

accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-1835. A communication from the President pro tempore, transmitting, pursuant to law, a notice of adoption of regulations and submission for approval and issuance of interim regulations; referred jointly to the Committee on Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC-1836. A communication from the President pro tempore, transmitting, pursuant to law, a notice of adoption of regulations and submission for approval and issuance of interim regulations; referred jointly to the Committee on Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC-1837. A communication from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on unauthorized appropriations and expiring authorizations dated January 11, 1996; to the Committee on Appropriations.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. HELMS:

S. 1545. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to issue a certificate of documentation with appropriate endorsement for employment in the coastwise trade for the vessel MOONRAKER, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. DASCHLE:

S. 1546. A bill to increase the debt limit; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. D'AMATO, and Mr. INHOFE):

S. 1547. A bill to limit the provision of assistance to the Government of Mexico using the exchange stabilization fund established pursuant to section 5302 of title 31, United States Code, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

S. 1548. A bill to provide that applications by Mexican motor carriers of property for authority to provide service across the United States-Mexico international boundary line and by persons of Mexico who establish enterprises in the United States seeking to distribute international cargo in the United States shall not be approved until certain certifications are made to the Congress by the President and the Secretary of Transportation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mrs. KASSEBAUM:

S. Res. 217. A resolution to designate the first Friday in May 1996, as "American Foreign Service Day" in recognition of the men and women who have served or are presently serving in the American Foreign Service, and to honor those in the American Foreign Service who have given their lives in the line of duty; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. D'AMATO, and Mr. INHOFE):

S. Res. 218. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the failure of

Mexico to cooperate with the United States in controlling the transport of illegal drugs and controlled substances and the denial of certain assistance to Mexico as a result of that failure; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. HUTCHISON (for herself and Mr. GRAMM):

S. Con. Res. 40. A concurrent resolution to commemorate the sesquicentennial of Texas statehood; considered and agreed to.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. D'AMATO, and Mr. INHOFE):

S. 1547. A bill to limit the provision of assistance to the Government of Mexico using the exchange stabilization fund established pursuant to section 5302 of title 31, United States Code, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

S. 1548. A bill to provide that applications by Mexican motor carriers of property for authority to provide service across the United States-Mexico international boundary line and by persons of Mexico who establish enterprises in the United States seeking to distribute international cargo in the United States shall not be approved until certain certifications are made to the Congress by the President and the Secretary of Transportation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

MEXICO LEGISLATION

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, last week, President Clinton opened a new front in America's war on drugs with his appointment of Gen. Barry McCaffrey as the Nation's new drug czar. In doing so, President Clinton has once again demonstrated his commitment to put the full weight of his office and the American Government behind efforts to stem the tide of drugs flooding America's streets, and I commend him for that.

The measures my colleagues and I are introducing today are meant as a shot across the bow to the Government of Mexico. This legislation by the chairman of the Senate Banking Committee and myself, a Republican and a Democrat, will hopefully send a strong message that this Congress is prepared to back up the President's efforts in the strongest possible terms if Mexico's actions do not match their words in this war on drugs.

One year ago, the United States provided \$20 billion in loan guarantees to Mexico in an unprecedented economic assistance package. That loan guarantee agreement expires next month with the option to extend it for another 6 months.

Today, based on the seriousness of the drug problem, the volume of drugs flowing into the United States, and the ineffectiveness of Mexico's efforts, I am joining with Senator D'AMATO in introducing three pieces of legislation, two bills and one sense-of-the-Senate reso-

lution, which, among other things, would link extension of the loan guarantee to Mexico to specific actions that Mexico must take to demonstrate greater cooperation with the United States and international anti-narcotics efforts.

Let me explain for a moment the depth of this problem. The Drug Enforcement Administration estimates that 60 to 70 percent of all the illegal drugs that enter the United States are smuggled through Mexico; 75 percent of the cocaine and 60 to 80 percent of all foreign-grown marijuana in the United States originates in Mexico.

DEA testified that it has become commonplace to have 727 cargo-style jets each carrying 10 to 20 tons of cocaine at a time fly into Mexico and return to Colombia with \$20 to \$30 million of United States currency aboard. Colombian drug cartels are using Mexico as a safe haven to store as much as 70 to 100 tons of cocaine to be smuggled into the United States.

