

LEGISLATION TO AMEND THE
COMPREHENSIVE ENVIRON-
MENTAL RESPONSE, COMPEN-
SATION, AND LIABILITY ACT OF
1980

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN
OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 18, 1995

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to amend the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 [CERCLA]. My bill would remove the authority for contracting oversight from the purview of the Environmental Protection Agency and place it solely under the jurisdiction of the Army Corp of Engineers.

Mr. Speaker, this change makes sense given the expertise of each agency. The Army Corp of Engineers is far better suited to handle contracting work and oversight of construction of the design and remedy at a Superfund site than the more technical, environmental orientation of the EPA.

The reason why I am introducing this legislation today is in direct response to an incident that recently happened in my district during an already lengthy and tumultuous cleanup. Hopefully, passage of this legislation will prevent future situations, such as the one I am about to describe, from happening again in the future.

The asbestos dump site in Millington, NJ, is comprised of two residential farms and part of the Great Swamp National Wildlife Reserve. It contains large amounts of asbestos that was dumped on the property. On one of these two residential sites, the homeowners—a family of five—were involved in a lengthy cleanup with the EPA and had been relocated several times, for months at the time. The EPA had contracted out for the construction of the design and the contractor then hired a subcontractor, with a less than perfect track history, to complete construction of the design.

The EPA subcontractors, instead of bringing in clean fill to top the asbestos on the family's property, brought in contaminated soil from another site. This horrendous mistake has added additional years to cleanup and the family's nightmare.

Mr. Speaker, again, I believe that the Army Corp of Engineers is far better equipped to handle the details of the physical cleanup of these Superfund sites, and to oversee more effectively contracting work. At many sites, such a mistake would add only years and costs to taxpayers for cleanup. In this case, it added not only time and money, but additional grief for a family wanting only to have their home and property cleaned up to a livable standard. I believe that my bill would prevent more situations like these and improve the efficiency of site cleanups.

TRIBUTE TO JIM MILLS'S 40
YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE MID-
DLETOWN COMMUNITY

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 18, 1995

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, for 40 years, Jim Mills has served the Middletown area

through his local reporting and editorial writing at the Middletown Journal. Jim began his career at the Journal in 1955 starting off as a reporter covering local government. In 1957, he was appointed Sunday editor and moved to city editor in 1960. From 1972 until 1981 Jim was the managing editor of the paper. Ultimately, in 1981, he headed the newsroom and retained the title managing editor.

Jim and Middletown, OH, have seen many important news stories over the last four decades. Some of the local highlights include the growth and restructuring of Armcoc to its present organization as AK Steel, creation of the City Centre Mall and redevelopment of the downtown area, state championships for area high schools, and the change Middletown and its business community have undergone.

Jim and the Middletown Journal staff were always conscientious to bring the local angle to national news items ranging from the John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King, and Robert Kennedy assassinations, the Vietnam War, the Iranian hostage crisis, Desert Storm, and the explosion of the Space Shuttle Challenger.

Jim has received several awards for his dedication and continuous service. Among them are an award from the Associated Press Society of Ohio for exemplary service to news-gathering business and his assistance to the Xenia Daily Gazette publish and report the news when its offices were destroyed in a 1974 tornado. For coverage of the devastation the Gazette won a Pulitzer Prize.

During the past four decades, Jim has worked with hundreds of reporters and local officials. The join me in saluting Jim for his work and wishing him the best in his retirement.

DRUG LEGALIZATION

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 18, 1995

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to address an issue about a subject which continues to get favorable treatment from our friends in the media. That issue is drug legalization.

Those who support legalization would have us believe that we ought to decriminalize drugs because we have lost the war on drugs. We are not losing this war. The truth is that during the Reagan/Bush years drug use dropped, from 24 million in 1979 to 11 million in 1992. Unfortunately, those hard fought gains have been wasted.

Under President Clinton's watch, this trend has been reversed and drug use is again increasing. The only lasting legacy of the Clinton Presidency will be a dramatic increase in the use of illegal drugs and the consequences of escalating violence and misery associated with it.

As a country, we have never really waged an all out war on drugs. It is now time we declared such a war and I am pleased the Speaker is talking about altering the rules of engagement. We should start this campaign by passing some of the anti-drug legislation which I have introduced.

And although I have been criticized by libertarian organizations for my position, I still do not believe the organizations whose primary

purpose is to promote the use of illegal drugs should operate under a tax free status.

The fathers and mothers in this country who struggle to make ends meet and to raise their children drug free, are paying extra taxes to subsidize the Drug Policy Foundation and their unshaven friends at NORML. These groups are spending millions of dollars in an effort to make dangerous drugs more available to kids. This is wrong.

Drug use is already on the rise. In fact one third of all high school kids are now smoking marijuana. Listen to what the Partnership for a Drug Free America says about teenagers' views on drugs: "Most recent trends among teens indicate a reversal in the attitudes that distinguish non-users from users—perception of risk and social disapproval—and the consequences are an increase in the use of marijuana, LSD, and cocaine."

Fortunately, even this Administration is now opposed to legalizing drugs. In a recent speech entitled "Why the U.S. Will Never Legalize Drugs", former drug czar, Lee Brown, called drug legalization the moral equivalent of genocide.

Listen carefully to his words:

When we look at the plight of many of our youth today, especially African American males, I do not think it is an exaggeration to say that legalizing drugs would be the moral equivalent of genocide. Legalizing addictive, mind altering drugs is an invitation to disaster for communities that are already under seige. Making drugs more readily available would only propel more individuals into a life of crime and violence. Contrary to what the legalization proponents say, profit is not the only reason for the high rates of violence associated with the drug trade . . . drugs are illegal because they are harmful—to both body and mind. Those who can least afford further hardship in their lives would be much worse off if drugs were legalized.

According to Lee Brown, legalization would create three times as many drug users and addicts in this country. And what does this translate into for future generations? It means hundreds of thousands of additional newborns addicted to drugs.

According to the Partnership for a Drug Free America, one out of every ten babies in the U.S. is born addicted to drugs. I guess the advocates of legalization must not think this percentage is high enough!

I challenge anyone in this chamber to go down the street and tell the nurses at D.C. General, who care for these children, that we need to legalize drugs. You will end up with a black eye! And here is another shocking fact * * * today in America over 11 percent of pregnant women use an illegal drug during pregnancy, including heroin, PCP, marijuana, and most commonly, crack cocaine. A sure-fire way to worsen this problem would be to legalize drugs. According to a recent University of Michigan study of 50,000 high school students, drug use is up in all grades. Drug use is up among all students for crack, cocaine, heroin, stimulants, LSD, and marijuana.

Increased drug use also contributes to domestic violence. In fact, drug use is a factor in