

without using drugs, then you are probably not going to be addicted.

The latest results from the Drug Abuse Warning Network shows that marijuana-related episodes jumped 39 percent and are running at 155 percent above the 1990 level. Another frightening figure is that between February 1993 and February 1995, the retail price of a gram of cocaine fell from \$172 to \$137 and a gram of heroin also fell from \$2,032 to \$1,278, which means it is going to be more accessible and readily available because it costs less. The number of defendants prosecuted for violations of the Federal drug laws has dropped from 25,033 in 1992 to 22,926 in 1995.

So it seems to me that we have a very serious problem on our hands. It is not a partisan issue. It is not politics at all, as far as I know. So I hope my colleagues will have an opportunity here.

I ask unanimous consent that the resolution and the letter I sent Attorney General Reno be printed in the RECORD, which I send to the desk.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

SENSE-OF-THE-SENATE RESOLUTION ON THE ADMINISTRATION'S PRACTICE REGARDING THE PROSECUTION OF DRUG SMUGGLERS

Whereas, drugs use is devastating to the nation, particularly among juveniles, and has led juveniles to become involved in interstate gangs and to participate in violent crime;

Whereas, drug use has experienced a dramatic resurgence among our youth;

Whereas, the number of youths aged 12-17 using marijuana has increased from 1.6 million in 1992 to 2.9 million in 1994, and the category of "recent marijuana use" increased a staggering 200% among 14- to 15-year-olds over the same period;

Whereas, since 1992, there has been a 52% jump in the number of high school seniors using drugs on a monthly basis, even as worrisome declines are noted in peer disapproval of drug use;

Whereas, 1 in 3 high school students use marijuana;

Whereas, 12- to 17-year-olds who use marijuana are 85% more likely to graduate to cocaine than those who abstain from marijuana;

Whereas, juveniles who reach 21 without ever having used drugs almost never try them later in life;

Whereas, the latest results from the Drug Abuse Warning Network show that marijuana-related episodes jumped 39% and are running at 155% above the 1990 level, and that methamphetamine cases have risen 256% over the 1991 level;

Whereas, between February 1993 and February 1995 the retail price of a gram of cocaine fell from \$172 to \$137, and that of a gram of heroin also fell from \$2,032 to \$1,278;

Whereas, it has been reported that the Department of Justice, through the United States Attorney for the Southern District of California, has adopted a policy of allowing certain foreign drug smugglers to avoid prosecution altogether by being released to Mexico;

Whereas, it has been reported that in the past year approximately 2,300 suspected narcotics traffickers were taken into custody for bringing illegal drugs across the border, but approximately one in four were returned to their country of origin without being prosecuted;

Whereas, it has been reported that the U.S. Customs Service is operating under guidelines limiting any prosecution in marijuana cases to involving 125 pounds of marijuana or more;

Whereas, it has been reported that suspects possessing as much as 32 pounds of methamphetamine and 37,000 Quaalude tablets, were not prosecuted but were, instead, allowed to return to their countries of origin after their drugs and vehicles were confiscated;

Whereas, it has been reported that after a seizure of 158 pounds of cocaine, one defendant was cited and released because there was no room at the federal jail and charges against her were dropped;

Whereas, it has been reported that some smugglers have been caught two or more times—even in the same week—yet still were not prosecuted;

Whereas, the number of defendants prosecuted for violations of the federal drug laws has dropped from 25,033 in 1992 to 22,926 in 1995;

Whereas, the efforts of law enforcement officers deployed against drug smugglers are severely undermined by insufficiently vigorous prosecution policies of federal prosecutors;

Whereas, this Congress has increased the funding of the Federal Bureau of Prisons by 11.7% over the 1995 appropriations level;

Whereas, this Congress has increased the funding of the Immigration and Naturalization Service by 23.5% over the 1995 appropriations level: Therefore be it

Resolved, That it is the Sense of the Senate that the Attorney General promptly should investigate this matter and report, within 30 days, to the Chair of the Senate and House Committees on the Judiciary;

That the Attorney General should change the policy of the United States Attorney for the Southern District of California in order to ensure that cases involving the smuggling of drugs into the United States are vigorously prosecuted; and

That the Attorney General should direct all United States Attorneys vigorously to prosecute persons involved in the importation of illegal drugs into the United States.

U.S. SENATE,

OFFICE OF THE REPUBLICAN LEADER,

Washington, DC, May 13, 1996.

Hon. JANET RENO,

U.S. Department of Justice, 10th Street and Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, DC.

DEAR ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: I am writing to request your response to a disturbing Los Angeles Times story ("Drug Runners Arrested at Border Often Go Free," May 13, 1996) that suggests that U.S. Attorney Alan Bersin has adopted an official policy allowing some drug smugglers to return to Mexico without prosecution.

