

Mr. President, we believe that the evidence is overwhelming and can lead to no decision other than the decertification of Mexico. It would send a strong signal to Mexico and the world that the United States will not tolerate lack of cooperation in the fight against narcotics, even from our close friends and allies. Accordingly, we urge you to establish a clear set of benchmarks by which you will judge if and when to recertify Mexico for counternarcotics cooperation. These benchmarks must include, but not be limited to: effective action to dismantle the major drug cartels and arrest their leaders; full and ongoing implementation of effective money-laundering legislation; compliance with all outstanding extradition requests by the United States; increased interdiction of narcotics and other controlled substances flowing across the border by land and sea routes; improved cooperation with U.S. law enforcement officials including allowing U.S. agents to resume carrying weapons on the Mexican side of the border; and a comprehensive program to identify, weed out, and prosecute corrupt officials at all levels of the Mexican government, police, and military.

You may feel, as many of us do, that U.S. interests in Mexico, economic and otherwise, are too extensive to risk the fall-out that would result from decertification. That is why Congress included a vital national interest waiver provision in Section 490 of the Foreign Assistance Act. But other vital interests are not a valid reason to certify when certification has not been earned. If you feel that our interests warrant it, we urge you to use this waiver. But an honest assessment of Mexico's cooperation on counternarcotics must fall on the side of decertification.

Sincerely,

Wayne Allard, Jeff Bingaman, Barbara Boxer, John Breaux, Richard Bryan, Max Cleland, Susan M. Collins, Kent Conrad, Paul Coverdell, Larry Craig, Alfonse D'Amato, Pete Domenici, Byron Dorgan, Dick Durbin, Russ Feingold, Dianne Feinstein, Wendell Ford, Slade Gorton, Judd Gregg, Chuck Hagel, Jesse Helms, Kay Bailey Hutchison, Tim Hutchinson, Dirk Kempthorne, Bob Kerrey, Jon Kyl, Mary Landrieu, Frank Lautenberg, Connie Mack, Patty Murray, Frank Murkowski, Daniel Patrick Moynihan, Carol Moseley-Braun, Jack Reed, Harry Reid, Rick Santorum, Ted Stevens, Robert Torricelli, and Ron Wyden.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 102

At the request of Mr. BREAUX, the name of the Senator from North Carolina [Mr. FAIRCLOTH] was added as a cosponsor of S. 102, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve Medicare treatment and education for beneficiaries with diabetes by providing coverage of diabetes outpatient self-management training services and uniform coverage of blood-testing strips for individuals with diabetes.

S. 146

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the names of the Senator from Missouri [Mr. BOND], and the Senator from South Carolina [Mr. HOLLINGS] were added as cosponsors of S. 146, a bill to permit Medicare beneficiaries to enroll with qualified provider-sponsored organizations under title XVIII of the So-

cial Security Act, and for other purposes.

S. 148

At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts [Mr. KERRY] was added as a cosponsor of S. 148, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide a comprehensive program for the prevention of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome.

S. 211

At the request of Mr. WELLSTONE, the name of the Senator from Georgia [Mr. CLELAND] was added as a cosponsor of S. 211, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend the period of time for the manifestation of chronic disabilities due to undiagnosed symptoms in veterans who served in the Persian Gulf war in order for those disabilities to be compensable by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

S. 242

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska [Mr. HAGEL] was added as a cosponsor of S. 242, a bill to require a 60-vote supermajority in the Senate to pass any bill increasing taxes.

S. 317

At the request of Mr. CRAIG, the name of the Senator from Kentucky [Mr. FORD] was added as a cosponsor of S. 317, a bill to reauthorize and amend the National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992.

S. 341

At the request of Mr. ROTH, the name of the Senator from Utah [Mr. HATCH] was added as a cosponsor of S. 341, a bill to establish a bipartisan commission to study and provide recommendations on restoring the financial integrity of the Medicare Program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act.

S. 355

At the request of Mr. GRAMM, the name of the Senator from Mississippi [Mr. COCHRAN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 355, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make the research credit permanent.

S. 381

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire [Mr. GREGG], and the Senator from Hawaii [Mr. INOUE] were added as cosponsors of S. 381, a bill to establish a demonstration project to study and provide coverage of routine patient care costs for Medicare beneficiaries with cancer who are enrolled in an approved clinical trial program.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 6

At the request of Mr. KYL, the name of the Senator from Indiana [Mr. COATS] was added as a cosponsor of Senate Joint Resolution 6, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to protect the rights of crime victims.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 18

At the request of Mr. HOLLINGS, the name of the Senator from Kentucky [Mr. FORD] was added as a cosponsor of Senate Joint Resolution 18, a joint res-

olution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO SHIRLEY SMITH-POINTER

• Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Shirley Smith-Pointer who is retiring from the Social Security Administration after 34 years of Federal service.

