

## DRUG CRISIS IN MEXICO

**HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 5, 1997*

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, the Washington Post this week has been running a series of front-page articles documenting the effects of the overwhelming quantities of drugs pouring across our border with Mexico. The Post series has highlighted the terrible threat of corruption also in our own law enforcement ranks, breakdowns in cooperation at the working level between the United States and Mexico, and the spread of drug-related crime and drug gangs in our cities and among our immigrant communities.

I have long been deeply concerned about the escalating drug crisis in Mexico and the United States. In recent meetings with Mexico's Foreign Minister, attorney general, and Ambassador to the United States, I delivered a frank, critical message as a long-time friend of Mexico.

On the positive side, we should recognize that President Zedillo's move to quickly remove the corrupt drug czar, Gen. Jose Gutierrez, sent an important signal that even the highest officials can not betray Mexico's trust with impunity. The Mexican Government has also greatly improved its cooperation with refueling on our counternarcotics missions, especially for maritime deployments to interdict drugs along the transit route currently favored by narcotics traffickers.

However, grave problems persist in our counternarcotics efforts with Mexico which both countries are simply going to have to face and work harder to fix. The drug trade in all its facets threatens us equally. We must not let ourselves be divided in fighting this scourge. Because of this, President Zedillo's reported statements that the United States—as a consumer of illicit drugs—should make reparations for the damage caused to Mexico by the drug trade were especially troubling. We can not accept that assertion. We know empirically that the narcotics traffickers have been dumping drugs onto our streets and using supply to create the increased demand that lines their pockets with criminal wealth.

Our DEA agents who put their lives on the line in Mexico must be allowed to carry arms to defend themselves from deadly thugs. They must have the right to protect themselves as they help Mexico fight the scourge of illicit drugs. This matter should not be turned into a target of anachronistic rhetoric.

Despite President Zedillo's apparent good intentions, the organized crime units and other antidrug infrastructure and critically needed improvements seem to be moving slowly. Some 234 individuals dismissed for drug-related corruption have been reinstated on appeal. Recycling antidrug personnel unfortunately seems far too commonplace in Mexico. Moreover, compared to previous years, seizure rates especially for the cocaine which has been pouring into the United States from Mexico, are disappointing and distressing.

No major cartel leader has been arrested in Mexico since the March 1 certification. Also, despite 23 pending requests for extradition of Mexican nationals on narcotics offenses, Mexico has not extradited a single Mexican—as opposed to dual—national to the United States

on narcotics charges since certification. Finally, only 16 out of 48 helicopters in the possession of the Mexican Army that we provided to Mexico are in operation. Those helicopters that are operating are primarily conducting surveillance missions and have not made any drug seizures.

The situation is not encouraging. As the Washington Post articles point out, drugs are breeding addiction and its attendant misery, violence, and corruption on both sides of our border with Mexico. We must redouble our Nation's commitment to reinforce every legitimate effort to combat this well-armed, wealthy, and ruthless underworld. It is essential that to be effective, our war on drugs must have the cooperation of our neighbors and the international community.

HONORING AMBASSADOR  
SHYAMULA B. COWSICK OF INDIA**HON. BILL McCOLLUM**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 5, 1997*

Mr. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to honor the outgoing Deputy Chief of Mission of India, Ambassador Shyamula Cowsick. Over the past 2 years, I have had the pleasure of working closely with the Ambassador on improving relations between our two nations. The Ambassador has always been available to provide special briefings and materials as we worked through issues. Her involvement allowed the two nations to make historic progress at the legislative, executive, and non-governmental levels through an explosion of contacts and ongoing dialogues. Her special insight was valuable in that it allowed her to bridge the cultural and political gap that frequently confronts policy makers. As co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian-Americans, it has been my pleasure to work with Ambassador Cowsick, and I am sure that my colleagues will join me in wishing her continued success.

FIRST BOOKS: THE JOYS OF  
READING**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 5, 1997*

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a unique educational program—a partnership between the YMCA's Childcare Resource Service and KPBS Television in San Diego. The First Books program, part of the nationwide ready to learn campaign, will provide 200 free books each month to children from low-income families.

The First Books program has a simple goal: to promote literacy in homes where books may not be readily available. They plan to make reading books more pleasurable and entertaining by connecting them to public television programming.

Children in 25 different San Diego day care programs will receive free books from the First Books program. The YMCA's Childcare Resource Center staff, led by Director Nan Mitchell, hopes to extend the joy of books to the

parents and teachers through monthly workshops designed to teach ways of making learning fun by combining books and public television.