The United States Customs officials estimate that almost 70 percent of those arrested for drug smuggling at border stations in the United States are Mexican nationals.

Mexican drug cartels have taken over the methamphetamine drug trade. This is a very dangerous drug, also known as crank or speed. The DEA estimates that 90 percent of the precursor chemical, ephedrine, used to make methamphetamine is smuggled into the United States from Mexico, much of it originating from China.

Methamphetamine is an exploding problem in the United States, and particularly in California. The California Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement figures show that from 1991 to 1994 seizures jumped 518 percent in just these 3 years.

In 10 years, from 1983 to 1993, methamphetamine abuse has skyrocketed in some California counties by more than 1,000 percent. Hospital emergency rooms admissions from amphetamine abuse have jumped by 366 percent.

California is infested with literally hundreds of clandestine and highly mobile methamphetamine labs. State drug officials indicate that these labs are most often run by Mexican nationals who are here illegally.

Mexico's efforts to date are simply not good enough. The recent arrest of Juan Garcia Abrego is a step in the right direction, but overall Mexico's efforts have simply not been enough.

The United States currently has 165 extradition requests pending with Mexico, 56 of those involving Mexican nationals. The United States has had an extradition treaty with Mexico since 1978, yet Mexico has not allowed the extradition of a single Mexican national to the United States for prosecution as any close ally would.

Juan Garcia Abrego was not extradited. He was deported as a U.S. citizen. He held dual citizenship.

The drug cartels still operate in Mexico with impunity. Leaders of two of

the most powerful Mexican drug cartels, Amado Carillo-Fuentes and the Arellano-Felix brothers, have outstanding United States warrants for drug trafficking. They have been seen in public repeatedly with no fear of arrest, and there apparently has been no serious effort to apprehend them.

Money laundering. Mexico has become a haven for money laundering. Under Mexican law, money laundering is not a crime. No reporting requirements for large cash transactions exist. Jose Antonio Ramirez, director of Mexico's Association of Exchange Houses, has said it is common for cartel operatives to show up at unregulated money centers with literally suitcases stuffed with cash. The centers then write money orders or wire the funds to Colombia.

I understand that the Mexican Congress has asked the National Banking Commission to examine ways of preventing money laundering, but whether any concrete changes will result remains to be seen.

Let me give you some examples of government corruption:

Colombian jets unloading tons of cocaine in remote desert areas with the possible cooperation of Mexican Federal Police.

Reports that in a single weekend last November, 20 tons of cocaine destined for the United States were flown into Mexico in two large cargo plane shipments.

And the investigation involving connections between the drug cartels, Swiss bank accounts, and the brother of former President Carlos Salinas de Gortari only serves to reinforce the belief that drug-influenced corruption may reach the highest levels of Government.

Based on Mexico's efforts to date, Senator D'AMATO and I believe that extraordinary measures are required. The legislation coauthored by Senator D'AMATO and myself would do the following:

One, link extension of the loan guarantee to Mexico with cooperation in antidrug efforts. The United States-Mexico loan guarantee agreement expires next month. But the parties share an option to extend the agreement for an additional 6 months. And most likely they will be renewed after that.

This bill would prohibit the extension of the repayment terms for any of the currently outstanding loans to Mexico. It would prohibit the use of any of the remaining loan guarantees not obligated unless certain conditions with respect to antidrug efforts are met.

Second, we are introducing a sense-of-the-Senate resolution that Mexico should not be certified under the Foreign Assistance Act as fully cooperating with the United States and international antinarcotics efforts. Failure to certify as cooperating with these efforts would jeopardize Mexico's eligibility to receive foreign aid.

Sanctions for failure to be certified are mandatory, requiring that the

United States withhold 50 percent of all foreign aid, with the exception of humanitarian and drug enforcement funds.

The third bill prohibits the approval of applications from Mexican trucking companies applying for cross-border permits under NAFTA until the Secretary of Transportation can certify that the trucks meet United States safety standards, the President certifies Mexico is taking sufficient steps to combat international narcotics trafficking, and the Congress approves the applications via a joint resolution.

These are strong steps, but I truly believe that this problem is so serious that strong steps are required.

Evidence that would show Mexico's commitment to address these issues would include action such as the following:

One, compliance with all outstanding requests for extradition by the United States.

Two, enactment and implementation of effective money laundering laws.

