Senator from Michigan. Again, as I said when he came to the floor, he has been very dutiful on this issue and I am comfortable will ultimately prevail.

Mr. President, a moment ago I was talking about this drug epidemic. There can be no doubt but that we had a change in policies that occurred when this administration took office. And we have had a resulting change in behavior. If you start shutting the drug war down, I think you can expect to see a reversal and we will find more and more young people caught up in this tragic problem and then society caught up in their problems.

This administration has, as we just heard, vulnerability and accountability that it has to accept with regard to the condition of crime in the country today. This administration has touted signing the assault weapon ban and Brady bill as evidence that they got tough on guns. This has been the effect: Federal gun prosecutions are down 20 percent. Federal gun convictions are down 13 percent. The U.S. attorneys' program to target gun crimes and to report on gun prosecutions, Operation Triggerlock, which the Senator from Mississippi talked about a moment ago, has been dismantled—gone. Congress authorized \$200 million for States to help with background checks under the Brady bill. Clinton's budget request has cut that figure by 68 percent. "It is fine to pass the bill, but do not fund it."

This administration claims to have put 100,000-plus cops on the streets. Myself and Senator BIDEN, the Senator from Delaware, debated that number a couple of months ago. The data is actually this: The Justice Department says the number is actually more like 17,000. Now, 17,000 is a long way from 100,000. It is questionable whether 17,000 have ended up there as well. In Florida, 30 of this 17,000—not 100,000 but 17,000. In the ads we hear 100,000, but in reality it is more like 17,000. Here is where some of the 17,000 are: They were added to the State Department of Environmental Protection to keep watch over a coral sanctuary off the Florida Keys. The cost of that was \$3.5 million.

Florida received \$1.8 million to hire 25 cops for State parks. At the same time, Florida received \$3.5 million to watch a coral reef. This Justice Department rejected a request from the St. Augustine police department, in northern Florida, to fund a 1-year antidomestic violence program. That would have cost \$80,000, to hire this officer. In other words, we do not have 100,000, we have 17,000; and of the 17,000 we have, we have them watching a coral reef off the Florida Keys but denying the ability to set up an antidomestic violence program. This is almost as baffling as some of the statistics that we heard from the Senator from Michigan.

The Justice Department admits that, of that number, as many as 14,000 were already on the streets and are now just paid for with Federal tax dollars. Mr. President, 20 percent of the 100,000 may be officers who are redeployed. So the early money has gone to existing police officers. In reality, only about 3,000 new cops have been added. That is a long way from the 100,000 to 3,000.

Mr. President, we have been joined by the senior Senator from Oklahoma, the assistant majority leader. He is a strong proponent of crime measures that work. I yield up to 8 minutes to the Senator from Oklahoma.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, first, I would like to compliment the Senator from Georgia for his leadership on call-

ing to our attention both Senator Dole's initiative to combat crime, which I think has some outstanding points that need to be brought to the public attention and public debate, and also some of the shortcomings we have witnessed through action or inaction from the Clinton administration for the last 3½ years.

First and foremost in the effort to combat crime, I think we have to combat the rapid rise in drug use amongst teenagers. Teenagers are our country's future, and it is very, very sad indeed to see that drug use amongst teenagers in the last 3½ years has more than doubled. That is a frightening statistic. It may be one of the most frightening statistics we could think of. Some of us are parents. I happen to have four kids. To think that drug use has more than doubled in just 3½ years should cause everybody, Democrat, Republican, independent, real cause for concern.

You might say why? Some people point a finger at President Clinton. I think he shares some of the blame. I remember very well Nancy Reagan and her effort to say, "Just say no to drugs." Try to convince young people to, "Just say no. Do not mess with them, do not experiment with them, you are on thin ice, you are asking for trouble and you can start down the road beginning with marijuana and maybe ending up with more serious drugs, cocaine, crack and others, that can destroy your life."

Some people have ridiculed Nancy Reagan's statement. But as a result of her efforts and those continued by President and Mrs. Bush, drug use continued to decline throughout their administrations. We had a 10-year decline in drug use among young people; and basically among all age groups, drug use declined.

Unfortunately, in the last 3½ years drug use among teenagers more than doubled. And what kind of leadership did we have from the White House? We had President Clinton making light of the fact that he had broken our drug laws. He said he did not break the drug laws, he said he never inhaled, not in this country, that was in England and, "No, I never inhaled." Then last year, on a nationally televised show, I think it was MTV, when he was asked the question by a youngster, "Would you inhale if you had a chance to do that again?" he said yes. What kind of example is that? What kind of leadership is that? That is a frivolous attitude, as if it does not really make any difference. That kind of cavalier attitude, I think, tells a lot of people, maybe it is OK to use drugs or try drugs; President Clinton tried drugs.

Then you see in the President's own administration, several people could not get White House clearance through the FBI because they had recent drug use. Not 10 years ago, not 20 years ago when they were in their early twenties or something, but recent drug use. Mr. Aldrich's book indicated that there was drug use even possibly on Inaugural

Day. Yet, some of those people are serving in the White House today. I believe it is acknowledged by the White House, 21 current employees, top-level officials in the White House are currently undergoing a drug program, a drug rehab program and surveillance.

What kind of example is that? What kind of leadership is that? And what about some of the appointments that President Clinton has made?

I remember we had a big battle over Dr. Joycelyn Elders to be Surgeon General. A lot of us, mostly Republicans, said, no, she would not be the proper person to be the Surgeon General, to be the No. 1 health officer appointed by the President, to be the person in the bully pulpit, because she had views that were more than liberal, they were off the radar screen to the left.

