

handled this fund. Passengers, aviators, and the airlines have paid billions of dollars to the Federal government in the form of taxes on tickets, fuel, and air freight.

They have expected these funds will go to keep the infrastructure repaired and in working condition, and to improve the efficiency of air travel, and most importantly, to ensure the safety of air travel. South Dakota's two busiest airports highlight this principle, painting the stark difference between the investment and the return.

The passengers and other aviation users in Sioux Falls Regional Airport, the State's largest airport, paid approximately \$8 million in aviation taxes to the Federal government in 1997. Yet the airport received only \$1.3 million in aviation improvement funds from the FAA.

Users of the Rapid City Regional Airport paid in nearly \$7 million and received \$850,000 in return. While both receive other indirect contributions through the presence of FAA personnel and air traffic control operations, these contributions hardly make up for the difference between contributions to the trust and payments made to the airports.

Air 21 would attempt to bring us closer to closing that gap. As my colleagues were probably aware, the bill would triple the airport improvement program entitlements to all airports, taking the minimum grant level from today's level of 500,000 to 1.5 million.

For South Dakota, this tripling would provide \$1.5 million annually for the airports serving the cities of Aberdeen, Pierre, and Watertown. For Rapid City and Sioux Falls, their entitlements respectively rise from about \$832,000 to an estimated \$2.5 million for Rapid City and from about \$1.3 million to an estimated \$3.9 million for the city of Sioux Falls.

Thankfully, Air 21 does not just stop at aiding the larger airports in South Dakota and across this Nation. The bill also includes a number of important provisions that would assist our general aviation airports, those airports which serve rural areas and smaller communities.

Perhaps the most significant contribution the bill makes directly to our general aviation airports would come in the form of a new direct entitlement grant program for general aviation airports.

□ 2115

These grants would be in addition to the amounts provided for the States for distribution to various general aviation airports. With increased access to air service, one can clearly see that economic activity would increase.

It is no secret that one of the top factors businesses and companies consider is access to safe, reliable and affordable transportation. The bill proposes a number of important reforms that would help improve deficiency in competition. Among other issues, I com-

mend the chairman for moving a proposal forward that would improve access to Chicago O'Hare International Airport. I firmly believe that today's high density rule is outdated and acts only as an artificial barrier for competition for areas of the nation, including South Dakota.

Fortunately, Air 21 would open access to this airport potentially for cities like Sioux Falls that might be able to provide competitive options for its travelers and profitable routes for air carriers that might not be able to access O'Hare today.

Mr. Speaker, I recently organized a series of meetings with community leaders across South Dakota to discuss air service issues. While they are generally pleased with the level of service they have today, they also believe there is room for improvement. Air 21 will bring needed improvement and see that the hard earned dollars of America's taxpayers are used for the purpose for which they were intended.

THE SCOURGE OF ILLEGAL DRUGS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BRADY of Texas). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to come to the floor again tonight to talk about a subject that I feel I have a particularly important responsibility on and that is the question of the problem of illegal drugs and its impact upon our society.

I try in these weekly talks to my colleagues in the Congress to stress some of the problems that illegal narcotics have created for this Congress, and for our American society and for millions and millions of American families who have been ravaged by illegal drugs with their loved ones.

So tonight I am going to talk about, again, the impact of illegal narcotics on our society and families.

I want to talk a little bit about the history of the drug war. I always think that is important. No matter how many times I have told the story of how we got into this situation with a record number of deaths and abuse, drug abuse, among our teenagers and hard drug overdoses among our young people at record levels, it is amazing how many people really are not listening to the problem that we have in this Nation.

Additionally, I would like to talk a little bit about a hearing that we plan to conduct tomorrow and hearings in the future. I have the privilege and honor of serving as the Chair of the Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources. Tomorrow our subcommittee will launch on a series of hearings dealing with drug legalization, decriminalization and also looking at alternatives for harm reduction, which seem to be sort of the popular rage.

We are going to attempt, through those hearings, series of hearings, to bring more public light on those issues that are getting so much attention right now. Then I plan to talk a little bit about some studies, one in particular in New York, that debunks some of the myths about people who are incarcerated, or part of our criminal justice system, because of drug offenses.

An interesting New York study I thought I would share with the House of Representatives tonight and talk a little bit more about some of the problems we have had with extraditing individuals from Mexico and talk about the source of most of the hard drugs coming in to the United States, which is through Mexico.

Mexico does not produce all of these drugs but certainly is the transit point, and I would like to bring the House and other interested individuals up to date on what is taking place in Mexico; again with the problems we have incurred in getting their cooperation and our effort to combat trafficking and production of illegal narcotics.