Three, action to prevent Mexico's drug profiteers from taking advantage of plans to privatize formerly public assets such as banks.

Four, enactment of effective laws to inspect and license trucks, cars, and aircraft as well as their owners and operators to assist drug crime enforcement.

Five, enactment of effective laws to curtail the importation and export of major precursor chemicals for methamphetamine production and other narcotic production.

Six, specific action to effect the arrests of Mexican drug cartel leaders and other individuals involved in organized crime.

Seven, adoption of a comprehensive program for drug enforcement and assistance to United States law enforcement to take effective action.

Eight, specific action dedicated to detecting and halting the large-scale air transportation of narcotics.

Nine, specific action to prosecute graft and corruption among civilian, government, and military officials that assist drug production and smuggling.

And, finally, passage of asset forfeiture laws which enable the confiscation of property derived through narcotics trafficking or fraudulent use of the loan guarantee funds.

Without tangible evidence that Mexico is willing to work toward these goals, I am prepared to support the strong steps I have outlined.

Mr. President, earlier Senator D'AMATO and I, at a press conference, indicated our joint action to press forward with these bills. Mr. D'AMATO indicated that his Banking Committee would be holding hearings on these bills in March. We earnestly and sincerely invite other Members on both sides of the aisle to cosponsor this legislation.

Mr. President, I have seen firsthand a major tunnel under the Mexican border that goes from a warehouse in Mexico,

to a warehouse on the California side, that was air-conditioned and electrified to facilitate the smuggling of drugs from one country to another.

Mr. President, not too long ago in Rialto, CA, San Bernardino county, an arrest was made with the seizure of 4.5 tons—4.5 tons of cocaine. That amount of cocaine did not come across the border in backpacks.

Mr. President, I have been to the border. I have seen trucks going back and forth with very little or no inspection in the line-release program. For the past year, I have advocated a tightening of that program.

Now, under NAFTA, an even greater number of trucks would be able to cross the border with no inspection. What is the guarantee, when we know there is up to 100 tons of cocaine stored on the other side of the border awaiting transfer across this border, that it will not come in these trucks?

In every city, whether it is New York City, whether it is Los Angeles, or whether it is San Francisco, we have all seen people dying in the streets from drugs and drug deals gone awry. We have all seen the evolution of gangs around the trafficking of narcotics. We have all seen the street prices of cocaine drop and the problem get worse. We have seen the major spread of methamphetamine labs throughout the largest State in the Union, California.

The time has come to say, Enough is enough. To the Government of Mexico, close ally of the United States, we say "This is \$20 billion in loan guarantees plus other guarantees from the Monetary Fund—you must work hand in hand with us." We must stop the 727 cargo jets from landing on Mexican soil, from offloading drugs which then disappear before unloading United States currency for transport back to Colombia.

We must see that cartel leaders are extradited, that American extradition requests are honored, and that there are effective laws on the books to preclude money laundering in Mexico. In general, we must see that there is vigorous enforcement in Mexico to abate and stop the large flow of chemicals, cocaine and other contraband substances into the United States.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following letters be printed in the RECORD: One letter signed by Senator D'AMATO and myself, dated January 26, to the Secretary of State urging denial of certification; a letter sent by myself on December 6 to Ambassador Kantor pointing out problems in cargo trucks coming from Mexico; another letter to Ambassador Kantor, Secretary of State Christopher, Secretary of Treasury Rubin, and Attorney General Reno addressing continuing problems with drug enforcement that are presented by Mexico.

There being no objection, the letters were ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE,

Washington, DC, January 26, 1996.

Hon. WARREN M. CHRISTOPHER,
Secretary, Department of State, Washington,
DC.

DEAR MR. SECRETARY: We are writing to urge you to advise the President to deny certification that Mexico has taken sufficient actions to combat international narcotics trafficking when he reports to Congress on the anti-narcotics efforts of major drug producing and drug-transit countries on March 1, 1996.

As you know, Mexico is one of the most significant drug producing and drug transit countries in the world, and the bulk of the drugs moving through Mexico end up in the United States, particularly in the state of California. The Drug Enforcement Agency estimates that at least 75 percent of all cocaine available in the United States originates in Mexico. Further estimates are that 70 to 80 percent of all foreign-grown marijuana in the United States originates in Mexico. It is well known that Colombian drug cartels are using Mexico as a base from which to transport narcotics into the United States. We have been told that Colombian cartels may store as much as 70 to 100 tons of cocaine in Mexico at any one time to await smuggling into the United States.

