

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 438, WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC SAFETY ACT OF 1999

Mr. SESSIONS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-27) on the resolution (H.Res. 76) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 438) to promote and enhance public safety through use of 911 as the universal emergency assistance number, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 514, WIRELESS PRIVACY ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 1999

Mr. SESSIONS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-28) on the resolution (H. Res. 77) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 514) to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to strengthen and clarify prohibitions on electronic eavesdropping, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

HOUSE SHOULD CONSIDER DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA APPROPRIATIONS FIRST, RATHER THAN LAST

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor this afternoon to speak about the District of Columbia. But I think it only appropriate to report what I have just heard, and that is that in the capital murder trial of John William King, the first of three men accused in the dragging death murder of James Byrd, Jr., the jury has just reported a guilty verdict in Jasper, Texas. Justice has been done, and southern justice this time has been done.

Mr. Speaker, we are back to work in earnest. The Speaker has developed a workmanlike schedule. I come to the floor this afternoon to ask that the easiest bill in the House, the bill having least to do with the business of this House, be the first appropriation bill reported in this House. I speak of the D.C. appropriation bill.

It is amazing that most often it is the last and not the first bill. When I brought the new Mayor to see the Speaker, he agreed that we should hasten this bill. During the fiscal crisis, it has been especially painful to have the

District appropriation bill so late. The District has been on time, but the bill has been needlessly controversial.

Delay hurts in the worst way because it affects the credit standing of a city that is only now getting its credit back. And it is getting its credit back. It has had three straight years of surpluses. However, it is the unpredictability of the appropriation process here that hurts the credit rating.

There is no Federal payment any longer, so it is quite amazing that the budget of a local jurisdiction would have to come here at all. Suppose my colleagues' cities, their counties' budgets came here. They would tell us to get out of town. It is an historic anomaly; it is an injustice.

It has to come. At least let no more injustice be done by holding it up. We collect \$5 billion from D.C. taxpayers in the District of Columbia. All the District asks of this body is: "Give us back our money as soon as you get it."

We will have before us a consensus budget. It will be a very balanced budget. The consensus budget notion came out of an amendment that I put into the Control Board statute that allows the District now, instead of having its budget go through the normal separation of powers, to have everybody sit around a table and agree on a budget so as to hasten the time. Therefore, to hasten the time to draw their own budget, the least the Congress can do is to enact their own budget as soon as possible.

After 3 years of surpluses, a new Mayor who earned his stripes as chief financial officer and helped get the city back on its financial feet, the city, I think, has a right to ask of the Congress that we do our job. If we must look at a local budget, look at it fast, say what we have to say, do what we have to do, and let us then get on with the business of the District of Columbia.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that this House does have confidence in the Mayor and in the District itself. Last week or the week before last, we passed in this House the first half of my D.C. Democracy 2000 bill which gives back to the new Mayor, Tony Williams, powers that were taken from a previous Mayor in 1997.

There has already been real confidence in this Mayor. The best way to encourage the Mayor and to encourage the city is to give it back its money first.

The first bill to come here should be the District bill. It is a way of saying to the District that they have reached a consensus budget, they have balanced their budget. In light of that, we have given them the respect to which they are entitled. It is a way of saying, "Here is your money back. Here is your budget back. Please run your own city."

REPORT ON WESTERN HEMISPHERE DRUG ALLIANCE—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations:

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to provide the attached report on a Western Hemisphere Drug Alliance in accordance with the provisions of section 2807 of the "Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998." This report underscores the Administration's commitment to enhancing multilateral counternarcotics cooperation in the region.

Strengthening international narcotics control is one of my Administration's top foreign policy priorities. Because of the transnational nature of the Western Hemisphere drug trafficking threat, we have made enhanced multilateral cooperation a central feature of our regional drug control strategy. Our counternarcotics diplomacy, foreign assistance, and operations have focussed increasingly on making this objective a reality.

We are succeeding. Thanks to U.S. leadership in the Summit of the Americas, the Organization of American States, and other regional fora, the countries of the Western Hemisphere are taking the drug threat more seriously and responding more aggressively. South American cocaine organizations that were once regarded as among the largest and most violent crime syndicates in the world have been dismantled, and the level of coca cultivation is now plummeting as fast as it was once sky-rocketing. We are also currently working through the Organization of American States to create a counternarcotics multilateral evaluation mechanism in the hemisphere. These examples reflect fundamental narcotics control progress that was nearly unimaginable a few years ago.

While much remains to be done, I am confident that the Administration and the Congress, working together, can bolster cooperation in the hemisphere, accelerate this progress, and significantly diminish the drug threat to the American people. I look forward to your continued support and cooperation in this critical area.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, February 23, 1999.

DRUG ABUSE IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, it is ironic. Sometimes here we look more organized than we are. I was going to speak on the drug issue. I did not know the

President was going to be sending over right before me his initiatives and comments.

This is a particularly critical time in Congress as we look at decertification questions and the cooperation of foreign countries in the drug issue. We are going to face many issues in this Congress that are very important, the education issue; rebuilding our national defenses, particularly in missile defense; trying to preserve and save Social Security; trying to make sure taxpayers can keep their own money; trying to work with the health care problems we have in this Nation. But drug abuse remains on the street, in our homes and in our neighborhoods, one of the most critical problems we have.

