

the potential of newly developed technologies to spur terrorism and organized crime. And the vulnerability of the new states on China's western border to civil war and religious fanaticism, which we hardly think about but which the Chinese Defense Minister told me last winter was, together with Korea, the most serious security issue China faces today.

IF THINGS GO WRONG ANYWAY

One final point. China policy does not exist in a vacuum. We should do our very best to make this relationship work. But we cannot predict the course China will take. And so, as we think about China policy, we must also think about broader Asian policy.

If we manage our alliances with Japan, South Korea, Southeast Asia, and Australia well; preserve our commitment of troops in the Pacific; and protect our own economic and technological strength, we will be able to handle whatever lies ahead.

CONCLUSION

But I believe we can do better than that. I have met this year with a number of Chinese officials, including the President as well as senior military officers and trade officials. And I think the Chinese on the whole are pragmatic people who understand the importance of this relationship to their own country. And I believe they are interested in working with us to set it right.

So as this summit approaches, we have a great opportunity to set our relationship with China on the right course to create a stable, long-term relationship that contributes to our goals: peace, prosperity, environmental protection, and human rights. It is a great chance, and we must not miss it. Because the issues dividing us may be many and complex. But the basic choice is simple. China will be there for a long time. So will we. And both governments can either try their best to get along, or all of us can suffer the consequences.

It's just about that simple, and that important.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. COLLINS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to address the Senate as in morning business.

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

DRUG-FREE IOWA MONTH

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, as chairman of the International Narcotics Control Caucus, sometimes

called the drug caucus of the U.S. Senate, I periodically report to the Senate on trends in the use of drugs and the dangers thereof that go on in our society.

This month of October in my State of Iowa is called Drug-Free Month. I want to bring my colleagues' attention to this fact and the reason for it. Iowa has only 2.8 million people. As you know, it is largely a rural State. Des Moines, our largest city, numbers fewer citizens than one of the suburbs of some of our Nation's big cities. There are more people in the Los Angeles area or Chicago than in all of my State of Iowa. We are a closely knit community, proud of our commitment to families and the virtues of self-reliance, hard work and personal responsibilities.

These facts, however, do not mean that Iowa is isolated from the mainstream or provincial in its thinking. This also does not mean that Iowa is free of the problems that beset States with larger cities and more people. We, in Iowa, unfortunately, see our share of gang violence and teen drug use. Indeed, Iowa shares in the growing drug problems among the young, the same that troubles the rest of the Nation. The fact that this problem reaches beyond our larger States and beyond our big cities into our rural heartland should tell us something about the far-reaching nature of our national—and I emphasize national—drug problem.

According to recent numbers from my State of Iowa, as many as 11 percent of our high school seniors are regular users of marijuana. This number is up dramatically from just a few years ago. This number is growing as more kids at even younger ages no longer see using heroin as risky or dangerous. In the last few years, the number of regular users has grown steadily, whether it is in Iowa or across the country. In addition, we know from experience and research that as marijuana use goes up, so does drug use of other varieties.

We now have a major problem in my State of Iowa in methamphetamine. This problem has exploded in just the last few years, paralleling the trend in the West and the rest of the Midwest. Reports of treatment episodes for meth problems in my State of Iowa soared over 300 percent between 1994 and 1995. The trend continues. Just as troubling is the effort by the criminal gangs to site the labs that produce and sell this poison to our kids in Iowa. This is something that we are seeing through the West and Midwest, and the problem is moving eastward.

The lab problem is a double whammy. The labs produce a dangerous drug that poisons the hearts and souls of our kids and then they create a very dangerous environmental hazard requiring cleanup wherever the labs are found. Cleanup is risky, dangerous, costly. Many of our local fire and police departments lack the resources or the training to deal with the problem of cleaning up meth labs.

This problem and the trends that I have noted are not unique to Iowa.

They are indicative of what is happening across the country. They are happening because we have lost our fear of drugs. We have let our guard down. Into that environment drug pushers and drug legalizers have stepped in to do their own song and dance. They are making gains; we are losing ground. And it is the kids who are paying the price.

