

gene destructive marijuana than kids have ever used before, up 105 percent. LSD use, 105 percent, cocaine, 166 percent increase.

This is among our teenagers. So we see why we have 1.6 million of our Americans in jail, 70 percent of them in jail because of drug-related incidents. We see why we have honest citizens and senior citizens and Americans living behind bars in fear, afraid to go out at night, afraid to go out of their home because we have created this situation.

Mr. Speaker, this is the problem, and what are we doing about it? As part of this new majority, as someone who called on the previous Congress to look at the situation and do something and examine it and restore drug interdiction, we are doing something. Today we are meeting and there are hearings on restoring our Coast Guard effort. Today we are working in the appropriations measures that are before this Congress to restore our military effort to stop drugs in a cost-effective manner at their source. We are going to restore also our efforts with our Drug Enforcement Agency that were proposed for slashing by this administration, not by this new majority.

So, Mr. Speaker, it takes leadership. It takes leadership from the WhiteHouse. It takes leadership from the Congress. We must set the standard. We cannot lower the standard. We cannot have a WhiteHouse or a President that in fact lower the standards for our young people because this is the results we get. This is a headline that every American should see, every American should see that.

ETHICS COMMITTEE INVESTIGATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of theHouse, the gentleman from California [Mr. MILLER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, just a few moments ago, a member of theHouse Ethics Committee from Florida came and spoke about the rules of that committee. Earlier today we had a discussion on this floor. In fact, we were prevented from having a discussion about whether or not that committee should release a report that is currently before it with respect to the activities of Speaker GINGRICH and the tax laws of this country and the misuse of nonprofit charitable foundations in political campaigns.

The speaker said that apparently they could not release the report, and the chairman of that committee has said they cannot release that report, that the rules do not allow for it.

I would refer them to the rules of theHouse which have been mimicked in the rules of the committee. It said, no information or testimony received—

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I have a point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Pennsylvania will state his point of order.

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, my point of order is, the gentleman is proceeding out of order. This is a matter before the Ethics Committee. The gentleman knows the rules of this body.

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, if I may be heard on the point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California [Mr. MILLER].

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, the previous speaker from Florida got up and was talking about his initiative to reform the rules of theHouse Ethics Committee and stated about whether or not a report could be released or information can be released. I am differing with the gentleman with respect to that statement and the statement of the rules of theHouse. I believe the rules of the Ethics Committee are not a matter before the committee.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind Members to refrain from discussing specific official conduct cases.

The gentleman from California [Mr. MILLER] may proceed in order.

Mr. MILLER of California. The point being this, if I can finish reading this section: That no information or testimony received or the contents of a complaint or the fact of a finding, of a filing shall be publicly disclosed by any committee or staff member unless, unless specifically authorized in each instance by a vote of the full committee. The point being this: Any report that is before the committee on House ethics at any time can be released by a vote of that committee. Should the committee choose not to vote, that report will continue to be secret. If the committee shall choose to vote, that report will become public both to the Members of this House and to the Members of the public in general.

This issue, this issue about the committee's ability to release or not release a report is not one of first impression before this Congress. It was raised in 1988 in the matter regarding Speaker Jim Wright. At that time Congressman NEWT GINGRICH, not then-Speaker but now-Speaker, Congressman NEWT GINGRICH wrote to the gentleman from California, JULIAN DIXON, then chairman of the Ethics Committee, and said to him that he believed that it was absolutely essential that all 435 Members of this House have access to the reports and to information.

He went on to list, I believe, eight or nine criteria in that letter that he believed should be invoked, the most important of which have not been currently done in this session of the Congress. That is that any special or independent counsel appointed by the Ethics Committee shall have the ability to conduct a free and full investigation, that the committee shall in no way hamper that, the committee shall only cooperate, and that that special counsel shall have the discretion from time

to time to make a decision to release information or to make public statements.

Speaker GINGRICH in 1988 said he had serious concerns about whether or not the Ethics Committee was engaging in that fashion, asked for the release of the report on Speaker Wright before the subcommittee had a chance to fully consider it or the full committee and all, all relevant documents, transcripts, statements, interviews of any witnesses before that committee.

Now we find that in fact we are told that we cannot adhere to what has been the policy of the Ethics Committee from its inception on a bipartisan basis to deliver to this Congress and to the people of this country a report on ethical charges by any Member against any other Member, by members of the public against Members, an unbiased report.

The problem that we have today is the problem that we had in 1988. Again, that problem was recognized by Speaker GINGRICH when he stated that it was simply untenable for the American public to believe and for Members of this House to believe that we could have a free and open and fair investigation of the most powerful Member of this House, the Speaker of theHouse of Representatives, by the Ethics Committee, and there should be in place at all times a free and fair investigation by an independent and special counsel.

SITUATION IN IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of theHouse, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. WELDON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to continue the dialog that we started before theHouse went into special orders regarding the current situation in Iraq.

As a senior member of Committee on National Security and chairman of Subcommittee on Military Research and Development, I take great pride in supporting our troops in all possible ways. I supported the President when he initially went in to take action in Iraq because I had an idea of what was occurring. In fact, I sat through a briefing a week ago that, I might add, was attended by less than 100 of my colleagues, where we were briefed by the State Department and the military on what was happening. Unfortunately, the briefing, which was closed, did not tell me much more than that as reported by CNN and the national news media.

My concern is right now, Mr. Speaker, that we are reading reports that the President, in his position as Commander in Chief, is now escalating that. First, we have seen additional shots of cruise missiles. Now we are hearing that F-117's are being transferred to the theater. We are hearing that those F-117's may be based in Kuwait, partly because the Saudis are saying they do not want to have them