

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## FIGHTING DRUGS IS THE ANSWER TO MORE THAN ONE QUESTION

**HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 3, 1995*

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, drug abuse takes an enormous toll on our society. We spend billions of dollars on tangible ways to fight abuse like police, prisons, and courts. The problems is many don't recognize the other areas where drugs attack the fabric of this country. Rather than only affecting the individual, drug abuse has widespread and damaging repercussions. Today, 1 out of every 10 babies born in our country is addicted to drugs. According to the Partnership for a Drug Free America, drug use is related to half of all violent crime. Illegal drugs play a part in half of all homicides. Drug use is a factor in half of all family violence which is mostly directed against women. And over 30 percent of all child abuse cases involve a parent using illegal drugs. Obviously, drugs are playing an enormous part in the decline of our country. By aggressively allocating our resources to fight drug use, we show our commitment to mending many of this country's ills. This excellent article from the January 29, 1995 issue of the New York Times Magazine recommends several prescriptions.

[From the New York Times Magazine, Jan. 29, 1995]

### IT'S DRUGS, STUPID

(By Joseph A. Califano, Jr.)

Despite all the Republican preening and Democratic pouting since Nov. 8, neither political party gets it. If Speaker Newt Gingrich is serious about delivering results from his party's "Contract With America" and if President Clinton means to revive his Presidency, each can start by recognizing how fundamentally drugs have changed society's problems and that together they can transform Government's response.

For 30 years, America has tried to curb crime with more judges, tougher punishments and bigger prisons. We have tried to rein in health costs by manipulating payments to doctors and hospitals. We've fought poverty with welfare systems that offer little incentive to work. All the while, we have undermined these efforts with our personal and national denial about the sinister dimension drug abuse and addiction have added to our society. If Gingrich and Clinton want to prove to us that they can make a difference in what really ails America, they should "get real" about how drugs have recast three of the nation's biggest challenges.

Law, Order and Justice. In 1960 there were fewer than 30,000 arrests for drug offenses; in 30 years, that number soared beyond one million. Since 1989, more individuals have been incarcerated for drug offenses than for all violent crimes—and most violent crimes are committed by drug (including alcohol) abusers.

Probation and parole are sick jokes in most cities. As essential first steps to rehabilitation, many parolees need drug treatment and after-care, which means far more

monitoring than their drug-free predecessors of a generation ago required, not less. Yet in Los Angeles, for example, probation officers are expected to handle as many as 1,000 cases at a time. With most offenders committing drug- or alcohol-related crimes, it's no wonder so many parolees go right back to jail: 80 percent of prisoners have prior convictions and more than 60 percent have served time before.

Congress and state legislatures keep passing laws more relevant to the celluloid gangsters and inmates of classic 1930's movies than 1990's reality. Today's prisons are wall to wall with drug dealers, addicts, alcohol abusers and the mentally ill (often related to drug abuse). The prison population shot past a million in 1994 and is likely to double soon after the year 2000. Among industrialized nations, the United States is second only to Russia in the number of its citizens it imprisons: 519 per 100,000, compared with 368 for next-place South Africa, 116 for Canada and 36 for Japan.

Judges and prosecutors are demoralized as they juggle caseloads of more than twice the recommended maximum. In 1991 eight states had to close their civil jury trial systems for all or part of the year to comply with speedy trial requirements of criminal cases involving drug abusers. Even where civil courts remain open, the rush of drug-related cases has created intolerable delays—4 years in Newark, 5 in Philadelphia and up to 10 in Cook County, Ill. In our impersonal, bureaucratic world, if society keeps denying citizens timely, individual hearings for their grievances, they may blow off angry steam in destructive ways.

Health Care Cost Containment. Emergency rooms from Boston to Baton Rouge are piled high with the debris of drug use on city streets—victims of gunshot wounds, drug-prompted child and spouse abuse, and drug-related medical conditions like cardiac complications and sexually transmitted diseases. AIDS and tuberculosis have spread rapidly in large part because of drug use. Beyond dirty needles, studies show that teen-agers high on pot, alcohol or other drugs are far more likely to have sex, and to have it without a condom.

Each year drugs and alcohol trigger up to \$75 billion in health care costs. The cruelest impact afflicts the half-million newborns exposed to drugs during pregnancy. Crack babies, a rarity a decade ago, crowd \$2,000-a-day neonatal wards. Many die. It can cost \$1 million to bring each survivor to adulthood.

Even where prenatal care is available—as it is for most Medicaid beneficiaries—women on drugs tend not to take advantage, of it. And as for drug treatment, only a relatively small percentage of drug-abusing pregnant mothers seek it, and they must often wait in line for scarce slots. Pregnant mothers' failure to seek prenatal care and stop abusing drugs accounts for much of the almost \$3 billion that Medicaid spend in 1994 on inpatient hospital care related to drug use.