Two very important concerns are being missed. The first is the serious nature of the growing drug use among kids. The second is the growing tendency to regard this trend with complacency, or worse, to go along with the drift into a de facto legalization of dangerous drugs. The last time we as a country did this we landed ourselves into the midst of a major drug epidemic. We were just beginning to dig ourselves out from the 1970's and 1980's. Now it seems the earlier lessons are forgotten.

There is no way to put a happy face on what is happening. It is not hard to describe. It is not difficult to understand. It is not beyond our power to do something about it. Yet what is happening is happening right under our very noses, and to date what we are doing about it is not working. This is what is happening:

Between 1992 and 1995, marijuana use among kids aged 12 to 17 has more than doubled—from 1.4 million to 3.1 million. More than 50 percent of the high school seniors have used drugs before graduation; 22 percent of the class of 1996 were current users of marijuana. LSD use by teens has reached record levels. Evidence indicates that the current hard-core addict population is not declining.

Hospital emergency room admissions for cocaine-related episodes in 1995, the last year for which there is complete information, were 19 percent above the 1992 levels. Heroin admissions increased almost 60 percent. Drugs of every sort remain available and of high quality at cheap prices while the social disapproval has declined, especially among policy leaders and opinion makers.

Hollywood and the entertainment industry are back in the business of glorifying drug use in movies and on TV. There is a well-funded legalization effort that seeks to exploit public concerns about health care issues to push drug legalization, most often under the guise of medical marijuana.

Opinion polls among kids indicate that drugs and drug-related violence are their main concerns. They also make it clear that drugs are readily available in schools, and the kids as young as 9 and 10 years are being approached by drug pushers in school or on the way to school.

This is only part of what is happening. Taken together, what these things indicate is that we are experiencing a rapid increase in teenage drug use and abuse. This comes after years of progress and decline in use. These changes are undoing all of the progress

that we had made during the 1980's. If the trend continues, our next drug epidemic will be worse than the last one. We will not only have the walking wounded from our last epidemic—there are over 3 million hard-core addicts—we will also have a new generation of substance-dependent kids moving into adulthood. As we learned, or as we should have learned during the last time that we went through this, this dependence is not a short-term problem. For many addicts, it is a lifetime sentence.

For the communities, families, and the Nation that must deal with these people and with the problems associated with it, it is also often an open-ended commitment.

Along with this comes all the associated violence that has made many of our inner cities and suburban neighborhoods dangerous places. Not to mention the medical and related costs in the tens of billions of dollars annually. And all of this for something that advocates reassure us is purely a personal choice without serious consequences. This is one of those remarks that should not survive the laugh test.

The fact that it does, however, and people can somehow make light that personal choice of drug use is not something to worry about and doesn't have serious consequences is an indicator of our problem in coming to terms with the drug use.

In the last 5 years, the record on drugs has gotten worse. Pure and simple. It's not because we are spending any less on the effort. Indeed, the drug budget has grown every year. One of the first acts of the Republican Congress was to increase the money devoted to combat drugs. Yet, the numbers on drug use grow worse.

One of the leading causes of that is a lack of leadership at the top. The President and First Lady in previous administrations were visible on the drug issue. That is not now the case. The present occupant of the White House has put a great deal of emphasis on tobacco but he has been the Man Who Never Was on illegal drugs. More than this, the message about both the harmfulness and, just as important the wrongfulness of illegal drug use has been allowed to disappear. I leave to others to determine if the President's absence is because his advisors believe he has no credibility on the issue or simply do not care. Whatever the explanation, the result is an ambiguous message or no message.

If we could have the same message coming out of the White House on illegal drugs as we do on tobacco, I think we would be much further along on the road to victory on the war against drugs.

We need to be consistent in our no-use message on illegal drugs. To be ambiguous or complacent or indifferent sends the wrong message. The recipients of that muddled message are kids. The consequences of garbled messages can be seen in changes in attitudes

about drugs, and in drug use numbers among kids at earlier and earlier ages. We cannot afford this type of unmindfulness.