Many of us opposed her nomination, but she was confirmed. We opposed her nomination because she made a lot of statements that we felt should not be made by the Surgeon General.

After Dr. Elders was appointed, it wasn't too long before she said something about, "Well, maybe we should legalize drugs, maybe we should study legalizing drugs." Did President Clinton fire her for that statement? No. I think I heard somebody say, "Well, the President doesn't agree with her on that issue."

It wasn't a month later and she said the same thing. I think before the National Press Club. She thought maybe we should consider legalizing drugs. Was she fired for making it a second time? The answer is no. She was fired later for making some other comments that were, again, very irresponsible in what we should be teaching our kids in school, but the point being is he didn't fire her. She made several comments about legalizing drugs, and she was still the Surgeon General, she was still President Clinton's appointee to a very important prestigious position. Again, he was aware of her background, he was aware of her philosophy, and yet that was his recommendation to the country for that position.

My point being, the war on drugs needs to be fought. It was fought under Ronald Reagan, it was fought under George Bush, and, basically, it was abandoned under the Clinton administration. The net result is, we have a lot of young people today who are experimenting with drugs, thinking, "Well, maybe it's OK." So we see drug use way up, we see the number of young people who will be addicts, who will see their lives ruined, we will see those numbers go up as well.

So we need to fight the war on crime, we need to fight the war on drugs, but, unfortunately, this administration has been AWOL on both. Mr. President, I regret to say that, I hate to say that.

Mr. President, I am going to make a couple more comments. I looked at Senator Dole's announcement. He said he had a stated goal that he wants to reduce drug use by 50 percent during his first term. It can be done. It was

done under Reagan and Bush. It can be done again. You see the current upsurge in drug use due to a very cavalier attitude by this administration, the current administration, on the war on drugs. It will be nice to have a change in the White House and have an individual and a team that is very committed, that is very dedicated, very sincere in saying, "We want to let everyone know that drugs are hazardous to your health."

I find it interesting to see that President Clinton is attacking tobacco and has been silent about other drugs, such as crack and cocaine, marijuana use. I almost think that he made the announcement on tobacco maybe to kind of get this release of information talking about drug use doubling under his term off the front pages. I don't know.

Mr. President, this war has to be fought. We need energetic leadership coming from the White House. I believe we will have that from Senator Dole and his team.

Also, I want to comment on the interdiction efforts. I remember shortly after President Clinton took office, he cut the office of the drug czar by 83 percent. He reduced it from, I believe, 140 employees to 15, and cut the funding way back. That tells you something about his priorities.

Senator Dole said, if elected, he would reestablish the drug czar office. He would redouble and rekindle our efforts on drug interdiction so we can stop drugs before they come into the United States. He said he would increase penalties on those people who have been involved in drug trafficking, particularly amongst people who have been involved in drug trafficking to our young people.

So, Mr. President, it is vitally important that we have a leader who will make change, and make change appropriately, to protect our kids for the future.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. COVERDELL addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, our control of time is nearing an end, but I would like to just draw a contrast here.

The former majority leader has embraced a very focused attack on crime in our country, and he begins—and I think it is appropriate—with the first pledge to cut teen drug use in half. I can't think of a grander thing to achieve that would do more good, reduce pain and anxiety and trouble in millions of American families.

Sometimes these numbers get out of whack. We are talking about a sister, a brother, somebody in the neighborhood, and we are talking about 2 million of them who are now experimenting with drugs who did not 3 years ago. That is a city the size of my hometown, Atlanta, GA—every person in it. Every one of those is a family and is in a personal crisis. So by focusing that as No. 1 is right on target.

No. 2, an end to revolving-door-justice, which Americans have been so concerned about. One in every three persons arrested for a violent crime is on parole. Sometimes people say, "Well, it costs too much to keep them in prison, \$25,000, \$30,000 a year." It costs \$450,000 for them to be out of prison, in property damage and personal damage.

No. 3, holding violent juveniles accountable for their actions. We all know we have a juvenile crime wave and it is tied to the drug wave.

No. 4, making prisoners work. Only one-third of the prisoners work full time. We heard the Senator from Michigan addressing that.

No. 5, keeping guns out of the hands of criminals.

On target, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.

Conversely, this administration suffers from a lack of commitment in this arena. Shortly after arriving at her job, Attorney General Janet Reno repealed the Department of Justice policy requiring prosecutors to seek the most serious criminal charge they could prove in court. We all heard from the Senator from Oklahoma about the former Surgeon General suggesting that maybe we should legalize drugs and the effect that has had, with children no longer thinking that drugs are serious.

This administration's chief prosecutor in San Diego has released hundreds of captured drug smugglers and sent them back to Mexico without prosecuting. This administration's prosecutors across the country have cut back prosecutions of felons for possessing guns by 13 percent and have reduced prosecution for crimes involving guns 20 to 25 percent.

Many of this administration's judges have embraced the criminal as a victim-of-society philosophy. The Senator from Montana talked about that earlier this afternoon and how wrong that is. We heard the statistics of getting these people back out on the street and the price society pays when we do that.

His appointees to the Supreme Court have been among the most willing to use technicalities to overturn death sentences for brutal murders.

The list goes on, Mr. President. Here we have a focused, energetic, committed Senator Dole targeting crime as a No. 1 issue in America and going after it, and over here we have a record of conciliation and a drug war and a drug epidemic.

We need to do this not only for the stability of our country, but for the compassion of our children.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

DEFENSE OF MARRIAGE ACT

Mr. PELL. Mr. President, last week the Senate passed the so-called Defense of Marriage Act. I voted against this bill for three reasons.

First, there is no need for this legislation. Not one State in this Nation has legalized marriages between gay