PARLIAMENTARIAN STATUS REPORT—104TH CONGRESS 2D SESSION, HOUSE ON-BUDGET SUPPORTING DETAIL FOR FISCAL YEAR 1997, AS OF CLOSE OF BUSINESS SEPTEMBER 12, 1996—Continued

[In millions of dollars]

	Budget authority	Outlays	Revenues
Offsetting Receipts	−3	−3	
Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996 (P.L. 104–188)	−76	−76	579
An Act to Authorize Voluntary Separation Incentives at the A.I.D. (P.L. 104–190)	−1	−1	
Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act of 1996 (P.L. 104–191)	305	315	590
Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (P.L. 104–193)	10,080	9,702	60
Total enacted this session	63,370	55,579	1,214
PASSED PENDING SIGNATURE			
Military Construction Appropriations (H.R. 3517)	9,982	3,140	
Legislative Branch Appropriations (H.R. 3754)	2,166	1,917	
National Defense Authorization Act (H.R. 3230)	−102	−102	
Total passed pending signature	12,046	4,955	
APPROPRIATED ENTITLEMENTS AND MANDATORIES			
Budget resolution baseline estimates of appropriated entitlements and other mandatory programs not yet enacted	138,085	133,781	
Total Current Level [1]	856,941	1,037,292	1,101,569
Total Budget Resolution	1,314,785	1,311,171	1,083,728
Amount remaining:			
Under Budget Resolution	457,844	273,879	
Over Budget Resolution			−17,841

[1] In accordance with the Budget Enforcement Act, the total does not include $34 million in outlays for funding of emergencies that have been designated as such by the President and the Congress.

THE INCREASE IN ILLEGAL DRUG USE AMONG TEENAGERS IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. PORTMAN] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to take a few minutes to talk about the drug crisis in America, the problem we are faced with, some of the reasons for it, and at least one very good idea to address the problem.

I have devoted a lot of my time and my staff's time over the last year and a half on this issue, because I am convinced that our national leaders must take tangible steps to help communities across our country to send a clear and consistent message at every level that drugs are wrong and that they are dangerous. If we do not, I believe our society will be in real trouble.

It is not just about drug abuse, as I will explain later with the chart, because drug abuse impacts a whole host of other social problems we face in this country. I am actually encouraged by the recent press attention we see on this issue. This chart shows that in fact the headlines are starting to appear, people are starting to pay attention to the fact that we do, once again, have what is becoming a drug epidemic in this country. Though politics are certainly playing a role in it, I am glad the President is finally talking about this issue. I am glad that he has appointed a real leader, Gen. Barry McCaffrey, to be his new drug czar.

But so much more needs to be done. I have three children of my own. I know that what influences their decisions, what shapes their attitudes, is what my wife and I say, what we do, what their teachers tell them, what they hear in church, what they see on television, what they hear on the radio, what their friends tell them. We need to work together to fashion innovative solutions to this terrible drug problem in this country that will actually make a difference in the lives of my kids and all of our children.

This is why I have spent the last year and a half working with people in the field, those who have devoted literally decades to this issue, to reducing substance abuse, activists back home like Jackie Butler, Hope Taft, Tammy Sullivan; people at the State level, including my Governor, George Voinovich and his director of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services, Lucille Fleming; people at the national level like Jim Burke, Tom Hedrick, with the Partnership for a Drug Free America, Jim Koppel of CADCA, Bill Oliver, Doug Hall of PRIDE, and many others.

We have also spent a lot of time talking to kids and parents, teachers and coaches, religious leaders, business people, and many others about the problem at the local level, and what we should do about it.

Two clear things have emerged. First, national leadership is important. It is critical. It keeps the issue on the agenda, it keeps it in the media, as we see here, and helps send a clear and consistent message that has a direct impact on the use of drugs.

The research could not be clearer on this issue. As important as national leadership, of course, is sustained national leadership, not on again-off again.

The second thing we have learned is that leadership must recognize that this problem is probably best addressed at the community level, at the local level. We need everyone who influences the decision of a child to be involved: The parents, the coaches, the teachers, our President, Members of Congress, community leaders, kids themselves. Until we understand that leadership has to be used to mobilize at each of these levels, I do not think we will ever adequately address the problem.