Providing books to children in homes where books are not always available is a proven way to build a firm foundation for future generations of schoolchildren. When one member of a family reads, it inspires the whole family.

The First Books program will make sure that the children of working parents who strive to make ends meet, are not left behind, but will be involved in fun activities with books to make sure they are ready to learn.

Research tells us that reading to our children from a very young age supports their development and enhances their learning. The adults who read with them—whether it be their parents or childcare providers—share in unlocking the wonders of imagination that books foster.

This program ensures all children will have the opportunity to discover the delight of books. Books are many children's most cherished possessions and provide long-lasting memories. I salute KPBS and the Childcare Resource Service for introducing all children to this magical world.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 5, 1997*

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I inadvertently voted "no" on rollcall No. 570, the United States-Caribbean Trade Partnership Act (H.R. 2644). I want the record to reflect that I strongly support this legislation and should have voted "yes."

## VERNON E. HALL: UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE PORT OF LOS ANGELES

**HON. JANE HARMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 5, 1997*

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Vernon E. Hall, who will be honored today by his friends, family, and colleagues in San Pedro, CA. Vern is retiring after 27 years of dedicated service to the Port of Los Angeles.

Vern Hall has served as Director of Development for the Port of Los Angeles since May of 1995. Prior to that time, Vern served as Chief Harbor Engineer since 1988. He is responsible for the activities of the Port's development divisions which include Engineering, Construction Management and Environmental Management, as well as numerous consultants and contractors engaged in the planning, design, permitting and construction of Port terminals and supportive infrastructure. Hall, during his Port career, was responsible for numerous capital development projects and programs, ranging from the West Channel/Cabrillo Beach Recreational Complex to the \$650 million Pier 300/400 Implementation Program. He has contributed to most of the significant Port development projects undertaken

in the last 20 years either as an engineer, project manager or supervising chief engineer.

Vern is a product of Los Angeles City Schools in San Pedro: Leland Street Elementary, Dana Junior High and San Pedro High School. Since graduating from UCLA in 1958, Vern has performed professional services for the California Division of Highways as a Highway Engineer, the United States Navy as an Engineering Officer, and, since 1970, the Port of Los Angeles.

Vern has dedicated much of his professional life to the Port of Los Angeles and the San Pedro community. I am proud to join his friends, family and colleagues in extending my sincere admiration and appreciation to Vernon E. Hall.

Congratulations Vern.

#### H.R. 2840 THE REGULATORY RIGHT-TO-KNOW ACT OF 1997

**HON. TOM BLILEY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 1997

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing H.R. 2840, the Regulatory Right-to-Know Act of 1997. The Regulatory Right-to-Know Act of 1997 provides an important tool to understand the magnitude and impact of Federal regulatory programs on our economy. Recently, the President and Congress devoted a great deal of time and effort in preparing and debating the first balanced budget for the Federal Government in 28 years. This budget determines how much money the American people's Government will collect and where it will spend these funds. The budget for fiscal year 1997 is approximately \$1.6 trillion.

However, the Federal budget fails to take into account the full impact of Federal programs on our economy. The Federal Government also imposes tremendous costs on the private sector, State and local governments and, ultimately, the public through ever-increasing Federal regulations. Some recent estimates place the compliance costs from Federal regulatory programs at over \$680 billion annually and project substantial growth even without new legislation. These costs are often hidden in increased prices for goods and services, loss of international competitiveness in the global economy, lack of investment in private sector job growth, and pressure on the ability of State and local governments to fund essential services, such as crime prevention and education.

The benefits of Federal programs are no doubt substantial. Lack of accountability and regulatory reform, however, has left many Federal programs inefficient or marginally productive. Unlike the private sector, where freedom of contract and free market competition drive price and quality, Federal programs are only accountable through the political process. Moreover, historically, both Congress and the executive branch have driven growth in Federal regulatory programs, creating layer upon layer of bureaucracy at great cost and with diminishing returns for the American people. If Congress and the executive branch do not take concrete steps to reform these programs, the United States will surely decline in the world economy. Consequently, the quality of life for our children will also decline.