Finally, I would like to talk a little bit about what we are doing in a positive vein to deal with this very serious problem that has affected my community and, as I said, millions of American families, and what this new majority is doing since we have inherited the responsibility to govern, to legislate and to create a new drug policy in a void really where we had no policy.

So those are some of the objectives tonight. Again, I want to go over the situation because unless we have some tragedy, an airplane crash, a Columbine, some explosion, some tremendous loss of life in one instantaneous CNN-covered event, it seems that the American people and the Congress do not pay much attention.

What we have here is the slow death of thousands and thousands every month, more and more Americans dying, due to drug-related causes. Right now the hard statistics are last year over 14,000 Americans lost their lives as a direct result of drug-related causes. Most of those are overdoses.

Really, what I find very interesting in just the last 8 months of assuming this responsibility, one would think we would have hard figures on all the people that die as a result of illegal narcotics, and we really do not. We are finding that many of the suicides, some of the murders, many of the other deaths that we read about, traffic accidents, are not counted in the statistics. I am told that we could easily approach 20,000-plus per year that are dying truly as a result of drug-related deaths in this country.

Since the beginning of this administration, we have had over 100,000 deaths. So put that in perspective and now the problem of drug-related deaths has affected millions and millions of American families.

I would venture to say if we talked to school children, if we talked to families across the country, almost every

one of them can tell a story of someone they know, if not a relative a friend, who has had a young person, in particular young people are afflicted by this problem, die of a drug-related cause.

So it is a silent but deadly, devastating rage and epidemic across our Nation; not only in the sheer numbers of people that have been lost but the impact on so much of our American society; on the medical system; on our judicial system; health care; on society's responsibility to help families that have lost a wage earner who is afflicted by drug dependency, who is incarcerated in our legal system. So, again, this has had a very damaging effect and it has many consequences.

Let me read a few statistics, if I may, and cite them, about the problems that are occurring. For example, in 1995 almost 532,000 drug-related emergencies occurred nationwide. In 1995, the retail value of the illicit drug business totalled \$49 billion. It is estimated that the problem of illegal drugs now approaches a quarter of a trillion dollars every year. That is taking into account all the direct costs, the indirect costs, incarceration, the judicial system, hospitalization, social costs, disruption in our society, lost productivity. There are incredible costs and an incredible price tag to us as a nation.

Additionally, in Congress, and I only have a tiny bit of responsibility in the House of Representatives, and that is to oversee some of our drug budget, which is proposed by the administration, that totals about \$17.9 billion in direct dollars that we can identify, another part of this expensive price tag that we face.

According to the 1997 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 77 million Americans, that is 35.6 percent of all Americans age 12 and older, reported some use of an illicit drug at least once during their lifetime; 11.2 percent reported use during the past year, and 6.4 percent reported use in the last month before the survey was conducted. This is our most recent survey that shows, again, the impact of illegal narcotics on our society; and again almost 36 percent of all Americans over age 12 have been involved with illegal narcotics.

According to the 1998 monitoring of the future study, and this is a study conducted every year, 54 percent of high school seniors reported use of an illegal drug at least once in their lives. So we passed the halfway mark. We see, again, the statistics in deaths. We see the statistics in addiction. We see the problems that we have with our young people and we have just under 55; 54 percent of all of our high school seniors reported use of an illegal drug at least once in their lives.

What is interesting is we conducted at least half a dozen hearings on the various subjects about drug abuse in the past few months, and one hearing that we held additionally in an area of responsibility was one hearing that ad-

ressed the problem of violence in our schools, and that certainly has been a topic of conversation in the Congress and throughout the country since the Columbine incident.

It is interesting to note, and we had principals, we had psychologists, we had law enforcement people, but almost every one of them who testified in our subcommittee hearing said that one of the major problems that we have and at the root of violence in our schools is drug abuse and substance abuse. This was repeated over and over.

It is interesting, when we talk about control of weapons and explosives that we do not address the question of control of substances that really lead to some of the problems that we have seen, and that is violence in our schools. It is sad that, again, we address sort of the periphery in Congress. We do not go to the root of the problems.

In these hearings we heard time after time from expert after expert that illegal narcotics are at the root of violence in our schools and in the communities. So this is, again, the startling statistic that we have passed the halfway mark with our high school seniors. At least close to 55 percent have used illegal narcotics. Forty-one percent reported the use, in this study, of an illegal drug within the past year. That is 41 percent of our high school seniors now have reported the use of an illegal drug within the past school year.

Nearly 26 percent reported the use of an illegal drug within the past month, and this is the latest study and report that we have showing, again, some startling statistics about the use of illegal narcotics among our young people.