Mr. Speaker, the community anti-drug coalition initiative that we have started here in the Congress, that has been spreading around the country for the last few years, is one attempt to bring sustained national leadership where we will have the most impact.

Alex de Tocqueville, when he visited this country over a century ago, he tried to describe America to people in Europe. One thing he said was, ''All of the efforts and resources of the citizens'', the citizens of America, ''are turned to the eternal well-being of the community.''

I think that is a pretty good observation. I think it continues to be true today, the recognition that people's energies are often devoted primarily at their neighborhoods and at their communities, where they feel they can have the most direct impact. I think that tells us a lot where we as Members of Congress ought to be devoting some of our energies, at the community level.

Drugs are a serious concern among all Americans. If you look at the most recent Gallup Poll results, or you look at the most recent Wall Street Journal NBC Poll, it is clear drugs and crimes are the number one issue most Americans believe we must address. It is also interesting when you ask parents what the most serious problem is facing our youth, they say drug abuse.

As interesting, when you ask kids themselves, when you ask our young people, what is the most serious concern you face, and this is teenagers, they do not say it is getting a job, they do not say it is their education. What do they say? Drugs. So kids themselves and their parents have recognized that. Frankly, I think they are far out in front of their elected leaders.

Just how big is this problem? to try to put it in some perspective, I will say that in just over a generation, the use of illegal drugs in this country has increased 40-fold, 40-fold. It is a huge problem. As I said earlier, it is not just about drug abuse, because drug abuse affects so many other things in this country.

Let me give the Members just a few examples on this chart. Crime and violence; over half of the violent crime

committed in America today is directly related to illegal drug use. School dropouts; kids that use drugs are 2 to 5 times more likely to drop out of school. Health care costs; fully a quarter of our trillion dollar health care cost in this country is directly related to substance abuse. More than half of the new HIV cases are illegal drug related. Spousal and child abuse; again, data will show us that about half of the family abuse in this country is directly related to substance abuse.

Finally, productivity. Yes, it affects American businesses. Because of absenteeism, increased medical claims, businesses in America take a $60 billion hit every year, $60 billion, just because of illegal drugs. If you add alcohol abuse to that, it is another $80 billion a year.

□ 1545

This is an issue that affects all of us.

This next chart I want to show is actually a hopeful one because it shows that we are not powerless to solve this problem. In fact, from 1979 until 1992, we saw a substantial decrease in the use of drugs. This chart will show that, among teenagers, we saw over a 70-percent decrease during that period.

Folks love to ridicule the Just Say No campaign. This is when it was in its heyday. It works. It works in concert with a lot of other things. A clear and consistent message from the White House on down is effective in reducing drug abuse.

The chart also shows, of course, that since 1992, there has been a sharp increase. Unfortunately, everything we know leads us to believe that that line, if anything, is increasing even more sharply. The tragedy is that it is among our younger and younger kids, too.

We have found, particularly with regard to marijuana use, the most dramatic increases are among our young people. Look at this. Among 8th graders, we see a 167-percent increase from 1991 to 1995. That means in a typical 8th grade class in America, 25 kids, 5 of them in the 8th grade have used marijuana.

All of the other drugs are also increasing, whether it is inhalants, whether it is stimulants, and here is a chart on stimulants which would be cocaine, amphetamines, methamphetamine. Look at these increases, 8th, 10th and 12th graders, the use of cocaine and other stimulants.

Some people who grew up in the 1960's might say, ''Well, what's the big deal about some of these drugs increasing?'' Well, look at this. LSD is now at record levels. This is record levels of LSD used in this country, again, 8th, 10th and 12th graders.

Some people will say, ''Marijuana is not that big a deal. Yes, these other drugs concern me.'' Well, marijuana today is about 2 to 5 times stronger than it was back in the 1970's. Also, we know a lot more today about marijuana. We know, for example, that marijuana does in fact impair judgment, it does impair learning, it does keep kids from reaching their potential. It is also a powerful gateway to other drugs.

