

THE MEDICAL MARIJUANA
DETERRENCE ACT

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 1997

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation in response to the actions taken by the State of California and the State of Arizona to allow for the medical use of marijuana. The bill would deny Federal benefits to any individual convicted of using, possessing or selling marijuana.

As we know, Mr. Speaker, it is a Federal offense to sell, use or possess a controlled substance, such as marijuana. Under existing law the courts have the authority, at their discretion, to deny Federal benefits to anyone convicted of using, possessing or selling a controlled substance, such as marijuana. My bill would eliminate the discretion of the courts in those States, which have approved the use of illegal drugs for medical use. In other words, anyone who violates Federal law in this matter would immediately lose any Federal benefit, license or grant for which they might otherwise be eligible.

The Federal Government, or more specifically, the Food and Drug Administration has repeatedly rejected marijuana for medical use because it adversely impacts concentration and memory, the lungs, motor coordination and the immune system.

A recent evaluation of the issue by scientists at the National Institute of Health concluded:

After carefully examining the existing pre-clinical and human data, there is no evidence to suggest that smoked marijuana might be superior to currently available therapies for glaucoma, weight loss associated with AIDS, and nausea and vomiting associated with cancer chemotherapy.

There is also increasing scientific evidence that marijuana would be the last medication you would want to prescribe to persons with AIDS since smoked marijuana further compromises the immune system, increasing the risk of infections and respiratory problems.

As we know, the organizations which promoted the California and Arizona medical marijuana initiatives—NORML/Drug Policy Foundation, intentionally exploited the pain and suffering of others as part of their back door attempt to legalize marijuana.

Within the next few days I will introduce a bill to deny Federal highway funds to any State which has approved the use of medical marijuana and yet failed to enact the Solomon amendment, suspending the drivers licenses to persons convicted of using a controlled substance.

In addition, I will be introducing legislation to require DEA to revoke the Federal license of a physician to dispense medication if they recommended the use of marijuana for medical purposes. Federal law—Title 21 U.S.C. Code, section 824, provides the President authority to deny a doctor's registration to dispense controlled substances medication, if they are found to commit acts inconsistent with the public interest. In other words, the President already has the authority under existing law to end the medical marijuana fraud. All we really need is decisive action on his part. However, given the unwillingness of this President to fight the War on Drugs, Congress must act.

BUILDING ON WELFARE AND IMMIGRATION REFORMS: THE JOB OPPORTUNITY AND WELFARE REDUCTION ACT OF 1997

HON. BOB FRANKS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 1997

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Job Opportunity and Welfare Reduction Act of 1997. It will provide States with a new tool to help move individuals off of welfare and into jobs.

My bill would require the Immigration and Naturalization Service [INS] to notify State welfare agencies of any job opportunities that become available as a result of the removal of unauthorized aliens from work sites.

Mr. Speaker, according to the INS, 4,900 work site enforcement operations were conducted last year resulting in the removal of 14,000 unauthorized workers. My bill would bring together Federal, State, and local governments in an effort to fill these vacated positions with welfare recipients who are looking for work.

Furthermore, as an added incentive, States that participate in this program will be eligible for extra Federal funding from funds already authorized in last year's welfare reform bill. I urge all of my colleagues to cosponsor this important legislation.

CLONING

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 1997

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I am inserting my Washington Report for Wednesday, March 26, 1997 into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

HELLO DOLLY: THE DEBATE OVER CLONING

Recent news reports that researchers in Scotland cloned a sheep named Dolly have generated both curiosity and concern among scientists, the clergy and government leaders. Dolly is not the first animal to be cloned by her creators, but it does mark a significant advance in this area of scientific research.

Cloning animals could have a number of significant medical and agricultural applications, including developing animals whose organs can be used for human transplants, developing animal milk proteins used to treat disease, and creating improved breeds of livestock. These advances will not be seen in the near term because current cloning techniques are quite costly and inefficient. Further research is necessary to develop cost-effective and efficient laboratory cloning techniques for commercial use.

There is concern, however, about what Dolly means for the future of human cloning. Although science has not been pushed to the point where humans can be cloned, there are potential applications of specialized cell cloning and advanced gene therapies that hold tremendous medical promise. The technique used by Scottish scientists to clone Dolly may enable medical science to explore therapies, such as growing new skin for burn victims, culturing bone marrow for treating cancer patients, manipulating genes to cure sickle cell anemia, and treating human infertility. Yet, the prospect of manipulating

human cells in this way raises ethical and moral questions about the sanctity of human life and the ability of scientists to create human beings.