Today I had an opportunity to meet with several different representatives, of different organizations involved in combatting illegal narcotics. One of the individuals that I had the pleasure of discussing this subject with was Mr. Ron Brooks. Mr. Brooks is the President of the National Narcotics Officers Association and he is really on the frontline with many of the other narcotics officers across this country who from day to day sometimes risk their lives and deal on the street and in our communities with the problem of illegal narcotics.

□ 2130

What is incredible is Mr. Brooks, again president of the National Narcotics Officers Association, said that methamphetamines are becoming a national epidemic in this country. We have discussed the situation that we find ourselves in with methamphetamines, commonly called meth.

We have conducted also our subcommittee hearings in several locations in Florida and Atlanta and Washington, and we heard reports from United States attorneys, from police chiefs, from border patrol officers, from law enforcement officials across this Nation in surprising locales.

We had a law enforcement officer from the heart of the country in Iowa testify. We had information from Minnesota where one would not think that there would be much of a methamphetamine problem; Georgia, Texas, and the list goes on and on. Mr. Brooks, and we had representatives from California talking today about the meth epidemic in that State. So we have another, in addition to heroin epidemic, which we have experienced in Florida, we have in many parts of our land a methamphetamine epidemic that really needs attention.

Let me describe a little bit about meth and what it is and the problem that we face. Methamphetamine is a highly addictive drug that can be manufactured by using products commercially available anywhere in the United States. Methamphetamine is by far the most prevalent synthetic controlled substance which is clandestinely manufactured in the United States today.

In 1997, it was estimated that 5.3 million Americans, that is 2½ percent of our population, had already tried methamphetamines in their lifetime, up significantly from a 1994 estimate of 1.8 million Americans.

The meth problem, as I said, is epidemic. Not only can it be manufactured by commercially available products that are available in the United States, we found an interesting side note here; and that is that most of the methamphetamine and some of the chemicals that are used in its processing come from Mexico.

It was startling to find officials from Minnesota, from Iowa, from Texas, and other States who actually traced the methamphetamines back to Mexico, an incredible trail, an incredible tale of this deadly substance coming across our borders, and again far flung into communities we would never expect that now are experiencing epidemics of methamphetamine use and abuse.

All of this, of course, has a toll on the Congress and the American taxpayer. I cited some of the toll in dollars and cents and lost lives. One of the big problems that we have is that we have people incarcerated in our prisons, in our local jails across this Nation.

It is also interesting to note when we conduct these hearings and we have sheriffs, like we had our local sheriffs testify, and I am very privileged in central Florida to have several outstanding sheriffs, Sheriff Bob Fogel of Volusia County, who has had an incredible reputation of going after drug dealers, taking a lot of heat for his aggressiveness in going after them, but done a tremendous job in directing resources of our community in Volusia County in central Florida to go after those dealing in illegal narcotics.

Sheriff Don Eslinger of Seminole County. These counties are between Orlando and Daytona Beach that I represent. Don Eslinger has just done a magnificent job, not only as sheriff and chief law enforcement of our major

county in my district, but also in heading up a high-intensity drug traffic area, getting that off the ground, which we designated 2 years ago.

That is interesting because, under Federal law, we can designate a community as a high-intensity drug traffic area and bring in Federal resources; and that has been done repeatedly. Sometimes I would like to make the whole United States a high-intensity drug traffic area. That would be a great goal. It would be a great objective if we could do that.

But right now we are limited, because we have limited resources to pick those areas that have been disproportionately impacted and that can justify additional Federal resources designating them as a high-intensity drug traffic area, then providing resources to the local community to deal with that problem.

That is what we have done in Central Florida. Legislatively, I was able to achieve that with the help of Senator GRAHAM, with the help of other colleagues in central Florida. We did get central Florida, the corridor from Daytona Beach over to the Tampa west coast, designated as a high-intensity drug traffic area with \$1 million in initial contributions from the Federal Government to go to beef up these activities. This past year, we added \$2.5 million.

What is really fabulous is we have seen results. The headlines of the papers just in the last week trumpeted some of the success that we have had. Don Eslinger helped lead that effort, our sheriff, and the individual who helped us start our high-intensity drug traffic area. So Don Eslinger also testified before our hearings.

He told our subcommittee, in hearings in central Florida that we conducted, in fact, right out of the box when I took over this responsibility of chair of the Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy, and Human Resources, in those hearings, Don testified that, in fact, 70 to 80 percent of those incarcerated and that he has arrested are there because of drug-related offenses, an incredible statistic.

We find that, if we look at our Federal prisons and other penitentiaries and jails across the country in similar testimony, we see that 60 to 70 percent of those that are behind bars in this country are there because, again, drug offenses. Now we are approaching 2 million. We have 1.8 million incarcerated in jails. Just imagine what this country would be like if we could eliminate 60 to 70 percent of the crime, 60 to 70 percent of those incarcerated, how we could use those resources. Imagine the tremendous waste of human beings' life to have them sitting behind bars because they have committed a felony and drug offense.