We have heard much over the last months about the moral crisis that our country is facing. And we do, indeed, have a tremendous moral crisis from top to bottom of our society. There is only so much we can do here in Washington related to that. One, we should lead by example. Two, we should try to strengthen those institutions, whether it is in the Tax Code or in different programs, that strengthen families and promote strong family values and moral virtues in our society.

But in one area, in drugs in particular, the government has a direct compelling and active interest. And it is a manifestation of the breakdowns we have in our society that we see rising drug abuse among junior high kids and in high schools in particular, that we see deaths in the district of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS) and throughout Dallas and in the district of the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) in Orlando and in the district of the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MCCOLLUM), where heroin deaths have overtaken the communities to the point of having 25 deaths or more in each of those communities from heroin in a short period of time.

Mr. Speaker, we see crack on the streets of Ft. Wayne, Indiana, and small towns in Indiana and throughout our country. We see people sniffing coke, LSD, methamphetamines. We are getting overrun in this country with that.

We need and will continue to work with a multitude of strategies to address this issue. We need drug prevention interdiction, drug prevention and eradication, drug prevention and treatment, drug prevention and programs in our schools, and drug prevention on our streets to help our police force. All of that is really preventing the drugs from getting there.

The gentleman from Florida (Chairman MICA), of the Subcommittee on Drug Policy of the Committee on Government Reform, led a CODEL, a Congressional delegation, of which I was a part, to the Andean nations of Colombia, Peru and Bolivia where most cocaine and much of our heroin is coming from, as well as Central America where we spent 3 days, among other places, with the leaders in Mexico.

We clearly have some major problems, but what we know is this: That in 1992 to 1994, when we backed up in interdiction efforts, and really into 1995, when we backed up in our interdiction and eradication efforts, this country was flooded with low-price cocaine, new sources for heroin, and methamphetamines in quantities that drove the price down in the streets of Ft. Wayne, Indiana, northeast Indiana, and throughout this country.

We saw the purity go up, and the marijuana that is coming in is nothing like the marijuana in the late 1960s and 1970s that was glamorized in a lot of 1960s type shows. This is potent stuff on our streets that our kids are getting. Because when they have the huge quantities of it and it is cheap in the schools and the streets, there is no amount of DARE programs or treatment programs or putting policemen on the street that can stop this.

Mr. Speaker, we know where it comes from. Some of these countries have been very aggressive for a number of years in eradicating the coca leaves and particularly the production in the cocaine. In Peru and Bolivia, we have seen a turnaround. We have seen their percentages drop.

In Colombia they are at war, and we need to help the Nation of Colombia fight this so that we do not have troops down there. We also have our number one oil supplier on their border, Venezuela, and the Panama Canal on the other border.

□ 1615

That is where we have a compelling national interest. But we have some real problems in Mexico. The Mexican leaders, their government seem very committed to trying to change this problem. But we have deep problems.

Everybody says we should forget the past, but it is difficult to forget the past right now when our information has been compromised and when we have had so much corruption.

We are hopeful, and one of the debates we are going to hear in Congress is how we should deal with this decertification question, because it gets inevitably wrapped up in NAFTA, trade questions, and the fact that an important and critical part of our long-term interests will be to work with Mexico.

But the question is, are we going to have any accountability standards? Since most of the drugs coming into my hometown and the rest of this country are pouring across the border from Mexico right now, we need to see results and not just rhetoric.

Over the next few days and weeks, we are going to hear a number of Members coming down here talking about this issue and about the drug issue as a whole as we develop packages, as we try to work with the administration and drug czar, General McCaffrey, to try to solve this problem. I am looking forward to seeing if we continue to make progress.

EVEN THOUGH ECONOMY IS GOOD, WORKERS IN OIL PATCH ARE STILL LOSING JOBS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HAYES). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, before I start, I would first like to associate a few words with the legislation, H.R. 396, which passed today that would honor our former colleague Ron Dellums by naming a Federal building after him in Oakland, California.

Let me indicate my great appreciation and respect for the dedication and service of Ron Dellums. I can think of no better tribute to him than the naming of a building in his beloved Oakland after him. I salute the legislation and support it.

Mr. Speaker, I have another topic that I would like to raise today, and I believe that there is much that we need to do on this issue. Although we look now at a budget surplus and are probably in the best economy that we have had along with its longevity of a number of years, we still have concerns.

What does the number 50,000 make you think of? For myself, it signifies the number of jobs lost in Texas because of the harsh realities of our modern economy and the energy crisis. But there has to be hope for those workers in the oil patch.

That is why I convened with top administration and congressional officials at the White House last month a meeting to discuss how we could better address the needs of energy workers who lose their jobs in mass layoffs.

When the Secretary of Labor Alexis Herman and White House Chief of Staff John Podesta expressed their concern about their circumstances, I felt that we could work together to improve the question of job loss in communities throughout this Nation, Boeing, for example, and the State of Washington.

With that cooperation in mind, we have already been able to get part of the work done. In the State of the Union Address, President Clinton stressed that he would promote programs that would bring relief to communities that are struggling with mass layoffs.

The real question is, do we have the information down at the local level? This would include job retraining and rapid response teams that help workers and employers in times of crisis. I have found that we really need to get this information not only to the employers but to the workers.

The President followed up on that commitment by pledging \$1.6 billion for training for displaced workers and \$65 million to help those workers find new jobs in the budget for the next fiscal year.

It is unique in the oil patch because we would like not to lose these workers while they have been laid off because we do believe in the supporting of a domestic oil policy.