WHAT IS CLONING

Cloning describes a process of creating exact duplicates of cells or organisms. Traditional cloning methods require manipulating an embryo, a fertilized egg, to make such copies. The creators of Dolly, however, did not use a fertilized egg, but rather an adult mammary cell and an unfertilized egg. The Scottish researchers activated all the genes in a specialized adult cell to create an embryo, and then implanted the cloned embryo in a surrogate sheep mother. That embryo grew to term resulting in the birth of a live lamb. This new cloning technique is significant because it will allow researchers to clone an exact replica of an animal. Researchers could not control the genetic make-up of clones using embryos.

Human cloning has not advanced to this stage. In 1993, private researchers announced that they were able to clone human embryos using embryos created by in vitro fertilization techniques that were not suitable for in utero implantation. The cloned embryos did not develop to a point where they could be transferred to a human surrogate. Since that time there have been no further reports of human cloning experimentation, and laws have been enacted which prohibit the use of federal funding for research involving the creation of human embryos. Dolly, however, raises the possibility of cloning human beings using unfertilized eggs.

POLICY DEBATE

The debate over cloning pits those who say government should not seek to regulate scientific inquiry against those who believe government should place limits on the scope of scientific research, particularly in the area of human cloning. This latter group argue that the cloning of Dolly suggests the possibility of scientists, at some future time, reproducing human beings by manipulating the genetic materials in unfertilized eggs. Opponents object that scientists should not be in the business of creating human life, and raise further questions regarding a clone's identity as a human.

GOVERNMENTAL RESPONSE TO DOLLY

Shortly after the announcement of Dolly's existence, President Clinton asked a national bioethics commission to begin a thorough review of the legal and ethical issues associated with the use of cloning technology. The commission is expected to report its findings to the President in late May. The President also ordered a moratorium on the use of federal funds for human cloning and urged the private sector to adopt a voluntary ban on human cloning until the commission completes its evaluation. Current law forbids the use of federal funding for human embryo research, including using human embryos for cloning, but the Administration considered the moratorium necessary because embryonic tissue was not used to clone Dolly. Congress is also reviewing the matter. Bills have been introduced to prohibit the use of federal funds for cloning or to ban human cloning outright. Committees have started to debate these proposals. The Administration is urging Congress to wait until the commission's work is completed, rather than risk passing a law which might have the unintended effect of hampering research on gene therapies for various hereditary conditions like Parkinson's disease and Alzheimer's disease. Information about the ability of a cell to turn on and off specialized capabilities will likely facilitate further advances in biomedical and agricultural research.

CONCLUSION

My strong suspicion is that if the cloning of human embryos is possible it will happen somewhere, sometime. The history of science is the history of the dominance of science and technology, and Presidents and Congresses do not have the power to defy it. I am extremely reluctant to see government poking around in the business of deciding what scientific research can go forward and what cannot, but it is also true that while we want science to be free we also want it to be responsible. Here we are dealing with matters of very grave consequence.

This new technology may be a little scary. The dilemmas and the risks of it need to be carefully evaluated. Rational debate, perhaps followed by legislation, may be necessary, but we must be very careful not to turn away from what biology and medicine can do. Scientists are telling us that some types of human suffering could be alleviated by cloning, so we must not overreact.

As I think about the potential of the post-Dolly world, I have a sense that a towering wave is about to crash over us. All of us have to try to understand the science and to reach a sensible conclusion based not on ignorance but on broad informed public debate and understanding. I think all of us have to approach this problem with humility and reverence simply because human life is sacred.

TO MERCEDES R. COTNER FOR A
LIFETIME OF ACHIEVEMENT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 1997

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mercedes R. Cotner, whose lifelong dedication to the civic body, to the Democratic Party, and to the city of Cleveland is being recognized on April 10 at the annual meeting of the Cuyahoga Women's Political Caucus.

For most of her 90 years, Mrs. Cotner has sought to involve and lead the people of the city of Cleveland to achieve a better life for themselves and their children.

Mrs. Cotner has served in public office. She was a clerk of the Cleveland Council and she served her constituents from the old ward 2 as a Cleveland councilwoman.

Mrs. Cotner also served the Democratic Party in many capacities. She was an executive committee member, precinct committee member, and vice-chair of the Cuyahoga County Democratic Party. She worked closely with her neighbors through politics, service as a booth worker on election day, and as ward leader.

Mrs. Cotner is a veteran of many contests for the heart and soul of Cleveland. She has shown her dedication to that sacred enterprise over many decades. And she reminds us of the essential value of persistence and patience. Mr. Speaker, let the Congress of the United States acknowledge today the great example Mercedes Cotner has set.