The statistics, again, are just startling about use by those in prison. A recent survey that we had submitted to us, our subcommittee, said that overall 82 percent of all jailed inmates in 1996

had used an illegal drug—up 78 percent from 1989. We had, again, a huge increase in those in prison who were there because of a drug-related crime.

We also find that a large, large percentage, 82 percent of all jail and inmates, had used illegal narcotics. Eighty-one percent of individuals selling drugs test positive at the time of arrest, including 56 percent for cocaine and 13 percent for heroin.

This is interesting because we have people who are selling and involved in trafficking of narcotics are also drug users and involved in the hard drugs of heroin and cocaine.

A study by the Parent Resource and Information on Drug Report, which is called PRIDE, reported recently of high school students who reported having carried guns to school, 31 percent use cocaine compared to 2 percent of the students who had never carried guns to school. The same relationship was found among junior high school students. Nineteen percent of gang members reported cocaine use, compared to 2 percent among use who were not in gangs.

So it is interesting that not only our prisons, those involved in felonies, involved with illegal narcotics, that even those young people who cause the disruption in our schools by bringing weapons into schools are involved with the hard narcotics and at the statistic level that we cited in this report. These are, again, some of the problems we face with incarceration.

I wanted to talk for a minute, since tomorrow's topic of discussion before our subcommittee will be the question of pros and cons of drug legalization, decriminalization, and harm reduction. Tomorrow, again, is just the first in a series of hearings that we will be holding to address these issues.

We will hear administration policy and pleas that we are going to lead off with our Drug Czar Barry McCaffrey, who has helped the new majority in Congress restart the war on drugs. I know he does not like that term, and I could see why, because this administration, before he assumed the responsibility of the Chief Executive Officer and Director of our Office of National Drug Control Policy, before he came on board, we basically had a vacuum. We had a closing down of the war on drugs. General McCaffrey has helped restart that.

We will also hear, in addition to the Chief National Drug Enforcement Officer that controls our national policy, our Drug Czar, Dr. Alan Leshner, Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, and hear what the National Institute on Drug Abuse feels about legalization, decriminalization, and how we should approach harm reduction.

Then we will hear from the Deputy Administrator of our Drug Enforcement Administration, Mr. Donnie Marshall. It is sad, as I said, that we recently learned of the retirement this summer, pending retirement, of Tom

Constantine. I cannot sing enough praises of Mr. Constantine. He has been the Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration. He has sometimes taken up positions that are difficult with an administration that has not always been willing to cooperate, but he has done so with great integrity, with great honesty, gained the trust of almost every Member of Congress and certainly their respect.

Tomorrow we will hear from Donnie Marshall, his deputy, and see how the administration feels about these proposals again to liberalize and legalize and decriminalize some of our drug laws.

I am pleased also that we will have Jim McDonough. Jim McDonough was a deputy in the National Drug Czar's Office and has moved on to direct Florida's effort under the able leadership of our new Governor Jeb Bush, who, right from the beginning, found one of the best individuals in the country to come to Florida and help us with the mounting problem that we have had there.

Jim McDonough is no stranger to the Office of Drug Control Policy. As I said, he was a deputy there, admirably served, and now is serving us in Florida; and we will hear his opinion from the State level. I am pleased to welcome him at our hearing.

□ 2145

Then we will also hear from Mr. Scott Elders, a senior policy analyst with the Drug Foundation. And then we are going to hear from Robert L. Maginnis, who is the Senior Director of the Family Research Council. And Mr. David Boaz, Executive Vice President of the Cato Institute. And Mr. Ira Glasser, Executive Director of the American Civil Liberties Union.

This is only our first hearing on this subject. We intend to look at the medical use of marijuana. We intend to look at some of the programs across the country that have dealt with decriminalization; some of the efforts in Arizona and others that have been touted recently.

As sort of a prelude to that hearing, I tried to assemble some of the most recent reports relating to decriminalization. One of the interesting things in my position is many people come to me asking why we do not look at not incarcerating people for drug use. They think drug use is something personal. If someone wants to get stoned or someone wants to walk around in a cloud, it does not do any harm. These people are sitting in our prisons. This is a waste of taxpayer money. And most of the people in prison, they would have us believe, they are first-time users or have not committed a serious offense, only personal use and possession of illegal narcotics.