According to the Times article, officials at the U.S. Attorney's office "confirm that under a program quietly adopted two years ago, an increasing number of suspected traffickers have been sent back to Mexico without arrest or prosecution in either federal or state court" and "more than 1,000 smuggling suspects have been processed in this way since 1994." More specifically, the Times article reports that:

Two suspects with 32 pounds of methamphetamine, and another with 37,000 Quaalude tablets, were simply "excluded" from the United States after their drugs and vehicles were confiscated.

After a seizure of 158 pounds of cocaine, one defendant was cited and released because there was no room at the federal jail and the charges against her were dropped.

U.S. Customs Service records show that some drug smugglers have been apprehended

two or more times—even in the same week—and have not been jailed or prosecuted.

No prosecutorial action has been taken against a number of drug smugglers captured with more than 125 pounds of marijuana.

According to one Drug Enforcement Administration agent cited in the article, "there is virtually no risk [to smugglers] as long as they keep quantities down. First of all, the chances of getting caught are slim, and the chances of prosecution are almost zero if you get caught with a small quantity and if you're a Mexican national."

Attorney General Reno, my questions to you are simple ones: Is the Los Angeles Times story accurate? And if so, do the policies of the U.S. Attorney's office in Los Angeles represent the policies of the Justice Department and the Clinton Administration?

With teenage drug use on the rise here in the United States and with the ascendancy of Mexico as a major U.S. supplier of cocaine, marijuana, and methamphetamine, the American people would rightfully expect that we would be hard at work strengthening our fight against the Mexican drug trade, not weakening it, as the Los Angeles Times story suggests.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter. I have attached a copy of the full Los Angeles Times article for your review.

Sincerely,

BOB DOLE,

Senate Majority Leader.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I think so often of that November evening long ago, in 1972, when the television networks reported that I had won the Senate race in North Carolina. It was 9:17 in the evening and I recall how stunned I was.

I had never really anticipated that I would be the first Republican in history to be elected to the U.S. Senate by the people of North Carolina. When I got over that, I made a commitment to myself that I would never fail to see a young person, or a group of young people, who wanted to see me.

I have kept that commitment and it has proved enormously meaningful to me because I have been inspired by the estimated 60,000 young people with whom I have visited during the 23 years I have been in the Senate.

A large percentage of them are greatly concerned about the total Federal debt which back in February exceeded \$5 trillion for the first time in history. Congress created this monstrous debt which coming generations will have to pay.

Mr. President, the young people who visit with me almost always are inclined to discuss the fact that under the U.S. Constitution, no President can spend a dime of Federal money that has not first been authorized and appropriated by both the House and Senate of the United States.

That is why I began making these daily reports to the Senate on February 25, 1992. I decided that it was important that a daily record be made of the precise size of the Federal debt

which, at the close of business yesterday, Monday, May 13, 1996, stood at \$5,094,150,618,714.59. On a per capita basis, the existing Federal debt amounts to \$19,234.76 for every man, woman, and child in America on a per capita basis.

The increase in the national debt in the 24 hours since my report yesterday—which identified the total Federal debt as of close of business on Friday, May 10, 1996—shows an increase of more than \$1 billion—\$1,335,403,008.84, to be exact. That 1-day increase alone is enough to match the total amount needed to pay the college tuition for each of the 198,015 students for 4 years.

TRIBUTE TO CHUCK LOWE

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, America is a nation that has a fascination with pop culture, especially the movies and television, and individuals often form their opinions about issues based on what they see on screens in their living room or in a theater. Unfortunately, this practice often leads to misimpressions about the facts of life. Take for example organized crime. So often in movies and television shows, those who are involved in organized crime are depicted as sharp dressed and honorable men who simply choose to make their money and live their lives outside the law. One cannot help but have a romanticized and idealized notion of what it is like to be a wiseguy.

To those of us who understand and study such issues, we know that nothing could be further from the truth. The real faces of organized crime are the heartless killers and goons who put a stranglehold on trucking, rackets, and unions, they are not manicured, honorable men; they are the outlaw bikers who peddle methamphetamines and dabble in white slavery, they are not fun loving rebels who just want to ride motorcycles; they are the gangs from our cities' ghettos who wholesale crack and terrorize neighborhoods with their indiscriminate violence, they are not misunderstood youths; and, they are the "new mafias" from places such as Russia, Mexico, and Vietnam, men and women who prefer intimidation and criminal enterprise to hard work, unlike their honest immigrant peers who are fighting to realize the American dream. Organized crime is about as an ideal lifestyle as having a terminal disease, and it is just as deadly and destructive. Simply put, in a nation of laws, there is no room to tolerate organizations whose sole reason for existence is to commit crime and victimize hard working and honest Americans.