WOODIE GRANVIL TULLY'S 90TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. BOB RILEY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 1997

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, April 9, 1997, to salute an esteemed citizen of Ala-

bama, Woodie Granvil Tully, on the occasion of his 90th birthday. Mr. Tully is a life-long resident of Wilmer, AL. He is married to the former Velma Eloise Cravey, and has three children, three grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

During the 90 years of his life, Mr. Tully has exemplified those attributes we all attempt to embrace. His outstanding characteristics include embodying the American virtues of honesty, industry, creativity, and self-sufficiency, having built several houses for himself and others. Nor has time slowed Mr. Tully down. He enjoys fishing, music, and vigorously follows current events. In addition to his daily activities, Mr. Tully has been a member of Wilmer United Methodist Church since 1918, a leader of the community, and is loved and respected by all who know him.

HONORING LEROY IVORY JONES
FOR OUTSTANDING AND CONTINUED
COMMUNITY SERVICE TO
LIBERTY CITY OF DADE COUNTY

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 1997

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize Leroy Ivory Jones of Liberty City, FL, who has contributed to this Dade County community. Mr. Jones instituted Neighbors and Neighbors Association, a coalition of black-owned businesses that stimulates community awareness about black-owned establishments. This program is unique because it brings the community together in supporting local businesses and developing pride in the neighborhood.

The Miami Herald commemorated Leroy Ivory Jones' civic service in an article titled "Building Bridges Between Communities" published January 20, 1997. I would like to submit this encouraging article for the RECORD.

LEROY IVORY JONES

When Leroy Ivory Jones walks into a black-owned grocery store in Liberty City, he sees bare shelves, broken meat and vegetable coolers—and a trickle of shoppers.

Across the street is an Arab-owned market, brimming with goods and luring a herd of customers with cheap cigarettes and beer.

"We are the only group of people who don't support our own," said Jones, 34, who runs a landscaping business. "We think about everybody else but ourselves."

Jones is fed up with seeing black shop owners struggle to make a buck in their own neighborhoods. So he decided to heed the call of Neighbors and Neighbors Association, a coalition of black-owned businesses that has been challenging people to patronize black-owned markets with a monthly event called a buyout. The aim is to encourage shoppers to spend at least \$25 at the featured store.

Jones, whose family has owned Missy's Grocery in Liberty City for nine years, has hosted five popular buyout events.

The first took place at L&M Market at Northwest 75th Street and 22nd Avenue. The store raked in about \$5,000 on buyout day, more than black store owners make in two weeks.

People in the community say Jones' buyouts are spreading pride and hope.

Last month's buyout took place at Grady's Kitchen, a soul food restaurant at 8309 NW 22nd Ave. More than 115 people were sold din-

ners that day. On a good day, co-owner Lottie Grady said, she feeds about 70 people.

"He's building up the community, making us think about where we spend our money," said Jencie Davis, owner of J+G Market, 6406 NW Sixth Avenue. "We don't stick together. He's trying to change that."

Jones a father of nine who lives in North Dade, first had to change himself.

From cocaine possession to burglary, Jones knows trouble. He has lost more than two years of his life, serving three prison terms. His wake up call came six years ago when police raided a relative's house filled with drugs and machine guns. The relative took care of some of his children.

Four years ago, Jones, an Edison Senior High School dropout, found himself back in a classroom filled with Haitian immigrants. He didn't know how to read and write.

"We don't need to keep suffering," said Jones, who was recently elected to serve as a temporary member on the Martin Luther King Economic Development Board. "I'm sick of seeing young brothers standing out on the corners. I used to stand on those corners, too. But there is a better life out there. Before I leave this world, there are going to be some changes in this community."

Leroy Ivory Jones faced and overcame many obstacles in his life. He has demonstrated his commitment to strengthening and establishing black-owned businesses and pride in the Dade County community. His organization, Neighbors And Neighbors Association has contributed to increased economic growth in Liberty City. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of our entire community, I offer Leroy Ivory Jones my deepest thanks for his outstanding service to the community and our best wishes for continued success.

THE RETURN OF THE GYPSY
MOTH

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 1997

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, it's spring, and that means the gypsy moths are back, hatching by the millions, causing severe damage to trees and our environment, and leaving much debris in their paths. Lucas County is the first urban community in our State to be affected in such a major way by these insects that all migrate down here from Michigan.

We must act expeditiously, and neighborhoods must work together to apply safe biological controls in order to protect our trees, homes, businesses, yards, and parks. A local task force has been set up to coordinate help for our region.

The gypsy moths will never be eliminated completely, but it can be controlled.

Its life cycle has four stages: egg, larva, pupa, and adult moth. The female moth lays egg masses in July and August in clusters of up to 1,000. While most eggs are laid on the bark of trees, females also will lay clusters in any sheltered location, including homes, vehicles, firewood, playground equipment, and stones. Egg masses are beige and about the size of a quarter.

Larvae (in the form of caterpillars) emerge the following April and May and begin devouring leaves. The caterpillar stage lasts for 10 to 12 weeks. Caterpillars are 1½ to 2½ inches long when full grown, with hairlike structures