One of the most recent studies which I obtained a copy of is *Narrow Pathways to Prison*, and it is entitled "The Selective Incarceration of Repeat Drug Offenders in the State of New York." This is the most recent report that I

found. Rather thorough. It was produced by Catherine Lapp, the Director of Criminal Justice, in April. Just released in the last month or two. And I thought I would try to debunk a few of the myths about some of the things that have been said; that, again, these are first-time offenders; that these are people who only had personal use of some illegal substance and have done no harm.

Let me just read from this report, and, again, a pretty factual and well documented report, about what they found. "Advocates seeking to reduce or eliminate incarceration of drug offenders often focus their concerns on the following two types of offenders. First, incarcerated drug offenders with no prior felony arrest histories; and, second, incarcerated drug offenders whose only prior felony arrest, and perhaps convictions, involved drug offenses. This report helps to eliminate the circumstances underlying the incarceration of those two groups of offenders. It reveals that the vast majority of these offenders never receive prison sentences. And most of those who are sentenced to prison have failed to abide by conditions of community supervision." An interesting finding.

Now, there are two parts to this report, and I will just read the summaries and then the conclusion.

Part one. And it is entitled "Drug Offenders With No Prior Felony Arrests or Conviction."

Few felony drug arrestees without prior felony histories receive prison sentences in New York State. As shown in one of their charts, fewer than 10 percent of disposed felony drug arrestees without a prior felony arrest or conviction are sentenced to prison. The other 90 percent are diverted from the criminal justice system prior to conviction or sanctioned locally. These data suggest that the criminal justice system is very selective in its use of prison for first-time offenders.

So this is New York. It is one very comprehensive study, just completed a few months ago, and its conclusion is that these first-time offenders are not going into prison.

There is a second part to this study which is quite interesting, and the title of the second part is "Drug Offenders Whose Only Prior Felony History, Arrest or Conviction Involves Drug Offenses." Now we are going to look at those who have had a history of felony arrests which involved drug offenses, and this is the second part and second conclusion.

Most suspects who are arrested for felony-level drug crimes, and whose prior felony histories are limited to drug crimes, do not receive prison sentences in New York State. As shown in one of the charts they provide, approximately 70 percent of the disposed felony arrests are either diverted from the criminal justice system prior to conviction or sanctioned locally. Again, the data indicates a very selective use of prison even when the ar-

restee has a prior drug felony arrest history.

So these folks that are sitting in our prisons are not one-time users, they are not first-time users. And the conclusion of this report is quite interesting. Again, I thought I would provide verbatim the conclusion that was reached in this New York study.

This report provides an accurate and objective insight into the manner in which New York State's criminal justice system adjudicates persons charged with drug offenses. Contrary to images portrayed by Rockefeller Drug Law Reform Advocates, the drug offenders serving time in our State prison system today are committed to prison because of their repeated criminal behavior, leaving judges with few options short of prison. In the past decade, numerous alternatives to prison and prison diversion programs have been implemented to target non-violent drug abusing offenders in an effort to reduce unnecessary reliance on prison and reduce recidivism among this category of offenders. The programs range from merit time to shock incarceration, detab, and the Willard Drug Treatment Program.

Our subcommittee intends to look at some of these diversion programs in future hearings and future investigations. These programs and others have yielded promising results. However, as this report clearly demonstrates, when offenders continue to flaunt the system and fail to abide by the conditions of their release, the court must take swift action and impose appropriate sentences of imprisonment in order to protect society and break the cycle of crime.

This is a very interesting report, and I will make that a part of the record of our hearing tomorrow as we discuss in one of the rare times that I can recall that Congress has addressed the question of drug legalization, decriminalization. A very interesting factual report, and it blows away some of the myths about who is in prison, who is behind bars, and what brought them to prison.

Tonight, again, in addition to talking about the hearings that we have held and the hearings we are going to hold tomorrow, I want to repeat a little bit of the history of how we got ourselves into this situation. I do not mean to beat a dead horse, but, again, it is amazing how many people do not know the story of really this administration and this President's direct efforts to close down the war on drugs in 1993.

When they gained control, from 1993, of the House of Representatives, of the other body, the United States Senate, and of the White House, the first thing they did was dismantle the drug czar's office. Most of the people that were cut from the White House staff were cut from the staff of the drug czar's office, which has been part of the Executive Office of the President.

What was sad, and I sat on the then-Committee on Government Reform and

Oversight, and had been on the Committee on Government Operations prior to that, is this administration completely ignored national drug policy for 2 years. For 2 years, when I came as a freshman in 1993, I repeatedly made requests of the chairman, of the Committee on Government Operations that was responsible for drug policy oversight, for hearings.

Repeatedly we requested that there be some oversight of what was happening as they dismantled the war on drugs, as they took the military out of the war on drugs, as they cut the Coast Guard budget in half in the war on drugs, as they began a systematic dismantling of the source country program, which was stopping illegal narcotics most cost-effectively in the few nations and areas where those illegal narcotics are produced.