The Fight Against Poverty. Drugs have changed the nature of poverty. Nowhere is this more glaring than in the welfare systems and the persistent problem of teen-age pregnancy.

Speaker Gingrich and President Clinton are hell-bent to put welfare mothers to work. But all the financial lures and prods and all the job training in the world will do precious little to make employable the hundreds of

thousands of welfare recipients who are addicts and abusers.

For too long, reformers have had their heads in the sand about this unpleasant reality. Liberals fear that admitting the extent of alcohol and drug abuse among welfare recipients will incite even more punitive reactions than those now fashionable. Conservatives don't want to face up to the cost of drug treatment. This political denial assures failure of any effort to put these welfare recipients to work.

The future is not legalization. Legalizing drug use would write off millions of minority Americans, especially children and drug-exposed babies, whose communities are most under siege by drugs. It has not worked in any nation where it's been tried, and our own experience with alcohol and cigarettes shows how unlikely we are to keep legalized drugs away from children.

Drugs are the greatest threat to family stability, decent housing, public schools and even minimal social amenities in urban ghettos. Contrary to the claim of pot proponents, marijuana is dangerous. It devastates short-term memory and the ability to concentrate precisely when our children need them most—when they are in school. And a child 12 to 17 years old who smokes pot is 85 times as likely to use cocaine as a child who does not. Cocaine is much more addictive than alcohol, which has already hooked more than 18 million Americans. Dr. Herbert D. Kleber, a top drug expert, estimates that legalizing cocaine would give us at least 20 million addicts, more than 10 times the number today.

It's especially reckless to promote legalization when we have not committed research funds and energies to addiction prevention and treatment on a scale commensurate with the epidemic. The National Institutes of Health spend some \$4 billion for research on cancer, cardiovascular disease and AIDS, but less than 15 percent of the amount for research on substance abuse and addiction, the largest single cause and exacerbator of those diseases.

Treatment varies widely, from inpatient to outpatient, from quick-fix acupuncture to residential programs ranging a few weeks to more than a year, from methadone dependence to drug-free therapeutic communities. Fewer than 25 percent of the individuals who need drug or alcohol treatment enter a program. On average, a quarter complete treatment; half of them are drug- or alcohol-free a year later. In other words, with wide variations depending on individual circumstances, those entering programs have a one-in-eight chance of being free of drugs or alcohol a year later. Those odds beat many for long-shot cancer chemotherapies, and research should significantly improve them. But a recent study in California found that even at current rates of success, \$1 invested in treatment saves \$7 in crime, health care and welfare costs.

Here are a few suggestions for immediate action to attack the dimension drugs have added to these three problems:

Grant Federal funds to state and Federal prison systems only if they provide drug and alcohol treatment and after-care for all inmates who need it.

Instead of across-the-board mandatory sentences, keep inmates with drug and alcohol

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

problems in jails, boot camps or halfway houses until they experience a year of sobriety after treatment.

Require drug and alcohol addicts to go regularly to treatment and after-care programs like Alcoholics Anonymous while on parole or probation.

Provide Federal funds for police only to cities that enforce drug laws throughout their jurisdiction. End the acceptance of drug bazaars in Harlem and southeast Washington that would not be tolerated on Manhattan's Upper East Side or in Georgetown.

Encourage judges with lots of drug cases to employ public health professionals just as they hire economists to assist with antitrust cases.

Cut off welfare payments to drug addicts and alcoholics who refuse to seek treatment and pursue after-care. As employers and health professionals know, addicts need lots of carrots and sticks, including the threat of loss of job and income, to get the monkey off their back.

Put children of drug- or alcohol-addicted welfare mothers who refuse treatment into foster care or orphanages. Speaker Gingrich and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton have done the nation a disservice by playing all-or-nothing politics with this issue. The compassionate and cost-effective middle ground is to identify those parents who abuse their children by their own drug and alcohol abuse and place those children in decent orphanages and foster care until the parents shape up.

Subject inmates, parolees and welfare recipients with a history of substance abuse to random drug tests, and fund the treatment they need. Liberals must recognize that getting off drugs is the only chance these individuals (and their babies) have to enjoy their civil rights. Conservatives who preach an end to criminal recidivism and welfare dependency must recognize that reincarceration and removal from the welfare rolls for those who test positive is a cruel Catch-22 unless treatment is available.

Fortunately, the new Congress and the new Clinton are certain not to legalize drugs. Unfortunately, it is less clear whether they will recognize the nasty new strain of intractability that drugs have added to crime, health costs and welfare dependency, and go on to tap the potential of research, prevention and treatment to save billions of dollars and millions of lives.

If a mainstream disease like diabetes or cancer affected as many individuals and families as drug and alcohol abuse and addiction do, this nation would mount an effort on the scale of the Manhattan Project to deal with it.

(Joseph A. Califano Jr. is president of the Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University and former Secretary of Health Education and Welfare. His book "Radical Surgery: What's Next for America's Health Care" was published this month.)

