

parents today. It is deeply rooted, and will require a great and continuing effort to keep it under control. But we must not give up—there is simply too much at stake. I thank the Catholic Church for its ongoing support of that effort.

INTERVENTION OF THE DELEGATION OF THE HOLY SEE AT THE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON "NEW CHALLENGES FOR DRUG POLICY IN EUROPE"

(Dublin, October 16–17, 2003)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Holy See is pleased to participate in this Ministerial Conference sponsored by the Pompidou Group, for it sees this as a fitting and encouraging opportunity to discuss and analyze the strategies in the fight against the threat represented by drug abuse, as the Conference theme aptly suggests.

The data provided by the European Observatory for Drugs and Drug Addiction in the 2002 Annual Report on the Evolution of the Drug Phenomenon in the European Union and Norway continue to raise alarms and indicate that the situation, instead of improving, is growing worse.

Great concern is caused both by the constant increase in the use of synthetic drugs and by the ever decreasing age at which drug abuse is observed.

Pope John Paul II, already in 1984, noted that "among the threats facing young people and all of society today, drug abuse is one of the greatest, since it is a danger that is as insidious as it is invisible, and one that is not yet properly recognized according to the extent of its seriousness".

If politics is at the service of the human person and society, it must not fail to go to the root of problems. This means grappling with the anxiety, that is, the existential crisis or apprehensions, that in a consumerist and materialistic society finds rich soil for shattering the inner equilibrium in subjects who are particularly weak, fragile and sensitive. There is no doubt that the phenomenon of drug abuse is connected with a crisis of civilization and with great dejection. One of the most important factors leading to drug abuse is the lack of clear motivation, the absence of values, the conviction that life is not worth living.

Among the political measures to be adopted in the fight against this phenomenon, my Delegation would point out in the first place those aimed at combating illicit trafficking in drugs, controlled by powerful criminal organizations. This takes place in the larger context of arms trade, terrorism and trafficking in human beings. Such criminal activity goes beyond national borders and therefore requires a concerted policy of international cooperation.

Faced with the many suggestions and decisions made in different national contexts for the purpose of resolving the problem, the Holy See does not agree with the proposal to legalize the circulation and distribution of drugs, not even so-called light drugs. We must not fail to take into account the risk of moving from the use of light drugs to the use of those with more destructive effects. The State should not assist its more vulnerable citizens to alienate themselves from society and ruin their lives.

Rather, the Holy See encourages above all the promotion of preventive information and education, and the possibility of the proper treatment and reintegration into society of those who unfortunately fall prey to drug addiction.

More resources should be destined to the application of preventive and educational measures in the family, in schools, in sports clubs and in society in general. There is a need for placing renewed emphasis on the human values of love and life, the only val-

ues capable of giving meaning to human existence.

As far as treatment and reintegration into society are concerned, my Delegation places great importance on the work of assistance and recovery communities. This is a matter of helping drug addicts, in the midst of their inner suffering and their state of anxiety, to rediscover dignity, to take control of their lives once more and to reintegrate themselves into their families and into society.

An integrated system of services offered by local agencies, institutions and educational groups (family, school, community) should increase the ability to bring effective aid to the lives of young people who, once they are freed from drug addiction, will be able to avoid a relapse. Only the desire to be reborn and the ability to heal will ensure that "recovered" young people can return to a normal life after having passed through the frightening tunnel of drug addiction.

An adequate policy in this regard must also address the ethical questions involved, seeking to place the problem in a wider anthropological, ethical, social, political and economic context. Means and resources need to be set aside for this purpose.

Mr. Chairman, allow me to conclude by reaffirming the willingness of the Holy See and the Catholic Church—with their extensive networks of institutions and structures devoted to the education, assistance and rehabilitation of drug addicts—to work with European institutions in seeking together paths and means for a policy in the fight against drug abuse and addiction that will not only resist the criminal and subversive phenomenon but will also take into consideration the moral issue of drug addiction and of a society that promotes a culture of solidarity for life.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO GREAT SAND DUNES' OUTDOOR EDUCATION PROGRAM

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2003

MR. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to honor the Great Sand Dunes National Park in Colorado for its award-winning Outdoor Education Program. Recently, the Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education awarded the Great Sand Dunes with the Governmental Environmental Education Award for Excellence for 2003. The Outdoor Education Program is an excellent source of information and entertainment for all who enjoy nature and have an interest in wildlife. I would like to join my colleagues here today in recognizing the tremendous service provided to the Colorado community by the Great Sand Dunes Outdoor Education Program.