So you might ask, there is the problem; why is it occurring? Well, it is a complicated issue in some respects, but in other ways, it is not at all. This is very good research, well documented by the University of Michigan. Lloyd Johnson, every year with Monitoring the Future, does this study and it is widely accepted in the field as being very accurate and helpful. What does it show?

It shows, among other things, that drug use is not related so much to how much somebody makes, how much their parents make, what their race is, where they live, suburbs or urban areas. What it really relates to is their attitudes about drugs.

Look at the incredible correlation here between social disapproval, a sense that a teenager has of social disapproval and the use of drugs. As disapproval goes up, and you can see, between 1979 and 1992, it did go up, the sense of disapproval, use goes down dramatically. As the sense of social disapproval goes down, what happens? Use shoots up.

It is about attitudes. It is about society sending kids the right message, that it is not OK to use drugs.

The other important factor, other than the sense of social disapproval, is the sense of risk. Not only is it wrong to use drugs, it is harmful. When kids are told that, again use is reduced dramatically.

Look at this chart. This shows the sense out there that there is a risk, a danger in using drugs. Again between 1979 and 1992, we see an increase in the sense of risk, the perception of risk. At the same time, what happens to use? It goes down dramatically. When that sense of risk or danger begins to go down after 1992, again what do we see? Use shooting up.

It is a question of attitudes.

I think we know enough about it now to know that we have got to get to kids and get this message to them clearly, again at every level, from the White House right down to our communities.

The next question I often get asked back home is, Well, why are these anti-drug attitudes weakening? What is going on out there?

The first thing I would say is that opinion leaders from the White House on down, including the U.S. Congress, have not until very recently been speaking out on this issue. There has also been declining media attention. This can be shown quantitatively.

In 1989, during the height of the so-called drug war, there were over 500 network news stories, not public service announcements—news stories—on the drug issue and the drug problem in this country. Over the last 4 years, there have been on average fewer than 100 stories. As public opinion leaders speak out, there is more media attention, and that is important to changing those attitudes we talked about earlier, baby boomer parents being conflicted. We talked about people's attitudes toward marijuana. We saw last week with the results from the CASA survey, Joe Califano's group, that in fact a lot of parents who used drugs are conflicted about whether their kids are going to use drugs or not. The expectations, in fact, are very low for their kids. As long as that is true, parents are not doing their job.

Finally, more pro-drug information out there, including reglamorization, whether it is MTV, whether it is Hollywood, whether it is our rock stars, our sports figures. We have seen a lot more reglamorization of drugs.

Finally, legalization discussion, whether it is Jocelyn Elders or whether it is Bill Buckley, that has an impact on kids.

How do we go about reversing this trend? How do we go about changing our policies and actually making a difference in the lives of our kids? Here are the four traditional approaches that we have taken: interdiction, criminal justice, treatment, and prevention.

At the Federal level, just to put this in some perspective, we spend about $1.5 billion a year on interdiction. In our criminal justice system for incarcerating and prosecuting drug offenders, we spend about $6.5 billion; treatment, about $2.6 billion; and prevention and education, about $1.4 billion.

In my view, we need to do all of these things. We need to increase interdiction, we need to lock up drug criminals, we need to increase treatment. But I think most of our effort should be devoted toward improving the education and the prevention side of this, because, again, it is a matter of attitudes. That is where I think we can get the most bang for the buck, frankly.

We need all of the other things, including a tough criminal justice system, but in my view, until we go back to the grassroots, go back to the community level and deal with this in terms of prevention and education, we will not ultimately be successful.

The idea I have is to do these community coalitions around the country. Let me give you a great story. This is about the Miami coalition. At one time Miami had the worst drug problem in America. In fact, Miami's drug rates were the highest, I think, among the top six cities in America. Once their coalition got going and they attacked it on a concerted basis, Miami's drug problem decreased significantly, so much so that by 1994, Miami not only saw its drug use going down dramatically, it was significantly less than the national average.

Community coalitions work. There are now several thousand community coalitions around the country. In our case, in greater Cincinnati, we have brought together business leaders; the media, very important; the faith community, nothing is more effective in

my view, especially in terms of prevention, than faith-based prevention programs; parents, of course, which is a critical part we talked about before; youth themselves; law enforcement.