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. BENNETT  
FISCHTHAL FOR HIS BRAVERY  
AND COURAGE

**HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 3, 1995*

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pride to share with my colleagues in the House of Representatives the inspiring story of a man who has proven to be an extremely courageous citizen.

Mr. Bennett Fischthal, a graduate of Brooklyn Law School, was returning from a bar re-

view course when he encountered a large fire in the subway station. Bennett did what he does naturally: he came to the assistance of people in crisis. Bennett did not run for safety or worry about his own physical well-being, he stopped and helped the passengers in the subway get to safety.

Bennett responded valiantly to this emergency and has won the praise and the respect of his community. For these actions we cannot express sufficient gratitude to Bennett, an individual who recognizes that the preservation of life and property is a massive responsibility. He made that responsibility his own by coming to the aid of the subway passengers in peril.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me now to salute Bennett Fischthal because he has exhibited the ultimate commitment by caring and working so diligently for the safety of others.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. STEVE LARGENT**

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 3, 1995*

Mr. LARGENT. Mr. Speaker, as part of my induction into the NFL Hall of Fame, the National Football League requires that I be available for all promotional events. On Sunday, February 5, 1995, I must attend a half-time promotional event at the Pro-Bowl in Honolulu, HI. Due to travel constraints, I was forced to leave Washington on the morning of Friday, February 3, 1995, to attend related events on Saturday and Sunday.

If I had been present for the following votes on Friday, February 3, 1995, I would have voted as follows:

Spratt amendment—"No"; adding tax incentives to the list of provisions the President may rescind.

Wise substitute amendment—"No"; requiring approval, rather than disapproval, from both Houses of Congress before any rescission takes effect, effectively turning the bill into an expedited rescissions proposal.

A TRIBUTE TO JEAN GILLIGAN

**HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 3, 1995*

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of the House the retirement of a remarkable woman, Jean W. Gilligan, who has now retired after 45 years service as a congressional staffer.

Jean came to Capitol Hill from South Dakota in 1949 and began her career as secretary to Representative Gardner Withrow of Wisconsin. She then became the administrative assistant to Representative Vernon Thomson of Wisconsin from 1961 to 1974. Jean then served on the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service from 1975 to 1994 under four ranking Republican Members: Representatives Edward Derwinski of Illinois, Gene Taylor of Missouri, BENJAMIN GILMAN of New York, and JOHN MYERS of Indiana.

Last night Mr. Speaker, the Congressional Staff Club [CSC] honored Jean W. Gilligan at

its annual membership party where she was lauded by friends, colleagues, and CSC members. Jean was the primary force in developing the club into a vital entity for staff members. She served as second vice president of the club in 1965, first vice president in 1966 and president in 1967 and 1993. She was one of the founders of the mixed ten pin bowling league and served as its secretary, vice president and president. The Congressional Staff Club honored Jean by awarding her a life membership in 1977.

There is no doubt that Jean will be greatly missed on Capitol Hill by hundreds of staff members who consider her a colleague par excellence, a friend and a mentor. I, too, will miss you, Jean.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Jean on her dedicated service and wish her a long, healthy, and active retirement.

COMMEMORATION OF THE 77TH  
ANNIVERSARY OF LITHUANIAN  
INDEPENDENCE

**HON. DAVID E. BONIOR**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 3, 1995*

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 77th anniversary of Lithuanian independence. On Sunday, February 5, 1995, the Detroit-area Lithuanian community will mark the event by holding a commemorative ceremony at the Lithuanian Cultural Center in Southfield, MI.

Lithuania was occupied for nearly 55 years. During that time, Lithuanian representation in the United States was uninterrupted. For those many difficult years, the United States never recognized Lithuania's forced incorporation into the former U.S.S.R.

In 1991, the United States granted most-favored-nation trading status to the Baltic Republic of Lithuania. Since that time, trade with Western countries has risen from less than 8 percent of the total to over 24 percent. In addition, the spread of private sector activity is creating jobs and boosting consumer spending. I understand that the introduction of a stable currency a year and a half ago is stimulating investment. And, there are now over 55,000 privately owned companies in Lithuania. The transition from an occupied nation to a free country has been challenging, but it is a challenge that Lithuanians proudly face.

The Lithuanian community is especially excited to have as their guest speaker, Arturas Paulauskas, Esq., the current attorney general of Lithuania. Mr. Paulauskas has devoted his energies to combating corruption and economic crime. Along with Lithuanians in American and the homeland, I support him in his work to promote a prosperous future for all Lithuania.

I am watching events in Lithuania with much optimism. This weekend's celebration marks the second anniversary without Russian military forces deployed inside the Republic. We must all work to see that they never return.

I commend the Lithuanian-American community for their vigilance through the many difficult years and I urge my colleagues to join me in commemorating the 77th anniversary of Lithuanian independence.