The Great Sand Dunes have offered education programs for almost twenty years. Staff members and volunteers enthusiastically provide research and expertise for service-learning projects, field trips, outreach events and workshops that encourage environmental awareness in the community. The educational program works in conjunction with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service and the Nature Conservancy, in order to provide students and instructors with the latest and most accurate information.

Mr. Speaker, the Great Sand Dunes Outdoor Education Program is an exciting and in-

structional educational tool for the Colorado community. This program has shown extraordinary dedication to teaching adults and children about the environment and conservation. It is my great honor today to recognize the devotion and commitment of those involved with the program. Congratulations on a well deserved award.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2754, ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATION ACT, 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

MR. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill. But I do have reservations about a number of provisions included in it.

As co-chair of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Caucus in the House, I have worked for years to increase—or at a minimum, hold steady—funding for DOE's renewable energy and energy efficiency research and development programs. So I am disappointed that for yet another year, the bill shortchanges these important clean energy programs.

Given our finite supply of fossil fuels and increasing global demand, investing in clean energy is more important than ever. DOE's renewable energy programs are vital to our Nation's interests, helping provide strategies and tools to address the environmental challenges we will face in the coming decades. By reducing air pollution and other environmental impacts from energy production and use, they also constitute the single largest and most effective federal pollution prevention program.

Investments in sustainable energy technologies meet multiple other public policy objectives. Far from decreasing, U.S. dependence on imported oil has increased to record levels over the past 25 years. These programs are helping to reduce our reliance on oil imports, thereby strengthening our national security, and also creating hundreds of new domestic businesses, supporting thousands of American jobs, and opening new international markets for American goods and services.

While these technologies have become increasingly cost-competitive, the pace of their penetration into the market will be determined largely by government support for future research and development as well as by assistance in catalyzing public-private partnerships, leading to full commercialization.

For our investment in these technologies to pay off, our efforts must be sustained over the long term. This bill does not do that. This bill is fully \$75 million less than last year's bill in the area of research energy research. Much of this reduction is used to fund a new Office of Electricity Transmission and Distribution. Cuts to renewable energy accounts are also used to boost hydrogen programs fully \$38 million above last year's levels. Although I'm certainly supportive of both the electricity and hydrogen programs, I believe they should be additive to take advantage of the synergies they present with the other important and established programs at DOE. Instead, the bill cuts biomass/biofuels by \$14.4 million, solar energy by \$9.4 million, and geothermal by \$3.8 million.

I believe that the reductions in funding levels for the core renewable energy programs are ill-advised at a time when the need for a secure, domestic energy supply is so crucial. Clean energy technologies have a critically important role to play in promoting public health and enhancing the energy security of the nation by promoting fuel diversity, harnessing safe and abundant domestic resources, and expanding the use of small-scale, dispersed technologies.

Overall, the bill provides necessary funding for some important Army Corps of Engineers projects and for DOE's Office of Science and non-proliferation programs. It also includes critical funding for defense environmental management programs—in particular, funding for Rocky Flats, the former weapons production site in Colorado. Funding in this bill keeps Rocky Flats on track for finishing cleanup and closure by the end of 2006.

So on balance, Mr. Speaker, I believe this bill contains more good than bad. Although I am not satisfied with the levels of funding in this bill for DOE's clean energy programs, I will continue to work to increase funding for these programs in years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE SACRIFICE OF OUR VETERANS

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2003

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month our Nation took the time to honor and recognize the tremendous sacrifice our veterans have given to protecting our freedom and safeguarding democracy for us all. During this special time, it is important we remember all our veterans and thank them for their service.

Today, however, I would like to specifically recognize our Korean War Veterans and their service to the United States.

The Korean War resonates deeply with many Minnesota families. Through the duration of the conflict, close to 95,000 Minnesotans served their country with honor and courage, with 749 paying the ultimate sacrifice. Countless others lost their lives training for service in Korea. One hundred seventy remain missing. They were our fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters. Their service was integral in ensuring that the long arm of communism would stretch no farther than the 39th parallel and their sacrifices enabled countless numbers of Americans and Koreans to raise their families and live their lives in freedom.