No one is more eager to attack this problem than our law enforcement. No one is more frustrated. Our educators, teachers, coaches and so on, people who have been at this for a long time at the grassroots, and of course again national and State help which we have had.

Our mission in Cincinnati is quite simple. It is, to develop and implement a comprehensive. long-term strategy to reduce and treat substance abuse one person at a time.

I would like to focus on three points in there. One is comprehensive, another is long-term; this is not going to be solved overnight. And finally one person at a time. This is not a Washington ''one size fits all,'' top-down solution. This is trying to affect again all of those decisions that our kids make by affecting the various people that influence them.

In Cincinnati, we have divided our work into five task forces. One is the media task force. We now have one of the most aggressive antidrug media campaigns in the country. All of our major TV stations, all of our radio stations are playing public service announcements, talking about the issue.

We have done some local radio spots, as an example, with a rock and roll band, a local band that kids know, and that has the ability, I think, to get to kids a lot better than having parents or adults talking to them.

The workplace task force: Here for the first time ever, we have got health insurance companies being able and willing to offer discounts to companies that offer drug-free workplace plans.

Why is this so important? Well, most people who abuse drugs go to work every day. Second, that is where the parents are. So if we can get companies, particularly smaller companies and mid-size companies that up to now do not have a drug-free workplace plan in place, to do that, we will be able to affect this problem.

Why should insurance companies give a discount? Because it is a bottom line concern. It actually is in their interest to give a discount. Because if you have a drug-free workplace, you are going to have fewer accidents, fewer medical claims. We have convinced, again, major health care providers in our area to do that, and I think that can be done around the country.

We also have convinced our Bureau of Workers Compensation, an entity that is not looked upon with favor by a lot of our small businesses, to offer the same kinds of discounts to companies that, again, have drug-free workplace plans. We are working with these companies to develop these plans and giving them a bottom line incentive to do so.

It works. One quick story on that. One of the members of our coalition recently put a drug-free workplace program in place which included drug testing, and one day a young man came to his office, sat down and said, ''I understand there's going to be random drug testing as part of this program.'' And the manager said, ''Yes, there will.''

He said, ''Well, I would like to tell you something,'' and the man broke down. He said, ''I'm a cocaine addict, have been for over a decade. I have had six different jobs. I have been able to hide it at every one of those places where I have worked. You're now giving me the opportunity to come forward.''

That manager did not fire the guy. He got the guy in a treatment program. The guy is now more productive at work, of course, but much more importantly, his life has been changed in a fundamental way.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. PORTMAN. I yield to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. You talk about the drug-free workplace. I would like to make a couple of comments about that, if I may, because it started in my area back in the 1980's. It was very involved with Tropicana. I said, ''We have a drug problem.''

So they developed a program with the Florida Chamber of Commerce, with the Manatee Chamber of Commerce and developed a program that small businesses could do that. I am a small businessman. I put it into all my businesses, and I pretest for drugs.

It was an amazing thing. When Tropicana put a sign at their entrance to their employment office saying, Don't apply unless you are willing to be tested for drugs, they would have people walk to the door, see the sign, make a U-turn and leave.

Nowadays you have a sign that says, ''If you don't want to be tested for drugs, don't apply here, go to the White House and apply,'' something like that. It is a dramatic change, especially for small businesses. So if a big business can make it available through their local chambers, because the question is getting the money and finding the facilities to have the testing done. That is what a task force can do.

We did it successfully many years ago back in Florida. It took our biggest employer, Tropicana, to take that lead. They made a contribution, put a part-time person on our staff at our Manatee Chamber, gave the Florida Chamber a $100,000 grant to help other chambers around.

That is what a group can do to help business. Because if you stop people from getting a job because of drugs, it starts sending that message to everybody.