I called for and others signed letters. In fact, at one point I believe we had over 130 Members, Republican and Democrat, who asked for hearings and policy review of what was going on with the destruction, dismantling and ending of the war on drugs by this administration. During that entire time there was one hearing, which was approximately 1 hour, where they had the drug czar, Lee Brown.

Lee Brown, and I say this with protection of immunity on the floor of the House of Representatives, was probably the worst public official in the history of not only this administration but for every administration of this century. He did more to oversee the dismantling and destruction of a policy that had proven effective to deal with illegal narcotics than any other human being on the face of the map of the United States. And he came and testified, I will never forget, in a hearing that lasted less than an hour. I think the record would prove, talking about that. And that was only after nearly a disruption of the entire committee process to get one hearing in 2 years on national drug policy as this so-called drug czar oversaw that effort.

The results are incredible. Because from taking the war on drugs apart and dismantling that, hiring a Surgeon General who said "Just say maybe," from sending the wrong message, "If I had it to do over again, I'd inhale," all of these things added up to where, today, we have, since 1993, an 875 percent increase in heroin use by our teenagers.

My colleagues heard the statistics on methamphetamines, the statistics on the death and destruction, particularly among our young people. This has had very devastating results, and it was due to a very concentrated effort by a few people and a majority that took control of this Congress from 1993 to 1995.

What is amazing, too, is that we have known, and I have repeated this on the floor of the House, we have known the source of most of the illegal narcotics. We know that cocaine was produced in only three countries, and 90 percent of

it, until this administration took control, 90 percent of all the coca in the world that came into the United States was produced in Peru and Bolivia. Now, in 6 years, they managed to shift that production to, today, to Colombia. And I will talk in a minute about how we got into the situation with Colombia now becoming the major producer of cocaine, also through a direct policy of this administration, which was to stop all resources, assistance, aid, ammunition, helicopters, anything they could stop getting to Colombia and the Colombian National Police to deal with the narcotics production and trafficking problem. That was a direct policy of this administration that failed to deal with that problem.

□ 2200

The good news was that the House of Representatives and the other body went into the hands of the other party. And let me say that I had the honor and privilege of serving under the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT), now the Speaker of the House of Representatives, when he took on the responsibility under the leadership of the new majority to put the war on drugs and begin to effectively reassemble what had been started by the Reagan and Bush administration, again a real war on drugs.

The first thing that the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT) did was to work with Bolivian and Peruvian officials to aid their effort and restart the source country programs for eradicating cost-effectively drugs at their source.

Again, I cited that most of the cocaine produced in the world and coming into the United States in 1993 to 1995 was from Peru and Bolivia. So the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT) went to the source. I went with him. We went out into the fields. We met with the national officials, the Presidents, and they restarted those efforts.

Through that effort, in the last 2, 3 years, those two countries, Peru and Bolivia, through the leadership of Hugo Bonzer, the President of Bolivia, through the leadership of Mr. Fujimori, the President of Peru, they have cut the production of coca in half, 50 percent. And they have plans in the next 2 years to try to eliminate the production.

The only problem is, while we were making progress there and asking the administration to get assistance to Colombia, which was becoming a new source of the cultivation of coca, this administration blocked all of those efforts, and we saw and we have seen in the last few years Colombia, again through a direct policy we can relate to this administration, become the number one producer of cocaine and coca, the base of cocaine, in the world.

What is absolutely startling is from 1993 to 1995, if we go back and look at Colombia, there was almost no production, zero, almost nada, zip, production of heroin from Colombia. Most of it

came in from Southeast Asia, a little bit from Mexico. This administration, again through its direct policies, has made Colombia the number one producer.

Colombia is known for its beautiful flowers that are imported around the world and a natural place to start growing poppies, and they did because this administration stopped the resources from getting to Colombia and to the national police.

Only in the last year or two has this new majority been able to appropriate over the wishes of this administration and also even see the delivery in the last few months of equipment, ammunition, resources, helicopters to the Republic of Colombia to combat those illegal narcotics that are being grown and shipped and transhipped through Colombia.

So we know Colombia is the number one source. We know what the problem has been. And I think we have effectively dealt with it with, again, this new majority in Congress initiative, not with any help of the administration.

Then the second area that we know there has been incredible volumes of hard narcotics coming into the United States, of course, is Mexico. The situation with Mexico gets even worse. Last week in Mexico we had the death of one of the stars of Mexico who was brutally machine-gunned down on the streets of Mexico and come to find out even the hard-core Mexicans were shocked by this death. I believe it was in open daylight in Mexico, and come to find out it is a drug-related death, and this individual was involved with illegal substances and was gunned down, probably by traffickers. We will know more about that.