Ms. Smith-Pointer held the positions of claims development clerk, data review technician, and claims representative—the position she held upon retiring. Her duties as a claims representative involved assisting the public in filing claims for retirement, survivors, disability, and Medicare, and also determining entitlement and making final adjudication for those claims.

In addition to her good work as a Social Security employee, Ms. Smith-Pointer was very active in, and helpful to, her community. She served as secretary, usher, and Sunday school teacher for her church. She has also been a member of the National Council of Negro Women and served the Chestnut Street YMCA's Black Achievers' Program.

Mr. President, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in recognizing Shirley Smith-Pointer for 34 years of dedicated service to the Federal Government. •

CHICAGO BOARD OF TRADE AND THE CHICAGO MERCANTILE EXCHANGE

• Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. Mr. President, today's Chicago Sun-Times contained an editorial headlined, "Loosen reins on CBOT, Merc." The editorial, talking about the Chicago Board of Trade, and the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, made the point that:

"Congress must loosen the regulatory reins on the Chicago Board of Trade and the Chicago Mercantile Exchange. Otherwise, officials argue convincingly, Chicago will lose business and jobs to the unregulated over the counter markets or overseas exchanges."

The Sun-Times had it exactly right. As in so many other areas of financial policy, the law has not kept up with economic reality. The world has changed. There is a revolution underway in finance, and, if the United States sits back and ignores the new realities of the marketplace, the result will be to seriously damage American financial marketplaces vis-a-vis their global competition, and to increasingly warp and distort the competition between and among various American financial markets.

We must respond; we must respond vigorously; and we must respond now. Chicago's future and option exchanges

are an American treasure; their innovations literally created this industry and are in no small part responsible for American leadership in finance. And the creativity of the Chicago exchanges has had a huge payoff for the Chicago area. As the Sun-Times editorial pointed out:

"The stakes are high. For example, the exchanges calculate that have created 151,000 jobs in the Chicago area."

It is imperative, therefore, that we act quickly to reform the Commodity Futures Trading Act as quickly as possible, and that we do so in a way that enhances the ability of the American futures and options industry to meet both their less regulated competition here in the United States, and their evermore formidable competition abroad. I intend to work for quick enactment of the legislation put forward by the distinguished chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, Senator LUGAR. I urge my colleagues to join me, and to ensure that a procompetitive, commonsense approach that allows the futures exchanges to meet and compete with all comers passes this body before the snow melts in Illinois.

Mr. President, I ask that the full text of the Sun-Times editorial be printed in the RECORD.

The editorial follows:

[From the Chicago Sun-Times]
 LOOSEN REINS ON CBOT, MERC

The futures markets have made Chicago a powerful player in world finance. Now that role is threatened by a regulatory system hamstringing the ability of the Chicago exchanges to compete in the rapidly changing global financial marketplace.

Congress must loosen the regulatory reins on the Chicago Board of Trade and the Chicago Mercantile Exchange. Otherwise, officials argue convincingly, Chicago will lose business and jobs to the unregulated over-the-counter markets or to overseas exchanges. The stakes are high. For example, the exchanges calculate that they have created 151,000 jobs in the Chicago area.

Exchange officials want Congress to lift all but a few reasonable restrictions for markets that are used solely by professional traders, money managers, mutual fund operators and the like. Asking for a level playing field is a reasonable request.

For example, anyone who sells futures on the Chicago exchanges must make regular reports on all trading activity regardless of size. This costly paper trail could be replaced with an on-call system. Also, anyone who sells futures is fingerprinted, an unwelcome burden on exchange customers. Over-the-counter markets require neither.

The futures market is an arcane, volatile world, inhabited mostly by people making their living taking huge risks and big businesses seeking to hedge their risks. It is a dangerous place for amateurs.

But market professionals, without looser restrictions, will move business out of Chicago to over-the-counter or overseas exchanges as the financial futures marketplace grows. Congress should act on pending legislation to update the rules for the CBOT and the Merc.

The futures markets were to a large degree developed by finance pioneers in Chicago. The city—and the nation—can ill afford to see their role in world finance diminished.●

TRIBUTE TO J.P. BLEVINS

● Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate a truly outstanding young man on the realization of his dream. J.P. Blevins, son of John P. and Martha Blevins, of Edmonton, KY, has been awarded a scholarship to play basketball for the national champion University of Kentucky Wildcats.