Mr. PORTMAN. It sends a strong signal. In our area, Procter & Gamble has taken the lead in helping our smaller and mid-size companies because they have the resources, the staff, the expertise to help these smaller businesses. But imagine what would happen if across America, health care insurers were to say to those small- and mid-size companies, we will give you a discount, say 5 percent, on your health care if you have a drug-free workplace plan in place. Of if the Bureau of Workers' Comp in Florida, I think Florida is not yet there but perhaps you are working on it, that that too will help to get these companies to do so and will help to solve this problem.

Let me just finish with the final two task forces, then I would like to open it up to some of my colleagues who have arrived. But after the workplace task force, I want to talk a little about the parent task force, what we did there, because as I said earlier, parents are key to this problem. The greatest social service agency in America is our parents. They are open at 11 on Saturday night, among other things, and if you can get our parents reengaged in this issue, we know it can make a difference.

PRIDE [Parent Resource Institute for Drug Education] has a good survey out which shows that if parents would simply talk to their kids about the issue of drug abuse, we could see drug abuse rates among our kids decrease by as much as 30 percent, just talking to their kids about it.

What have we done? Well, PRIDE has come into our district, and they have done a pilot program where they have trained parents, who then go out and train other parents. We started with 15 parents, went through an intensive couple of weeks training session; they are now out training an additional 600 parents. We are trying to do it in every school district in my area.

Again, I think it is very important that we get the parents back, engaged in this problem. The final two task forces are the community task force, and there I think some of the potential is in the religious community. Our faith-based programs work, and frankly, on a Sunday or on a Saturday in a church, in a temple, a synagogue, people I think are in a more reflective moment and willing to hear about this issue. I think it is incumbent upon our religious leaders to get the message out.

□ 1600

We have a commitment from a number of the churches, synagogues, and temples in our area to get that drug-free message out at least once a year and maybe twice a year on a concerted basis to complement all the other efforts we talked about.

The final task force we have is criminal justice. As I said earlier, no group is more desperate to find a solution to this problem than our law enforcement community. What we have done is, we have organized sort of a broad DARE Program. The DARE Program works very well in my area, as it does around the country, but there were some gaps in it. So our law enforcement, county by county, have sent out flyers to our schools, community centers, churches,

and so on to offer educated speakers who can come in and talk about this issue and relate to the kids, to supplement the DARE Program.

We also have an innovative program to enlist citizens to close down crack houses in our inner city in Cincinnati. This is being led primarily by our city councilman Charlie Winburn in Cincinnati. And that will be effective, we think, in not only closing down crack houses and patrolling street corners, but getting the community involved in this effort because it is a community outreach effort.

Again, I will just say that I think Members of Congress can play a very effective role. It is not a traditional role. It is not about passing new laws. It is not about more Federal money, frankly. It is about acting as a facilitator back home to try to solve this problem, where I think it can be most effectively solved, which is at the community level.

Speaker GINGRICH has been supportive of this; Gen. Barry McCaffrey has been in our area, he has been supportive of it; and Senator Dole has been supportive of it. Each has come and spent time with our coalition and helped us in our efforts.

The initiative recognizes that the problem is not going to be solved solely by looking to Washington. It is going to be solved one kid at a time in our families and in our communities. And for the sake of our kids and our communities, I would urge all Members of Congress to engage in this.

We have about 20 to 25 Members of Congress who have already either established a coalition or are supporting existing coalitions. The goal is nothing short of getting every single Member of Congress involved in this effort. There is no reason we should not all be involved. We can blanket the country, all 435 districts.

The facts are in. Drug use is skyrocketing. Community coalitions work to address this problem. I think it is time we roll up our sleeves and get to work.

I would be happy to yield to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the gentleman for taking the lead in this role. It takes leadership. And as leaders of our country, as elected members of the government, we have to take on a responsibility here. This is not just passing legislation, as the gentleman said.

I really commend the gentleman for taking the lead within this Congress, because it is a problem and it is a glaring problem. It does not take a lot of chart experts, Ross Perot people, to see that drug use had gone down for 11 years and then, when Bill Clinton gets elected, it goes up.

Now, there has to be some correlation to that. It is a complex issue and it is not one person's fault, there are a lot of reasons, but it has to start at the top. It is the moral leadership of our country.