As we reflect on their service, it is important to remember that the armistice ending military action in Korea signaled an end to the fighting, but not the war. Today, 37,000 U.S. military personnel remain in South Korea to supplement the 650,000-strong South Korean armed forces. These men and women serve to protect America's economic and political interests in the region, while ensuring our national security by providing a counter-balance to North Korea. The dangers our U.S. soldiers in South Korea face are very real and the merits of their courage is tested everyday.

In Minnesota, the Korean War veterans remain very active. They visit hospitals, are active in their local VFW and American Legion

and participate in parades. Many take time to visit schools in their area, talking to students about the Korean War and answering questions about military service. Recently, a large group ascended on Washington, D.C. to participate in Veterans Day events and to mark the 50th anniversary of the end of the Korean War. In D.C., they participated in the wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington Cemetery and took a tour of the U.S. Capitol, among other things. I am inspired by their continued patriotism and commitment to their families, the United States, and each other.

As a former Minnesota State Legislator, I had the distinct privilege to help enable the creation of a memorial to Minnesota's Korean War veterans, that stands today at the Minnesota State Capitol. Near this grand memorial is a time capsule, to be opened 100 years after its burial. In it lie a U.S. flag, pictures and other memorabilia commemorating our war veterans and the important news of our day. The capsule also holds a letter to future generations of Americans. The letter asks those who read it to never forget the events of the past, and expresses hope that when the capsule is opened, our nation and the world will be at peace. I, like all Americans, share the optimism that when this letter is next read, the hope of its authors has become reality.

I ask all Americans to never forget those of the "forgotten" war in Korea. At a minimum, Congress should grant the Korean War Veterans Association a Federal Charter, allowing the Association to expand its mission and further its charitable and benevolent causes. Specifically, it will afford the Korean War Veterans Association the same status as other major veterans organizations and would allow it to participate as part of select committees with other Congressional chartered veterans and military groups. While they seek no recognition for what they have done, it is important their story is told and the debt of their service is remembered.

Thank you to all our Korean War Veterans. Your commitment to our country is greatly appreciated.

TRIBUTE TO THE CITY OF LA HABRA HEIGHTS, CALIFORNIA

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2003

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute today to the City of La Habra Heights, California, as their community celebrates 25 years of cityhood this year.

Since incorporating on December 4, 1978, La Habra Heights has succeeded in maintaining a quality environment for its residents by providing excellent municipal services and keeping a strong community spirit alive. The citizens of La Habra Heights continually demonstrate their enthusiasm for their City by actively participating in local government and future city planning. It is indeed my honor to represent the residents of this beautiful city, who have contributed much of their time towards the betterment of their community.

Mr. Speaker, on this very special year for the City of La Habra Heights, please join me in commemorating their twenty-fifth anniversary.

THE PASSING OF REGINALD ARTHUR STONE

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2003

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mr. Reginald Arthur Stone who passed away on November 12th at the age of 67. Mr. Stone was a loving husband to his wife Judy, the father of two and the grandfather of five. In addition to being a community leader, Mr. Stone was known as a person who could create compromise out of chaos.

Reginald "Reg" Stone was the longtime chairman of the Main San Gabriel Basin Water Master Board of Directors, where he was a key figure in negotiations that led to a \$250 million cleanup agreement with industrial companies that polluted the area's groundwater. Because of his gentle, yet determined efforts, thousands of homes will have cleaner water and the health of working families will be improved.

In addition to serving on the Main San Gabriel Basin Water Master Board of Directors, he worked for 43 years at Suburban Water Systems. Starting off as a meter reader, Mr. Stone rose to senior Vice President at the time of his death. More importantly than his title, however, is that he is remembered as a person who was liked and appreciated by all and was able to bring even the most adversarial people together with the belief that you should start to negotiate from common ground.

Reg Stone will be missed by all who knew him and our prayers are with his family during this time of mourning.

HONORING DON LAUGHLIN, FOUNDER OF LAUGHLIN, NEVADA

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2003

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the founder and namesake of one of the fastest growing, most dynamic communities in my district, Don Laughlin. On Friday the community of Laughlin will join together to celebrate the unveiling of a statue of Don that will greet visitors to the many gaming, entertainment, and recreational opportunities in the city along the Colorado River he created just a few decades ago. Don is a visionary leader, and I urge the House to join with the thousands of residents, and millions of visitors to Laughlin who celebrate his permanent contribution to the landscape and culture of Nevada and our country.

TRIBUTE TO CONAGRA FOODS—LONGMONT FACILITY

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2003

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievement of