

We saw Customs cut significantly in terms of the efforts. The DEA has been cut by 227 agents. The FBI had proposed cuts of significance. All of these areas were where we are fighting on the front line against the importation, the trafficking and the use of drugs through law enforcement efforts. I think a primary goal of drug control policy must be to reduce the amount of cocaine entering the United States. Interdiction programs target source countries in the transit zone, about 2 million square miles between the United States and South American borders, including Central America, Mexico, Caribbean Sea, and the Caribbean Islands. About 780 metric tons of cocaine are produced each year in South America, and about 30 percent is shipped through the Caribbean into the United States, Puerto Rico, and Mexico.

Funding for interdiction declined from \$1 billion in 1992 to \$569 million in fiscal year 1995. There was no funding increase in source-country activities. So the overall funding was decreased by nearly half. As a result, cocaine seizures are down from 70,000 kilograms in 1992 to 37,000 kilograms in 1995. DOD funding for interdiction is down. Coast Guard funding for drug interdiction is down.

I think the executive branch needs to develop a plan to implement a national interdiction strategy. Agencies have their own plans, but they need the coordination of the ONDP. We need to get serious once again about the war on drugs.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. COVERDELL. I know our time has expired. I ask unanimous consent for 2 minutes just to wrap up this session.

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

Mr. COVERDELL. I thank the Senator from Missouri. I think he has reinforced everything we have been saying all afternoon. It does not matter what community you are in, whether St. Louis or Gwinnett County, GA, we are in the midst of a new epidemic.

Just to summarize, major policy with regard to the management of the drug issue in the United States has been changed. The message has been either nonexistent or acquiescent, and as a result we have produced headlines like the Marietta Daily Journal, "Georgia Crime Rate Reaches New High. Juveniles Are More Apt To Break the Law." Or, in the now famous Gwinnett Daily Post, "Juvenile Drug Cases Up 738 Percent Over 1992."

The first wake-up call has to be in our communities. Every policymaker has to get the message right. Drugs are not good and drugs will do enormous damage. Teenagers, do not use it. Listen to those little ladies, those friends in the Macon Youth Development Center, when they said: "Don't use drugs. Don't think you can control them. Never use drugs to be a part of a clique, a group. Just say no."

I yield the floor.

TRIBUTE TO C.H. ALBRIGHT

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, in my many years of public service to the people of South Carolina, one of the finest and most dedicated public servants I have known in C.H. "Icky" Albright, a leading businessman, civic booster, and the former mayor of Rock Hill. Today, I rise to pay tribute to my friend, and to wish him a happy 90th birthday, which he celebrated on August 30.

Without question, Icky has had a full life, and one marked by many impressive accomplishments. A graduate of Clemson College, Icky's initial calling in life was as an architect, and he practiced his profession first at the South Carolina Highway Commission, and later in his beloved Rock Hill. To this day, many of the buildings he designed remain standing, including several on what has become the campus of Winthrop University. Despite his success as an architect, Icky, as so many enterprising Americans do, wanted to try his hand at running a business, and he eventually gave up architecture in order to manage the Marshall Hardware Co. where he demonstrated his skills as an administrator and entrepreneur.

In communities throughout the Nation, being a business leader is a natural springboard into public service, and it was not long before Icky's reputation for hard work, integrity, and desire to help others led my friend into politics. In the years following World War II, during which Icky had volunteered for the Navy and earned the rank of lieutenant, we was elected as a city councilman, mayor, and State senator. In each instance, he held himself to the highest standards of his office and he worked diligently to represent his constituents capably, effectively, and fully. During my term as governor, Icky was serving as Mayor of Rock Hill, and I remember being impressed by his dedication to improving his city and the many projects which he successfully undertook during his tenure.

Icky's reputation around Rock Hill was that of a man of action. He was always eager to become involved in any endeavor that would benefit his hometown and make it an even better place. Many of his initiatives are still part of life in Rock Hill, including the Come-See-Me celebration, an annual event designed to celebrate the beauty and hospitality of that city. Without question, Icky has left a commendable legacy through his many years of public service.

My friend's commitment to helping others was not limited to the public sector. Through his involvement with numerous boards, commissions, and committees, Icky worked to help build South Carolina and its business community into a vibrant and successful place. He established Albright Realty Company; served as president of both the South Carolina Hardware Association and the South Carolina Association

of Realtors; and ended his professional career as the District Director of the Small Business Administration in South Carolina. Additionally, Icky served on the board of visitors of Presbyterian College; the building committee for the Medical University of South Carolina; as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1948; and, as an elder in the Presbyterian Church. Icky's commitment to service has earned him many awards and recognitions, including being inducted as a Paul Harris Fellow by Rotary International, the highest recognition a non-Rotarian may be awarded.

Mr. President, Icky Albright is a man whose friendship I value greatly. He is the godfather of my daughter, Nancy Moore Thurmond, and a man who has been one of my strongest supporters through the years. I am always pleased whenever I have the opportunity to visit with Icky, his lovely wife Sophie, or their sons. Without question, Icky Albright is a man who has served his city, State, and Nation admirably, and it is my hope that others will follow the lead he has set for public spiritedness and willingness to help others. We are proud of his many accomplishments and contributions, and that we are able to claim him as a citizen of South Carolina.

TRIBUTE TO THE GOOD SAMARITAN HOSPITAL SCHOOL OF NURSING

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, I am pleased to have the opportunity today to pay tribute to the Good Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing, which is marking its 100th year of service to Cincinnati, OH, and northern Kentucky.

Good Samaritan, the sixth nursing education program established in Ohio, was founded by the Sisters of Charity and has graduated nearly 5,000 nurses over the past century. These nurses have brought skilled and compassionate care to hundreds of thousands of patients throughout the world.

Consistently a leader in nursing education, in 1906 Good Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing was among the first in the United States to earn accreditation. Its leadership status was again affirmed in 1927 when it affiliated with a baccalaureate degree program at the College of Mount St. Joseph; in 1952 when it created a third-year internship; in 1972 when it tailored a nationally recognized registered nurse program to further the skills of licensed practical nurses; and in 1981 when it introduced its diploma program for part-time students.

Good Samaritan has also been a good neighbor. More than 30 years ago, realizing the existence of a medically underserved population in the area, it reached out and created its community health nursing course.

Mr. President, I know I speak for many when I say that a huge debt of

gratitude is owed to the Good Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing for its century of service. I congratulate the students and the school's graduates and leaders as they gather to commemorate the school's first 100 years of nursing excellence.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business Friday, August 30, the Federal debt stood at \$5,208,303,439,417.93.

On a per capita basis, every man, woman, and child in America owes \$19,607.09 as his or her share of that debt.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The period of time for morning business has expired.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now proceed to the consideration of H.R. 3666, the VA-HUD appropriations bill, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3666) making appropriations for the Department of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes.

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Appropriations, with amendments; as follows:

(The parts of the bill intended to be stricken are shown in boldface brackets and the parts of the bill intended to be inserted are shown in italic.)

H.R. 3666

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION

COMPENSATION AND PENSIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For the payment of compensation benefits to or on behalf of veterans as authorized by law (38 U.S.C. 107, chapters 11, 13, 51, 53, 55, and 61); pension benefits to or on behalf of veterans as authorized by law (38 U.S.C. chapters 15, 51, 53, 55, and 61; 92 Stat. 2508); and burial benefits, emergency and other officers' retirement pay, adjusted-service cred-

its and certificates, payment of premiums due on commercial life insurance policies guaranteed under the provisions of Article IV of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940, as amended, and for other benefits as authorized by law (38 U.S.C. 107, 1312, 1977, and 2106, chapters 23, 51, 53, 55, and 61; 50 U.S.C. App. 540-548; 43 Stat. 122, 123; 45 Stat. 735; 76 Stat. 1198); **[\$18,497,854,000]** *\$18,671,259,000*, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$26,417,000 of the amount appropriated shall be reimbursed to "General operating expenses" and "Medical care" for necessary expenses in implementing those provisions authorized in the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990, and in the Veterans' Benefits Act of 1992 (38 U.S.C. chapters 51, 53, and 55), the funding source for which is specifically provided as the "Compensation and pensions" appropriation: *Provided further*, That such sums as may be earned on an actual qualifying patient basis, shall be reimbursed to "Medical facilities revolving fund" to augment the funding of individual medical facilities for nursing home care provided to pensioners as authorized by the Veterans' Benefits Act of 1992 (38 U.S.C. chapter 55).