When we have the President of the United States asked on MTV, and the question is, ''If you had to do it all over again, would you inhale?'' And the President laughs and says, ''Sure, if I could, I tried it before,'' well, that is not the type of leadership we should have on this very serious issue dealing with crimes and such.

So we need to start at the top, using that bully pulpit. And Nancy Reagan used it so effectively by using the ''just say no.'' And so I think all of us, whether it be as Members of Congress, State legislators, Senators, mayors, we should work together and do exactly as the gentleman is doing and learning from his experience in putting this together.

I remember back in the 1980's, when I was very involved in our Chamber of Commerce, I worked putting a task force together. I had two teenagers back home, and, fortunately, they were good kids, but we were concerned about the problem. So we got together with a group organizing things and through the Chamber trying to get businesses aware of it.

Because when we talk about businesses, businesses save money by having a drug treatment program, by keeping people off drugs. Workmen's comp rates will go down. It saves money. The turnover of employees, turnover costs money to a business. They do not want people to change jobs. Hiring a bad employee is bad business.

So I think whether it is business taking the leadership or Members of Congress or politicians, we all need to jump in and get involved in this. And Bob Dole, I know, has that commitment, and that is what makes me feel good, that he will continue the tradition that Ronald Reagan started and George Bush started.

So I commend the gentleman for taking that leadership and we need more people doing that. And I will be getting back active in that issue in my hometown of Bradenton.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would now yield to the other gentleman from Florida who has arrived.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to take just a minute to also express my deep appreciation to the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. PORTMAN] for his leadership on this issue. He has brought the issue to the Republican Conference, he has brought it to the Congress and to the attention of the American people and to his community, and he has tried to take steps in a positive way to bring people together to solve this problem.

It is a problem that we have to address from the White House to the courthouse, and it is a problem that is destroying our young people. Unless we act we will not have a future generation that is drug free. And until we act, we will continue to see juvenile crime and problems across this great land.

Seventy percent of the crimes in America, ask our police chiefs, ask our sheriffs, ask our State law enforcement and Federal officials, 70 percent of all the crimes in this Nation are, in fact, drug related. And people serving behind bars, there are 1.6 million Americans incarcerated, and about 70 percent of them are there because of drug use or abuse or some criminal activity that has led from crime.

Mr. PORTMAN. If the gentleman will yield back for a moment on that briefly.

Mr. MICA. Certainly.

Mr. PORTMAN. We talked about the impact of illegal drug use on violent crime, and the gentleman is right. When we ask police chiefs around the country what the best way would be to reduce violent crime, guess what they say?

Mr. MICA. What is that?

Mr. PORTMAN. Reducing drug abuse. They do not talk, frankly, about gun control, they do not talk about the death penalty, they do not talk about a lot of other issues that are ones we might naturally think would be the best way to reduce violent crimes. The No. 1 issue by far, for them, is illegal drug use. By far the No. 1 way to reduce violent crime in this country. These are the police chiefs, who are on the line.

Mr. MICA. Absolutely. If the gentleman will yield again.

Mr. PORTMAN. Certainly.

Mr. MICA. I come from central Florida. I have a wonderful area in east central Florida, from Orlando to Daytona Beach. Our blaring headlines are that teenage heroin use is at record epidemic levels.

In the last few weeks, just in the last weekend, we had one of these home invasions where a gentleman tried to defend someone. These people were out trying to get drug money and they shot in cold-blooded murder a young person in our peaceful community.

Another incident in my community just the week before. I admire hard work. I was raised to work from the time I was just a young person. And here in my community was a gentleman at 5 o'clock in the morning who was out filling newspaper racks in Orlando and trying to make a living and taking the change from his newspaper rack. He was a little vendor, again working in the early dawn, and these drug crazed individuals came up and blew him away. Just destroyed his life. Here is a man working, dogging, trying to make it.

I have thousands of senior citizens, but I met a young lady in K–Mart in my community, and I asked her how things were going and was she working and making it, and she is trying to go to school. But she says, Mr. MICA, I have to take the bus to get to work, and I can only work during the day, and it is difficult for me to get to class because I am afraid to be at a bus stop. I am afraid to go out at night. Here is a young lady trying to make it into community college.