The news, as I said, gets even worse about Mexico. Mexico, in a report that I just was briefed on this afternoon, it appears, and this will be in the media in the coming days, it appears that both the former President Salinas and his brother had some direct involvement in one of the, I believe, religious leaders in that country, who is also a candidate, he was brutally slain. And there are reports now from reliable sources that because this individual had that information, the former President and his brother wanted him rubbed out, and that even the military was involved in this action to gun down and murder an outstanding religious and potential political figure of Mexico.

The news, as I said, gets even worse. This past week, Tim Golden reported in the New York Times, and he does an excellent job revealing and investigating what is going on with Mexico, which is involved up to its eyeballs and at every level with corruption, with illegal narcotics dealing, Tim Golden revealed that the secretary to the current President Zedillo, Mr. Sines, has managed to avoid a thorough investigation. Even our officials have turned their backs on seeing that Mr. Sines is

properly investigated, highest assistant to the President of Mexico.

There are some very, very serious allegations of his involvement with illegal narcotics trafficking and activity and corruption in that country that should be investigated fairly and honestly and not swept under the table by U.S. officials or by Mexican officials.

The news about Mexico gets even worse. As I reported, we conducted a hearing on Mexico, and, in fact, several hearings on Mexico, and found evidence and testimony was given by one of our former Customs officials of a general attempting to launder \$1.1 billion in illegal narcotics profits through legitimate U.S. sources.

So again, it is a very sad situation. We fail to have the cooperation of Mexico in trafficking. And again, a majority of illegal narcotics, even those produced in Colombia, are transited through Mexico and enter the United States. They enter Mexico. They enter Florida. They enter the entire United States.

We have provided through the trade benefits we have given to Mexico free and open commercial borders, and we have asked very little in return. We have just asked Mexico to cooperate in seizing heroin and in seizing cocaine and seizing methamphetamines. And what does the report show? In fact, it shows that in 1998, rather than seizing more illegal hard narcotics, the Mexicans are seizing less. Opium and heroin seizures in 1998 versus 1997 were down 56 percent. Cocaine seizures by Mexican officials over that same period were down 35 percent.

So rather than help us in seizing illegal narcotics, instead of helping the United States, who has been a good ally, assisting Mexico in very difficult financial times, we underwrote the Mexican financial institutions and their currency, we opened our trade to Mexican commercial activities, and instead of cooperation, we actually have a lesser level of cooperation.

And this administration has consistently certified Mexico. This Congress some 2 years ago plus passed a resolution asking Mexico to cooperate to pass a maritime agreement and enter into a maritime agreement so that we could seize drugs on the open waters. To date they have not signed a maritime agreement.

We asked Mexico to extradite major drug traffickers, Mexican nationals. To date not one major Mexican national has been extradited. When we introduced just in the past few days a bill in Congress, myself and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MCCOLLUM) and others, legislation that will go after the U.S. assets and other assets of major drug kingpins, we finally got the extradition of one Mr. Martin, a United States national who we had requested extradition on.

We have requested over 275 extradition requests of the Mexicans over the past decades or less. There are over 40 major drug traffickers whose extradition we have requested. To date not

one Mexican national has been extradited.

What is really sad is the major producers, the major traffickers in methamphetamines were the Amezcua brothers. And recently, to kick sand in our face, to really slap the United States, Mexican judicial officials threw out the charges on two of the Amezcua brothers, and they, in fact, still have not been extradited to the United States. Indicted in the United States, requests for extradition, and again over 40 major drug traffickers, Mexican nationals, not one extradited to the United States.

Also we requested radar in the South to stop the trafficking coming up through Central and South America, and that has not been done by the Mexicans. We have asked that our DEA agents, after we had the murder of one of our agents some years ago, that they be armed to be able to protect themselves. And we have a very limited number of DEA agents because Mexico has limited the number of agents. And we still to this date have not had cooperation in allowing our agents to defend themselves.

So we see a situation that is very critical in the United States; incredible numbers of death, the effect on our young people, the cost to our society, the cost to this Congress, the cost to mothers and fathers and brothers and sisters who have lost loved ones. We have seen a close-down of the war on drugs in 1993 and 1995 and a restarting by this new majority where we put the resources back in. We started the source country programs, the interdiction. We brought the military and the Coast Guard back into the effort, a real effort.

This new majority also passed a 190-million-plus program, unprecedented, to start dealing with demand reduction, educating our young people. And that money is matched by private sector donations, very cost-effective. So we have taken some steps. We do not want to take a step backward.