READJUSTMENT BENEFITS

For the payment of readjustment and rehabilitation benefits to or on behalf of veterans as authorized by 38 U.S.C. chapters 21, 30, 31, 34, 35, 36, 39, 51, 53, 55, and 61, **[\$1,227,000,000]** *\$1,377,000,000*, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That funds shall be available to pay any court order, court award or any compromise settlement arising from litigation involving the vocational training program authorized by section 18 of Public Law 98-77, as amended.

VETERANS INSURANCE AND INDEMNITIES

For military and naval insurance, national service life insurance, servicemen's indemnities, service-disabled veterans insurance, and veterans mortgage life insurance as authorized by 38 U.S.C. chapter 19; 70 Stat. 887; 72 Stat. 487, **\$38,970,000**, to remain available until expended.

GUARANTY AND INDEMNITY PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the cost of direct and guaranteed loans, such sums as may be necessary to carry out the program, as authorized by 38 U.S.C. chapter 37, as amended: *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as amended.

In addition, for administrative expenses to carry out the direct and guaranteed loan programs, **\$105,226,000**, which may be transferred to and merged with the appropriation for "General operating expenses".

LOAN GUARANTY PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the cost of direct and guaranteed loans, such sums as may be necessary to carry out the program, as authorized by 38 U.S.C. chapter 37, as amended: *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as amended.

In addition, for administrative expenses to carry out the direct and guaranteed loan programs, **\$33,810,000**, which may be transferred to and merged with the appropriation for "General operating expenses".

DIRECT LOAN PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the cost of direct loans, such sums as may be necessary to carry out the program, as authorized by 38 U.S.C. chapter 37, as amended: *Provided*, That such costs, includ-

ing the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as amended: *Provided further*, That during 1997, within the resources available, not to exceed \$300,000 in gross obligations for direct loans are authorized for specially adapted housing loans.

In addition, for administrative expenses to carry out the direct loan program, **\$80,000**, which may be transferred to and merged with the appropriation for "General operating expenses".

EDUCATION LOAN FUND PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the cost of direct loans, **\$1,000**, as authorized by 38 U.S.C. 3698, as amended: *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as amended: *Provided further*, That these funds are available to subsidize gross obligations for the principal amount of direct loans not to exceed \$3,000.

In addition, for administrative expenses necessary to carry out the direct loan program, **\$195,000**, which may be transferred to and merged with the appropriation for "General operating expenses".

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the cost of direct loans, **\$49,000**, as authorized by 38 U.S.C. chapter 31, as amended: *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as amended: *Provided further*, That these funds are available to subsidize gross obligations for the principal amount of direct loans not to exceed **[\$1,964,000]** *\$2,822,000*.

In addition, for administrative expenses necessary to carry out the direct loan program, **\$377,000**, which may be transferred to and merged with the appropriation for "General operating expenses".

NATIVE AMERICAN VETERAN HOUSING LOAN PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For administrative expenses to carry out the direct loan program authorized by 38 U.S.C. chapter 37, subchapter V, as amended, **\$205,000**, which may be transferred to and merged with the appropriation for "General operating expenses".

VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

MEDICAL CARE

For necessary expenses for the maintenance and operation of hospitals, nursing homes, and domiciliary facilities; for furnishing, as authorized by law, inpatient and outpatient care and treatment to beneficiaries of the Department of Veterans Affairs, including care and treatment in facilities not under the jurisdiction of the Department; and furnishing recreational facilities, supplies, and equipment; funeral, burial, and other expenses incidental thereto for beneficiaries receiving care in the Department; administrative expenses in support of planning, design, project management, real property acquisition and disposition, construction and renovation of any facility under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department; oversight, engineering and architectural activities not charged to project cost; repairing, altering, improving or providing facilities in the several hospitals and homes under the jurisdiction of the Department, not otherwise provided for, either by contract or by the hire of temporary employees and purchase of materials; uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 5901-5902; aid to State homes as authorized by 38 U.S.C. 1741; and not to exceed \$8,000,000