These problems are bad enough, but they are made worse by the Mexican government's failure to take serious actions to address them. There has not been enough of a serious effort to break up the drug cartels that operate with virtual impunity in Mexico, or to arrest and extradite the drug lords who run them. The recent arrest and deportation of Juan Garcia Abrego is a positive development, but it contrasts sharply with the actions of the Mexican authorities in many other cases. To cite just two examples, the leaders of two of the most powerful cartels in Mexico—Amado Carillo-Fuentes of the Chihuahua Cartel, and the Arellano-Felix brothers of the Tijuana Cartel—are reported to be regularly seen in public with no fear of arrest.

In addition, Mexico has become a haven for laundering drug money, which is one of the most important aspects of the cartels' operations. Mexican laws regarding money laundering are inadequate, and banks and money exchange houses in Mexico do not have the same reporting requirements for large transactions as they do in the United States. Thousands of exchange houses are openly flouting what little oversight the Mexican government conducts, and millions of dollars are flowing to Colombia via money orders and wire transfers.

Finally, drug-influenced corruption continues unabated within Mexican law enforcement agencies and the government itself. One former cartel leader told U.S. prosecutors that up to \$50 million a month is used to bribe corrupt Mexican officials to ignore, or even facilitate, drug-trafficking activities. Drug money has clearly corrupted officials at every level of Mexico's government and law enforcement community, and—the investigations of the brother of former President Carlos Salinas de Gortari notwithstanding—President Zedillo's government is not taking sufficient action to root out this corruption.

In light of these facts, we are sure you will agree that Mexico is not deserving of certification as cooperating with U.S. and international narcotics efforts when the President issues his report pursuant to section 409A of the Foreign Assistance Act. Furthermore, we do not believe that any vital national interest warrants granting Mexico a waiver from decertification. The illegal drugs that flow into the United States from Mexico are tearing at our very culture, and as such they themselves represent a funda-

mental threat to our vital national interests. In contrast, the vital national interests of the United States do not require us to provide assistance to Mexico or to vote for multilateral development bank assistance to Mexico, the two areas that would be affected by Mexico's failure to be certified.

Thank you for your consideration of this extremely important matter. We look forward to your early reply.

Sincerely,

DIANNE FEINSTEIN,
U.S. Senator.
ALFONSE D'AMATO,
U.S. Senator.

U.S. SENATE,

Washington, DC, December 6, 1996.

Hon. MICHAEL KANTOR,
Ambassador, Washington, DC.

DEAR AMBASSADOR KANTOR: I am writing to express my strong opposition to the planned December 17 implementation of the proposal to dramatically increase the number of cargo trucks from Mexico with direct access to delivery points in the United States, under the North American Free Trade Agreement. This opposition is based on two very serious concerns: first, that inadequate provision has been made to ensure that this will not result in increased drug smuggling across the southwest border; and, second, that this will adversely impact the safety of California's highways.

It is my understanding that, beginning on December 17, under NAFTA, cargo trucks crossing the border from Mexico will no longer be restricted to delivery points within a limited commercial zone along the U.S.-Mexico border, but will be permitted to ship freight from origination points in Mexico directly to delivery points throughout California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas. Estimates are that broader access will increase land shipments across the U.S.-Mexico border to approximately 6 million truckloads annually by the year 2001.

DRUG SMUGGLING

My concerns with respect to drug smuggling are two fold. First, that our infrastructure to interdict drugs may not be able to keep pace with our efforts to facilitate increased trade and commerce across our land borders. And second, as trade and commerce barriers are reduced between Mexico and the United States, our drug abatement efforts will become increasingly dependent upon the enforcement efforts of our Mexican counterparts.

In a memorandum sent to me by Treasury Secretary Rubin last March, his office noted that the number of arriving trucks from Mexico increased last year at a faster rate than the rate of truck inspections, resulting in a decrease in the percentage of trucks being examined for drugs. Although he declined to assume that the increasing cargo volume automatically means an increase in contraband, he recognized that the increase in cargo volume provides a window of opportunity for smugglers.