So these are the problems. When we have 70 percent of the criminals behind

bars and involved in this, and then we have a President that says just say maybe.

I have had two teenagers, just like the other gentleman from Florida [Mr. MILLER], in the last 4 years in my house, and I say just say no as a dad, just say no as a caring parent, just say no as a citizen of the community, and my wife joins me in that. And then we have the highest elected officer in the Nation, everyone we have always looked up to, just say, ''Ha-ha-ha, I'd try it if I had the opportunity again.'' Now, what message does that send?

The other things that disturbs me, and one reason I came out tonight, is again I see the President on television saying that Republicans have cut drug programs. And nothing can be further from the truth. Nothing can be further from the facts. Let me, in fact, give my colleagues the facts.

I serve on the committee that oversees our drug war and have been working on this with the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. PORTMAN] since we both got elected some 3 years ago, when we called for hearings and they ignored us. When we said this is not going to work, putting all the money into treatment and ignoring the other parts, interdiction, enforcement, and education.

They gutted these programs. Now they have the nerve to say that we cut these. Let me talk about the safe and drug-free school program. Republicans never cut the safe and drug-free schools.

First, I want everyone to understand that the Republicans did not take control of the Congress until just the last 18 or 20 months. The first 24 months, from 1992, with the election in the fall and taking office in January, the President in fact controlled the executive branch. As I recall, there were over 250 Democrats in the House of Representatives, a great majority, greater than we ever had, and they controlled the other body by a majority. They had control of all three bodies.

They never held the hearings. In fact, in fiscal years 1994 and 1995 the Democrats controlled the Congress and cut the programs, safe and drug-free schools. President Clinton, in 1994, requested $598.2 million for the program; the Democrats in Congress cut this to $187 million. $187.2 million, to be exact. His own party cut $174 million from his request in 1995. Again, when we did not control this. They did that. They should be held responsible for it.

Now, what are we trying to do to restore it? Let me tell my colleagues. First of all, the drug czar's office. The President says he has downsized Government. Well, he started in the drug czar's office and he cut the staff of 150 positions down to about 25 positions. This Congress, through the leadership of the gentleman from Ohio, Mr. PORTMAN, the gentleman from Pennsylvania, Mr. CLINGER, the gentleman from Illinois, Mr. HASTERT, DENNY HASTERT, the gentleman from New Hampshire, Mr. ZELIFF, and others who worked so hard on trying to put this back together, we have put in the Treasury, Postal Service, and general government appropriations bill an increase in the budget of $7.9 million over last year, and we have restored from 25 to 154 positions in the drug czar's office.

So they dismantled it. It did not work. And we restored it and we took action when we controlled the House of Representatives and the other body.

In the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies appropriations, in the drug enforcement budget, we have increased the budget. We have added 75 new agents for source country programs.

They killed the interdiction program. They gutted the interdiction program. They put all the money in treatments; sort of treating the wounded in the battle and forgetting the rest of the battle.

We have been there, our subcommittee, and not one Member of the minority went to South America, to Columbia, to Bolivia, to Peru. They boycotted the visit. They did not go with us to any of those countries and meet with the leaders, meet with out DEA agents.

In fact, they tried to sabotage the trip and told the press we were taking too many staff when we included DEA agents and Customs officials and others to go down with us and see what we could do at first look at the situation: Was it as bad as the reports were; that this interdiction program, the cuts in it were a disaster by this administration? They did not want us to go and see firsthand.

We went and they tried to sabotage the trip and did not participate in the trip. An offense to the Congress and to our subcommittee.

So, then, they cut the military participation in the drug war and we have restored them. In military and drug interdiction and counter drug activities we are $132 million higher than the President's request.

In fact, when I was in the jungles of Bolivia, I was told by one of our agents that they took $40 million out of their program and sent it up to Haiti for their nation building program.

□ 1615

Our agents, which were left in the jungle with a shoestring budget, actually some of them were even taking money out of their own pockets to make sure that some of these programs went forward, and what were the results? We had a hearing in our Subcommittee on National Security, International Affairs, and Criminal Justice. The result was that there are 10,000 hectares, expansive areas of heroin growing in Colombia. We even found in Peru heroin growing. When you cut the interdiction, when you cut these programs to stop drugs at their source, these cost-effective programs, you see the results. Heroin, the hearing that we held this morning, is flooding this country, in fact.