That is why we are having Drug-Free Iowa Month. We need to come together as a community to recognize the threat and deal with it. We need community leaders involved. We need our schools, politicians, business, entertainment, sports, and religious figures to be aware of the problem and engaged to deal with it. We can make a difference, but that begins with awareness. It requires an effort. It requires sustaining that effort.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

TRIBUTE TO BOBBY MULLER

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, on October 13, the Army Times had an article by George C. Wilson entitled "One Man's Fight for a Better World." It is about a man I admire as much as anyone I have met in my years in the Senate, and that is Bobby Muller, the head of the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation.

The article, written by George Wilson in his usual definitive and exacting manner, speaks about Bobby probably far better than I could and I am going to shortly ask to have the article printed in the RECORD. The reason I want to do that—though I doubt that there are many people in Washington who do not already know Bobby Muller, is because I hope those who read the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD will see this. He has been my inspiration and really my conscience on so many issues. But the thing that I think sets him apart from so many others is the fact that for well over a decade he has fought so hard to rid the world of landmines. He has done it not only in this country, in working with those of us who have sponsored and backed legislation to ban landmine use by the United States, but he has done it worldwide. He founded the International Campaign to Ban Landmines. He was its inspiration.

I talked with him early one morning a couple of weeks ago after hearing that the Nobel Committee awarded the Nobel Peace Prize to the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, which was shared with its coordinator, Jody Williams of Putney, VT. I said to Bobby at that time how proud he must be because he is the one who started this campaign, and who hired Jody to coordinate it worldwide. Because of his vision and the hard work of so many people, in Ottawa this December some 100 countries will sign a treaty banning landmines.

I am extremely proud of Bobby. I feel privileged to be his friend. I have certainly been helped over the years by his advice and by his conscience.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the article be printed in the RECORD at this point.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Army Times, October 13, 1997]

ONE MAN'S FIGHT FOR A BETTER WORLD

(By George C. Wilson)

"Oh my God! I'm hit! My girl. She'll kill me. I can't believe I'm dying on this piece of ground." Those were the last conscious thoughts of Marine 1st Lt. Bobby Muller as he lay bleeding on top of the hill he just taken in Quantri Province, Vietnam, in 1969. An enemy bullet had pierced his chest tumbled through his lungs and severed his spinal cord.

He woke up in a military hospital, astonished he was still among the living. "I'm here!" his mind silently screamed at him in astonishment, "I didn't die."

Like any 24-year-old, especially a former athlete, Muller inventoried his body while lying in the hospital bed. He discovered he was paralyzed from the chest down. He would walk again, much less run with this old teammates or dance with that girl back home.

The rest of this story could have been like that of so many other Vietnam veterans that you and I have known, and perhaps helped get through the night. An all-consuming bitterness that eats away at everything: jobs, marriages, self-respect. Nothing matters any more. The Vietnam War, for thousands of young men, trivialized everything after it.

Not so with Bobby Muller. He is one of those welcome, shinning Vietnam success stories, which I want to tell here, because it is both timely and timeless. Doesn't matter if you agree with him or not. To everyone from President Clinton, who has sought his counsel, to the secretaries who work for him at the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation, Bobby Muller is a man committed to leaving the world better than he found it.

Of late, Muller, from his wheelchair, has been the most credible and powerful voice arguing for ridding the world of anti-people land mines, which kill or maim somebody somewhere every 22 minutes. Years ago, he railed against the Vietnam War, calling it an "atrocious" and demanded that the Veterans Administration stop treating the men who got hurt in it like lepers. Many VA hospitals really were as bad as the one portrayed in the movie "Born on the Fourth of July".

"People would call me a traitor," he told a television audience, in recalling the reaction to his anti-war statements in the 1970s. "It's harder for me to repudiate the war," the paraplegic told his detractors. "Don't you think I'd love to be able to wrap myself in the mantle of being a hero? Don't you think I'd love to be able to say that what happened to me was for a reason—it's a price you got to pay for freedom? When I have to say what happened to me, what happened to my friends, what happened to everybody over there was for nothing and was a total waste, that's a bitter pill to swallow."

Muller did swallow the pill. It still burns in his gut. But he has managed to use the burn to fuel his drive, not consume it.

"The reality of that war has stayed with me every day," Muller has said. "I know what it is to have people around me die. I know what it is to hear the screams in the recovery room. The most important thing for me in life is dealing with those issues