In fact, in spite of (or perhaps because of) the reported success of a number of drug interdiction programs responding to changes in drug trafficking patterns, including the Customs Air Program and Border Patrol's Operation Hold the Line, Secretary Rubin noted that the next logical step for smugglers is to try to exploit the huge cargo volume crossing the border each day.

I concur with the assessment that drug smugglers will take advantage of any relaxation of travel barriers between the U.S. and Mexico, and fear that this greater access for Mexican carriers under NAFTA will exacerbate what is already a serious problem with drug interdiction.

Specifically, my questions regarding implementation are: How will Customs procedures change to accommodate the increase in truck volume? How will this change impact the Line Release Program? Will companies go through any form of application process or background check, or will any truck from any company in Mexico be given unlimited access to U.S. delivery points in these border states? What is the process for licensing individual drivers from the companies shipping cargo? Will the individual drivers undergo background checks?

According to officials from the Department of Justice, cocaine smuggled across the California border with Mexico accounts for at least 70 percent of the drug sent over the entire Southwest border, so California has an enormous interest in ensuring that drug interdiction efforts remain a paramount concern as NAFTA is implemented.

Another emerging drug threat in the United States, particularly in California, is the explosive increase in methamphetamine production and trafficking. California has become the production capitol of the nation for this dangerous drug, and the major source of methamphetamine and the precursor chemicals to produce this drug are the Mexican drug cartels.

Mexican traffickers have established international connections for supplies of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine key precursor chemicals for methamphetamine which are controlled in the United States but not in Mexico. Shipments of these and other precursor chemicals are sent to Mexico from around the world and then smuggled into the United States to literally hundreds of clandestine laboratories in California for production.

Methamphetamine is fast becoming the crack epidemic of the 1990s, and law enforcement is already unable to keep up with the problem. A greater volume of uninspected trucks and relaxed trade barriers can only make this problem worse.

Secondly, I am also worried about increasing our reliance on Mexico to stop the probable increased flow of drugs across our border. As I have spelled out in a separate letter to you, I am gravely concerned about the adequacy of Mexican efforts to restrict drug trafficking and the alarming level of drug-influenced corruption within Mexican law enforcement agencies and the government itself. This most certainly impacts our efforts at drug abatement in the United States. The news report this last week of a passenger plane loaded with cocaine landing in Baja California Sur with the possible cooperation of Mexican Federal Police is a shocking reminder that our efforts to stop the flood of drugs on American streets are only as strong as our weakest link.

I respect the efforts the Clinton Administration has made to reduce the flow of drugs into the United States and I know you share my concerns about maintaining the integrity of our drug interdiction efforts. I support increased trade and commerce with Mexico, but only to the extent that efforts to curtail the epidemic of drug use in our own country are not diminished, and to the extent that Mexico is cooperating fully with our efforts.

HIGHWAY SAFETY

I also want to express my strong concern about the safety implications of allowing large trucks from Mexico access to California's roads.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

The Attorney General of Texas, Dan Morales—who supports NAFTA—reports that more than a fourth of the approximately 5,000 Mexican trucks which cross into Texas every day carry: corrosives; chemicals; explosives; jet fuel; and pesticides.

This week's issue of Time magazine reports that in the past few months, several Mexican trucks in the U.S. have exploded or leaked toxins.

With such dangerous materials, and evidence of a poor record of truck safety in the United States, I fear that this problem will escalate dramatically with the expansion of Mexican truck traffic.

BRAKES

Another major area of concern is Mexico's request that the Administration ease its requirements on front brakes. According to the California Highway Patrol, in 1994 there were 45 accidents involving large trucks for which faulty brakes were found to be the cause. In these accidents, 77 people were injured and there was one fatality. There has been a steady decline over the past ten years of accidents involving large trucks, and I have grave concerns that the increase in Mexican trucks on California's freeways and roads will increase this number.

DRIVERS HOURS

As you know, truckers in the United States are limited to ten hours of driving time. In Mexico, however, there is no limit to the number of hours a driver may be behind the wheel. Again, according to the California Highway Patrol, there were 108 accidents in California involving a large truck where the driver simply fell asleep. These accidents were responsible for killing six and injuring 148.

I am very concerned about the adequacy of truck safety inspection at the border. I fear that U.S. Customs Service agents, who already have their hands full inspecting vehicles for drugs and trade treaty compliance features, are simply not going to have the time or technical expertise to conduct thorough safety inspections on trucks coming from Mexico.