In the last 30 years, the Federal Government has begun to take the fight against organized crime right to the enemy's doorstep. Through statutes such as RICO, the allocation of resources dedicated to combating organized crime, and intensified cooperation between law enforcement agencies, we are making real progress in

subduing our Nation's criminal classes. Today, I want to take a moment to salute an individual who has devoted his life to this fight, Mr. Charles D. "Chuck" Lowe, who serves as the Director of the Regional Organized Crime Information Center.

Chuck Lowe began his career in law enforcement back in the late 1950's as a member of the U.S. Coast Guard's New York City Port Security Unit. In that position, he worked closely with the New York Police Department, the Customs Service, and the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Certainly it must have been his time fighting crime in the city that never sleeps where he found the career he loved and he learned the importance and effectiveness of cooperation between enforcement agencies. In the years following Chuck's enlistment in the Coast Guard, he served ably and capably with the Washington, DC, Metropolitan Police Department as a plainclothes detective, and then with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. During his 22-year career with BATF, Chuck was involved in a multitude of interesting and dangerous cases, he helped to protect the President, and he held a number of key leadership positions within that agency. His efforts as a Federal agent earned him numerous citations and recognitions, including awards for superior performance, case preparation, and training.

In 1988, Chuck left the BATF to join the Regional Organized Crime Information Center [ROCIC], an organization committed to collecting, evaluating, analyzing, and disseminating information concerning whitecollar career criminals, narcotics violators, gangs, and other violent offenders. As he had done in his previous assignments, Chuck immediately threw himself into his work, and it was a surprise to no one when he became the Director of ROCIC in 1991, only 3 short years after joining the organization.

Under his supervision, ROCIC has grown tremendously, more than tripling the number of agencies it serves, and it has greatly expanded the services it provides to its 1,157 members. His efforts to modernize ROCIC have improved morale at that agency, made it more efficient, and has given law enforcement officers a potent tool with which to coordinate their efforts against organized crime.

Mr. President, it is with regret that I report that Chuck Lowe has decided to hang up his badge and gun and retire from his distinguished career as a law enforcement leader. In his more than 30-year career as a cop, Chuck has contributed much to keeping our streets safe. We are proud of the work he has done and we wish him well in the years to come.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I come to the floor this afternoon to very briefly follow up on a rather lengthy

statement I made on May 3 regarding the present intellectual property rights dispute with the People's Republic of China. Since then, I have read a number of reports in the Chinese media regarding their view of the present situation which I feel bear examination and call for some response.

First, I am struck by the fact that the Chinese Government's position on its level of compliance with the IPR agreement appears to be somewhat schizophrenic. On the one hand, I have seen statements from both the Foreign Ministry and Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation stating, for example, that "the Chinese side has fully and conscientiously carried out its duties as stipulated in [the] Sino-U.S. IPR Agreement." On the other hand, I have also read statements from the same spokesmen for the same ministries tacitly acknowledging that China has not adhered to the letter of the agreement but falling back on the excuse that "demanding that a developing country such as China do a perfect job [in regards to enforcing the terms of the Agreement] within a short few years is not practical as well as unfair."

Well Mr. President, which is it? I, and most other observers I believe, would credit the latter as being closer to the truth. Starting from that premise, I would remind the Chinese that we are not asking that they do a perfect job of rooting out IPR piracy. We are simply asking that they adhere to an agreement that they signed; we are simply asking that they live up to their voluntarily assumed responsibilities. If, as the Chinese assert, it is unfair for us to assume that they can try to stem IPR piracy in only a few years, then why on Earth did they sign the agreement to do so in the first place? How can it be unfair to hold the Chinese to their own word?

It is sort of like two ranchers who sign a contract, one agreeing to buy 10 head of cattle from another. The buyer takes the 10 head, but gives the seller only one-third of the agreed-on payment. When the seller complains, the buyer says that it's unfair to blame him for not living up to the agreement in full because he doesn't have enough money to pay for all 10 head. Well, the buyer knew going into the deal that he couldn't live up to his side of the agreement, but went ahead in spite of that and signed it anyway. So who is the guilty party, Mr. President, certainly not the aggrieved seller.

Second, the Chinese have repeatedly stated that they are opposed to our imposition of sanctions because economic and trade disputes "should be settled through consultations in the spirit of mutual respect, equality, and mutual benefit." Well Mr. President, we have tried consultations, only to have the Chinese side continually promise adherence but fail to carry through. As the Chinese are so fond of saying, "deeds speak louder than words"; and their deeds clearly show that they are not living up to the agreement. We