Tomorrow we will hear about drug legalization, decriminalization, and harm reduction from those leaders of the administration. It is my hope again to continue this effort before the House of Representatives, before the Congress, because it is the most important social question, the most important criminal justice question, the most important societal question facing the American people and our Congress again in great cost in lives and money. And we will be back.

So tonight, as I conclude, I thank those who have listened, Mr. Speaker, and who are willing to take up arms and efforts in combatting illegal narcotics. I thank my colleagues for their attention. And I promise, as General MacArthur said, I shall return and will continue to bring this topic before the Congress and the American people.

NAVAL CONFRONTATION BETWEEN SOUTH KOREA AND NORTH KOREA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BRADY of Texas). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. HAYWORTH) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to speak of a challenge and a threat that has not diminished, but indeed has grown more apparent with each passing day.

Indeed, Mr. Speaker, as this legislative day began during morning hour, I came to the well of this House to discuss disturbing reports that appeared on the international news wires and in various publications and in the electronic media earlier today concerning trouble in yet another dangerous location in this world, news that there had, in fact, been a naval confrontation between South Korea and the outlaw nation we know as North Korea.

I was astounded, Mr. Speaker, to hear a spokesman for our government recount the action this morning by saying, well, typically when there has been a confrontation at sea between two vessels involving North and South Korea, the North Koreans in the past have chosen to not engage in any way, and we do not know why the North Koreans chose to engage in this particular instance.

Mr. Speaker, I was surprised at that expression of amazement on the part of one of our government spokesmen, because it has become readily, painfully, dangerously apparent that the outlaw nation of North Korea, short as it is on food for its people, confronting of famine, depleted as it is from any notion of freedom, ruled by a despot, but ironically empowered as it is by the proliferation of nuclear technologies, all these factors come together to show us why North Korea as an outlaw nation is no shrinking violet on the international scene.

Indeed, Mr. Speaker, as we catalogue the state of affairs confronting our national security, and as we are mindful of our constitutional duty to provide for the common defense, there are some disturbing realities: A bipartisan commission of this House exposing the unauthorized, unlawful transfers of technology to Communist China; subsequent reports and investigations indicate that the Chinese theft of our nuclear secrets and that the espionage is ongoing; coupled with the proliferation to other nations; the nuclear genie out of the bottle; the sharing of technologies with Pakistan; and the aforementioned rise of North Korea also through the sharing of information.

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But more disturbing, Mr. Speaker, than the espionage, if that is possible, is, once again, the tragic dereliction of duties that this administration has engaged in, and perhaps that is a term that works at cross-purposes for what I want to discuss tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I can recall in the days following my election to this institution, prior to being sworn in to the 104th Congress, I had occasion to meet with the now former Secretary of Defense, William Perry. Secretary Perry was an apostle of a notion of strategic partnership, constructive engagement, and ultimately, the transfer of technology to North Korea. I was disturbed as a private citizen, reading even then in the early days of this administration that it was the intent of this administration to share nuclear technologies, albeit ostensibly for power and peaceful purposes, with the outlaw Nation of North Korea, the insistence of this administration to give the North Koreans a pair of nuclear reactors. My question of the Secretary that morning is a question that every American should ask: Why indeed would our Nation be so willing to give nuclear technology to the North Koreans? The upshot of the response from then Secretary of Defense Perry was that I was new to government and I really ought to get a briefing.

I subsequently saw former United Nations Ambassador Jeanne Kirkpatrick at another seminar for new Members of Congress, and she concurred with my analysis that no further briefing was necessary, that it did not take a great deal of expertise, nor a list of academic credentials a mile long, or even the length of my arm, to ascertain if someone has turned on the eye of the stove, it is not a good idea to place your hand there because you will be burned. That rather simple observation perhaps does not do justice to the threat that confronts us now in North Korea where this administration continued, Mr. Speaker, in what I believe to be incredibly dangerous, breathtakingly naive, in an almost indescribably irresponsible action, insisting upon giving the North Koreans nuclear technology, and ultimately giving the North Koreans two nuclear reactors.

Mr. Speaker, I came to this House several weeks ago to report a story that has appeared in some quarters in our free press, but strangely, the major publications, Newsweek, cable news networks, broadcast networks have not followed up on the story, which is the subsequent fate of the two nuclear reactors given by the United States to the outlaw Nation of North Korea. U.N. inspectors finally were granted access to North Korea, finally got a chance to check on those two reactors, and Mr. Speaker, one reactor had its core intact, but the core of the second reactor was missing. Even more disturbing, the report in the Washington Times went on to state that a State Department official who accompanied U.N. inspectors on this visit to North Korea was called in front of congressional committees, and that State Department official was instructed by higher-ups at the State Department, Mr. Speaker, not to inform the Congress of the United States and its committees of jurisdiction of the missing reactor core.