On behalf of the people of California, I urge your personal attention to these issues.

Thank you for your anticipated assistance. Sincerely,

DIANNE FEINSTEIN,
U.S. Senator.

U.S. SENATE,

Washington, DC, December 6, 1996.

Hon. MICHAEL KANTOR,
Ambassador,
Washington, DC.

DEAR AMBASSADOR KANTOR: I am writing to request that you, along with Secretary of State Christopher, Secretary of the Treasury Rubin, and Attorney General Reno, address a continuing problem which is vexing our country, and my state in particular—the grossly inadequate drug enforcement “effort” by Mexico.

Just last week, separate published reports demonstrated the alarming, dramatic scale of this problem.

The Los Angeles Times reported on the continuing investigation of Raul Salinas de Gortari, older brother of Mexico's former President, Carlos Salinas de Gortari—an investigation which continues to yield appalling information about the extent of drug-influenced corruption in Mexico. The investigation is demonstrating that: The Mexican drug lords have become partners with the Colombian cartels; these cartels supply up to three-fourths of the cocaine in the United States, according to U.S. officials; Raul Salinas de Gortari was closely associated with the most powerful drug lord, Juan Garcia Abrego; Raul Salinas de Gortari served as an intermediary between the drug cartels and Mexico's political and economic elite; Garcia Abrego and Raul Salinas de Gortari used their respective fields of influence to protect each other from law enforcement; Raul Salinas de Gortari profited handsomely from this

relationship, with Mexican officials estimating that he may have stockpiled up to \$250 million in foreign bank accounts and other investments; and perhaps worst of all, this web of corruption and protection may have extended even to Raul's brother, President Carlos Salinas de Gortari.

This investigation was made public in Mexico last week, prompting the unprecedented step of a unanimous vote by members of all parties in Mexico's House of Deputies to establish a congressional commission to investigate Raul Salinas de Gortari and the sources of his wealth.

Coupled with other evidence of drug corruption in Mexico, much of which was laid out at a Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing this August, I am afraid that Mexico is in serious jeopardy of becoming a drug-dominated narco-democracy.

The New York Times, meanwhile, also reported last week that an entire passenger jet loaded with tons of cocaine landed in a dry lake bed in Baja California Sur on Saturday. Local fishermen saw the cocaine unloaded by 20 men wearing black Mexican Federal Police uniforms. These men arrived in a convoy of four-wheel-drive vehicles. After unloading the plane, they set about trying to destroy it, by dismantling it, attempting to blow it up with explosive powder, and finally bulldozing over it with desert sand.

Despite widespread reports of Mexican police involvement with allowing or even conducting drug smuggling, state police who arrived on the scene allowed themselves to be talked out of taking action by the uniformed men—demonstrating that the state police were either duped, incredibly inattentive and lacking in vigilance, or corrupt themselves.

It comes as no surprise that investigators have traced the airplane's serial numbers back to Colombia's Cali cartel. As for the tons of drugs that were unloaded from the plane, the newspaper reported that they have not been recovered. I would appreciate your investigating and reporting to me what happened to these drugs, and to the plane.

For your convenience, I have attached copies of these articles. What is especially dismaying is that there is nothing new about airplanes loaded with multi-million dollar shipments of cocaine flying from Colombia to Mexico. At a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing in February, 1995, Drug Enforcement Administration Director Constantine told me about 727s flying 10 to 20 tons of cocaine at a time into Mexico, and returning to Colombia with 20 to 30 million dollars of U.S. currency.

At the Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing in August, we discussed this again. At that point, Ambassador Gelbard interjected, “based on an order from President Zedillo, he has mobilized the Mexican Air Force to intercept any such flights that do occur.” And yet, we see now that the flights do continue.

Frankly, I am astounded and disgusted that the Mexican government is unable or unwilling to stop massive cargo flights, or incidents such as this latest one, involving an airplane, heavy vehicles, explosives, bulldozers, and police officers who turn the other way.

It is no secret where these drugs are going: straight into my State of California. At the February hearing, Director Constantine confirmed that California has replaced Florida as the major point of importation of cocaine into America. He further stated that 75% of the cocaine in the United States enters through the Southwest border from Mexico.