The Regulatory Right-to-Know Act of 1997 is an important management tool to evaluate the cumulative impacts of regulatory programs through an accounting of national expenditures and statements of corresponding benefits for each regulatory program. The cumulative impact of regulatory costs must be debated at the same level that taxing and spending are debated; after all, they are all derived from the same two sources—the private sector and the American people. Rule-by-rule evaluations are insufficient to capture cumulative impacts or manage national expenditures. Moreover, a national debate that focuses solely on the \$1.6 trillion Federal budget without accounting for the additional \$680 billion in annual regulatory costs is an incomplete and un-informed debate that leads to poor national policy and mismanagement of resources.

What is needed is an accounting tool that allows the Federal Government to fully understand the cumulative impact of Federal programs. The Regulatory Right-to-Know Act would provide such a tool. The bill requires the President to provide an accounting statement every 2 years respecting the costs of regulation to the private sector and State and local governments, and Federal Government costs by program or program element. The President would also provide quantitative or qualitative statements of corresponding benefits. Such an accounting offers the opportunity for comprehensive analyses of impacts on our economy through an associated report. The bill also provides for input from the public and opportunities to identify areas for regulatory reform.

Citizens for a Sound Economy and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce agree that the American taxpayers and business have the right-to-know the costs and benefits of Federal regulations, and, therefore, have endorsed the Regulatory Right-to-Know Act of 1997. I would like to submit letters of endorsement for the Regulatory Right-to-Know Act of 1997 from Citizens for a Sound Economy and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce into the RECORD.

The legislation changes no regulatory standard or program. It will, however, provide vital information to Congress and the executive branch so they may fulfill their obligation to ensure wise expenditure of limited national economic resources in all regulatory programs.

The letters follow:

NOVEMBER 4, 1997.

Hon. THOMAS J. BLILEY,  
Chairman, Committee on Commerce, U.S. House  
of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN BLILEY: On behalf of Citizens for a Sound Economy (CSE), a 250,000-member consumer advocacy and research organization, I would like to express my strong support for the "Regulatory Right-to-Know Act of 1997." This legislation would help establish a more effective approach toward regulation through increased public accountability and much-needed public dialogue concerning the costs and benefits of regulation. Americans currently face an estimated regulatory burden of \$680 billion annually. Increased accountability and a better understanding of the regulatory process would improve Federal regulations by providing Congress, the administration, and Federal agencies the necessary information to more carefully assess regulations.

CSE will work to ensure that regulatory process became law. The Regulatory Right-to-Know Act of 1997 is an important step toward a more reasonable regulatory process.

By providing the public and the government more consistent information about the costs and benefits of regulations, the Regulatory Right-to-Know Act will allow regulatory agencies to make more informed decisions while avoiding excessive or unnecessary burdens on consumers.

Sincerely,

MATT KIBBE,  
Vice President  
for Public Policy.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,  
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,  
November 3, 1997.

HON. TOM BLILEY,  
Chairman, House Committee on Commerce, U.S.  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The U.S. Chamber of Commerce supports your proposed legislation to make permanent the regulatory accounting statement of the cumulative costs and benefits of federal regulatory programs.

A proliferation of federal regulations has occurred in recent years. Estimates now place the total cost of federal regulations on American taxpayers and the regulated community in excess of \$700 billion annually. These costs are particularly onerous for small businesses that simply do not have the resources to comply with the increasing number of demands imposed upon them. According to the U.S. Small Business Administration, the proportionate cost of regulatory compliance for small business is almost three times that for large companies.

American taxpayers and businesses deserve to know the total costs and benefits of federal regulations. Adoption of your legislation would inject greater accountability into the regulatory process and facilitate better evaluation of regulatory programs. It would also help in allocating limited resources where the needs are the greatest. Requiring an annual regulatory accounting statement has strong bipartisan congressional support. It is time that it was made permanent.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce—the world's largest business federation with an underlying membership of more than three million businesses and organizations of every size, section and region—applauds your efforts and urges expeditious adoption of this common sense, good government proposal.

Sincerely,

R. Bruce Josten.

#### POLITICAL FREEDOM IN CHINA ACT OF 1997

SPEECH OF

**HON. DAVE WELDON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 1997

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2358, the Political Freedom in China Act of 1997. This legislation puts the U.S. Congress firmly on record as supporting the spread of democracy throughout the world.

This bill contains language authored by Representative LINDA SMITH which expresses the sense of Congress that the Chinese Government should be condemned for its practice of executing prisoners and selling their organs for transplants. As a cosponsor of Representative SMITH's House Concurrent Resolution 180, I am glad this language was included in this bill. Any Chinese official directly involved in these executions and operations should be barred from entering the United States. The