To date, this 17-year-old junior at Metcalfe County High School has had an outstanding basketball career. It all began in kindergarten when he was selected to play with third-graders during gym class. As a seventh grader he played point guard for the varsity team in the district final. And as a high school freshman he scored his 1,000th point. When he was 5 years old he disciplined himself to dribble with both hands by wearing cutoff jean shorts and then shoving his right hand into his right pocket. The result? This season a 26 point scoring average. These achievements were the result of many hours of discipline and hard work and—most of all—an intense passion for the game. Remarkably, his zeal for basketball did not cause him to neglect his studies; he is a straight A student.

Perhaps what is most remarkable of all is that J.P. Blevins has remained modest throughout the attention and praise lavished on him. This is especially refreshing and encouraging in an age where many of our athletic stars demonstrate a profound disregard for others, an appalling arrogance, and gross self-indulgence. In a Courier-Journal article, Blevin's father was quoted as saying: "I really believe he has continued to stay humble, even though this is the greatest thing that has happened in his life."

In Metcalfe County, and indeed, throughout the State, basketball occupies a special place in the lives of Kentuckians. It is not just entertainment, but rather a source of pride and glory. The community which helped to raise Mr. Blevins is justifiably proud of their native son. Despite numerous offers from out-of-State universities, some having sent 4 or 5 letters a day, Blevins has decided there's just no place like home.

According to a recent article, each night, as J.P. is falling asleep, the last thing he sees is a blue flag emblazoned with a white "K" which hangs on his bedroom wall. On the white "K" is an autograph from the Wildcats' coach, Rick Pitino. In his scrapbook, according to the Courier-Journal, Blevins wrote "Pitino's autograph to me is more important than the President's."

You may recall the University of Kentucky's recent NCAA championship victory. I am sure that this fine young man will help them to secure many further triumphs. Mr. President, I ask that a recent article from the Courier-Journal be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The article follows:

[From the Courier-Journal, Jan. 25, 1997]

BIG BLUE DREAM COMES TRUE FOR TOWN AND
 TALENTED TEEN
 (By Mark Woods)

EDMONTON, KY.—The first autograph request came two years ago.

J.P. Blevins, then a freshman at Metcalfe County High School, was sitting on the bus after a basketball game at Marion County when his coach, Tim McMurtrey, told him he had left his shoes in the locker room.

"I knew I hadn't, so I wasn't sure what was going on," Blevins said.

He went into the locker room and found a man and a young boy standing there.

The boy was crying. The father explained that his son thought Blevins had already left.

"We're big Kentucky fans," the father said. "And we hear they're going after you. My son is dying for an autograph. Could you sign this?"

It would be one thing if Edmonton, a rural town east of Bowling Green a couple miles off the Cumberland Parkway, had produced another kind of prodigy.

For instance, suppose John Paul Blevins were a violinist who had been invited to play Carnegie Hall.

That would be noteworthy, but, let's be honest, it wouldn't create quite the same fuss as this . . . a point guard who has been asked to play Rupp Arena.

This is a boy who at age 5 devised a system for learning to dribble with both hands—wear cutoff jean shorts, shove the right hand in the back pocket, spend all summer in the backyard dribbling with only the left hand.

This is a boy who in kindergarten was put with the third-graders in gym class, who as a seventh-grader played point guard for the varsity team in the district final, who as a freshman scored his 1,000th point and who a month ago, as only a junior, heard University of Kentucky coach Rick Pitino saying seven magical words:

"We want you to be a Wildcat."

What does this mean to Edmonton that 17-year-old Blevins has said, yes, he will take a scholarship to play for UK in 1998?

Put it this way: The blue sign on Randolph Road says Edmonton's population is 1,630; the gym at the high school holds 2,000 and is usually near capacity for games.

Put it another way: They say the phone lines in Edmonton could go down during a Kentucky basketball game and nobody would know.

"The phone never rings during UK games," said John P. Blevins, Metcalfe County attorney and father of the future Wildcat player. "Everybody is either watching or listening. The game is on in all the restaurants. It's on in the nursing homes. It's on in all the households."

Put it one more way: No Metcalfe County player has ever been offered a scholarship to play for UK.

In the early '60s, Doug Clemmons did get a basketball scholarship. But that was at Eastern Kentucky University. Heidi Coleman playing for Wake Forest.

And then there are the local boys who formed the country band "The Kentucky Headhunters" and made it in Nashville.

But this is different.

This about making it at UK.

It isn't the Commonwealth's version of the Damon Bailey story. It's even more wonderfully far-fetched.

Bailey, who during his junior years of high school made a verbal commitment to play for Indiana University, came from a small town, but he had plenty of help catching the eyes of college coaches. He went to a larger high school. He had media attention.

Blevins' school graduates about 11 students each year. Trips to the state tournament are