Mr. Ambassador, I ask that you, together with Secretary of State Christopher, Secretary of the Treasury Rubin, and Attorney General Reno, really take a good, hard look at what specifically can be done to compel

Mexico to achieve a higher level of cooperation and enforcement against drugs.

The United States provides Mexico with a great deal of assistance—such as the \$20 billion loan guarantee earlier this year. Yet this assistance seems to go to a country that is utterly ineffective at stopping the infliction of the scourge of drug trafficking on my state and our country—or, worse, corruptly facilitates it. If Mexico will not summon the will to help us in this effort, perhaps it is time for us to reconsider our assistance to them.

On behalf of the people of California, I urge your personal attention to this issue.

Thank you for your anticipated assistance.

Sincerely,

DIANNE FEINSTEIN,
U.S. Senator.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. I thank the Chair.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator INHOFE be added as a cosponsor to the bills and the resolution I have just sent to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

• Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, the Mexican economic meltdown is over a year old and no one—not the Mexican people and certainly not the American taxpayers—have seen any signs of improvement or relief. Last year, the Clinton administration rushed in to bail out the Mexican Government with an ill-conceived, and legally tenuous, financial assistance package that spent billions of taxpayer dollars. The time has come to stop this financial hemorrhage.

Since February 21, 1995, when the administration signed its Financial Assistance Agreement with Mexico, I have been saying that the Clinton bailout was an ill-conceived disaster. It is not just my opinion, it is the cold hard facts. You only need to look at the Mexican economic indicators, including 50-percent interest rates and staggering inflation, and the suffering of the Mexican people to realize that the plan is not working. Mexico's real economy is still in shambles; record numbers of Mexicans are out of work, interest rates are soaring, the people are starving, and the country is reeling under increasing social and political unrest. Christopher Whalen, writing in the January 21, 1996, edition of the Washington Post, stated “As in the 1970's, the Mexicans are again addicted to the debt that we have been spoon-feeding them, and they still can't pay it back.”

Mr. President, the only people who have benefited from the Clinton bailout are the global investors, the currency speculators, Mexican business leaders, and high paid advisers retained by the Mexican Government. The Mexican bailout was doomed to disaster from the very beginning.

Congress rejected Clinton's bailout scheme last year, despite the administration's doomsday predictions of an international financial crisis and waves of illegal immigration. The global financial crisis never materialized but hordes of illegal immigrants are still crossing our borders in an attempt to

escape their desperate living conditions. Their hardships are a direct result of inept Mexican economic policies and the harsh austerity measures the Clinton administration imposed upon the Mexican people as part of the bailout.

Mr. President, Mexico has received over \$25 billion and it has not solved anything. The Clinton administration bypassed Congress and sent billions of hard-earned American taxpayer dollars to a country reeling under narco-corruption and failed economic policies. Mexico's downward spiral is accelerating and the fallout is only beginning.

According to the terms of the Financial Assistance Agreement between the administration and Mexico—Article 3, section 7—the agreement expires after 1 year, on February 21, 1996, and it may be extended by the Secretary of Treasury for another 6 months. Secretary Rubin has indicated that the Treasury Department intends to extend the bailout for another 6 months so now is the time for Congress to act.

Mr. President, my colleague and friend, Senator FEINSTEIN and I, are cosponsoring this bill which would place strong conditions on the administration to stop them from wasting more taxpayer dollars on the Mexican bailout, by preventing an extension of the Assistance Agreement, and stopping any additional rollovers of the money already owed to the United States, as of the first of this year.

At the very least, if the President decides to continue squandering any more of the remaining \$10.5 billion of U.S. taxpayer money already committed to Mexico, he should be required to certify that Mexico is doing all that it can to stop the massive flow of narcotics into our country. This should not be a simple certification—it should be tough and thorough. This bill will require Mexico to take strong action to fight the drug lords and narcotics kings who are becoming multimillionaires by importing drugs into our country.

Our bill sets several pertinent conditions regarding the enormous amounts of drugs Mexico is sending to this country every day. In our bill, the President must certify that Mexico has satisfied each of these conditions before sending any more taxpayer money to Mexico. The Congress already passed a certification requirement related to the Mexican bailout last year in the Mexican Debt Disclosure Act, which required the President to certify normal business standards were being imposed on the loans and money sent to Mexico.

A few key facts on the severity of the drug problem with Mexico vividly illustrate the need for immediate action:

The Drug Enforcement Administration [DEA] estimates that over 70 percent of the cocaine in the United States crosses the United States-Mexico border. Using Mexico as storage for the cocaine, the Colombian drug organizations may be holding cocaine with a street value of up to \$1 billion.

According to the DEA, virtually all of the heroin produced in Mexico is trafficked in the United States.

The DEA also reports that more than 50 percent of the marijuana found in the United States came from Mexico, either cultivated there or transshipped through Mexico from other localities.

It appears that trafficking gangs in Mexico are also involved in all aspects of the methamphetamine trade: producing, trafficking, and distributing it as well as the chemicals used to manufacture the methamphetamines. Law enforcement officials have noticed an increase in its availability in the United States.

The recent arrest of Juan Garcia Abrego, described as an international drug kingpin and said to have headed a billion-dollar drug empire, may hold the key to understanding just how big the Mexican drug organizations are and the volume of drugs they traffick into the United States. The information that he provides to U.S. law enforcement is a glimpse into the underground world of international drug trafficking. His arrest is merely the tip of the iceberg.

Currently, the Colombian cartel and the drug trafficking gangs in Mexico are working in partnership to deliver and distribute multiton of narcotics into the United States. However, Assistant Secretary of State Robert Gelbard told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that, with the arrest of leaders of the Columbian Cali cartel, Mexican drug trafficking gangs may be able to actively traffick these drugs themselves.

No doubt, there will be an increase in the availability of narcotics as a direct result of the Mexican drug gangs' interest in narcotics distribution, and the ease with which they can transport it into the United States.

Mr. President, this bill is an important first step in addressing two very serious problems affecting the American people. This bill will force the Clinton administration and the Mexican Government to make real and substantial efforts to halt the flow of illegal drugs into our country. The bill also sends notice to the administration that the Congress, and the American people, are tired of having hard-earned taxpayer dollars squandered. I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan effort.●

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 10

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 10, a bill to make certain laws applicable to the legislative branch of the Federal Government, to reform lobbying registration and disclosure requirements, to amend the gift rules of the Senate and the House of Representatives, and to reform the Federal election laws applicable to the Congress.

S. 837

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from New Mexico

[Mr. DOMENICI] was added as a cosponsor of S. 837, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the birth of James Madison.

S. 990

At the request of Mr. DOLE, the name of the Senator from Oregon [Mr. HATFIELD] was added as a cosponsor of S. 990, a bill to expand the availability of qualified organizations for frail elderly community projects (Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE)), to allow such organizations, following a trial period, to become eligible to be providers under applicable titles of the Social Security Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1028

At the request of Mrs. KASSEBAUM, the name of the Senator from Indiana [Mr. LUGAR] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1028, a bill to provide increased access to health care benefits, to provide increased portability of health care benefits, to provide increased security of health care benefits, to increase the purchasing power of individuals and small employers, and for other purposes.

S. 1334

At the request of Mr. FRIST, the names of the Senator from North Carolina [Mr. HELMS] and the Senator from Idaho [Mr. CRAIG] were added as cosponsors of S. 1334, a bill to amend chapter 28 of title 35, United States Code, to provide for noninfringing uses of patents on medical and surgical procedures.

S. 1379

At the request of Mr. CRAIG, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1379, a bill to make technical amendments to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1392

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the names of the Senator from Alabama [Mr. SHELBY] and the Senator from Mississippi [Mr. COCHRAN] were added as cosponsors of S. 1392, a bill to impose temporarily a 25 percent duty on imports of certain Canadian wood and lumber products, to require the administering authority to initiate an investigation under title VII of the Tariff Act of 1930 with respect to such products, and for other purposes.

S. 1541

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the names of the Senator from Washington [Mr. GORTON], the Senator from Texas [Mr. GRAMM], the Senator from Virginia [Mr. WARNER], the Senator from Kansas [Mrs. KASSEBAUM], the Senator from Florida [Mr. MACK], the Senator from Texas [Mrs. HUTCHISON], and the Senator from Mississippi [Mr. LOTT] were added as cosponsors of S. 1541, a bill to extend, reform, and improve agricultural commodity, trade, conservation, and other programs, and for other purposes.

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At the request of Mr. CHAFEE, the name of the Senator from Connecticut