So we have restored money for all of these programs. We did not cut these. I take great offense at the President's comments that we cut them. We did not have control of the Congress at that time.

Mr. Speaker, then again you get back to the point of the leadership. When you appoint the chief health officer of our great Nation, a high office of respect, a chief health officer, and that health officer, Joycelyn Elders, says just say maybe, what message did that send? How did that echo across our land to our children, to our schools, and then have the President make a joke of inhaling on MTV as my colleague from Florida had just commented.

So, Republicans have again restored these programs. We have held hearings on the problem. We are not trying to politicize it. Some people say, oh, we are just making political commentary. This is not political commentary. This is the future of our next generation. This is the root of the problem of crime in this country. This is the root of many of the social ills that we see.

This is why we have the wrong people behind bars. In my State and here in Washington, DC, you have to live behind bars because you fear for your own life. You fear for going out at night if you are trying to make a living or go to school or be a productive citizen or student in this society.

So, again, I believe that you cannot cut interdiction, you cannot cut enforcement. You cannot cut the education programs, and we cannot cut the treatment programs.

Mr. Speaker, let me say one thing about the treatment programs that concerns me. We have put a great deal of money into the treatment programs. I am really concerned that the information we have gotten back, it is repeated information, studies. I know General McCaffrey got a report from the Department of Defense and has squashed that report. But those treatment programs have not been effective, 90 percent of those programs are a failure.

We find, in fact, that sometimes even some of the private sector programs, the church-related programs, the community programs that have been established are much more effective and should have our support. So yes, we have to attack drugs on four prongs: on education, interdiction, and we have got to look at treatment and enforcement. We cannot let any of those four legs of that stool be broken or damaged.

So we have done our part. When I was a Member in the minority and the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. PORTMAN] signed with me and the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MILLER] signed with me, we called for hearings. Over 119 of us, I believe, signed petitions calling for hearings, and our pleas were ignored.

The last day of the session, a hearing was held for a very brief period of time. The meeting was adjourned when I tried to ask questions. It was a farcical charade, and now we see the result of it. The results are very clear, and someone has to take the responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, the leadership is not just Mr. PORTMAN from Ohio, Mr. MILLER from Florida, Mr. ZELIFF from New Hampshire, Mr. CLINGER from Pennsylvania, Mr. MICA from Florida. The leadership starts at the White House, the highest level.

Tomorrow I have to do something that I wish I did not have to do, but as chairman of the House Civil Service Subcommittee that overseas our Federal employees and our Federal work force, I have to hold hearings tomorrow on the question of the employment of individuals to the highest office of the land, the White House.

We are not talking about some little remote Arkansas community or some Third World country. We are talking about the White House, the highest office in this land. I am holding hearings tomorrow to find out why our chief law enforcement agencies, the FBI and the Secret Service, became so concerned about people who were coming into this administration, who were not taking background checks, who could have access to national security, who could be advising the Chief Executive of the land who makes the decisions about what we do on an instantaneous basis, what prompted them when they testified before us that these folks that were coming in had recent histories of not just—we are not talking about marijuana 20 years ago. We are talking about hallucinogenic drugs. We are talking about cocaine. We are talking about hard narcotics and subverting the process. Do we need a law to protect us from this type of situation?

So I will chair that hearing, but it is with great dismay that I have to examine the highest office of our land in this fashion and bring this into question but provide in fact, as my responsibility as chair of this committee, as part of the oversight responsibility of this Congress, to see what is going on in the highest office of our land, and to see that our national security is protected and to see that future White Houses have the respect of this Congress and of every citizen. If our highest office sets our lowest standards, what have we come to in this Nation?

So, again, I commend the gentleman. He has been outspoken. He has been persistent. He has been productive because he has helped get the attention of the Congress, of the leadership. He has helped us put Humpty Dumpty back on the wall and back together again; and, hopefully, hopefully, my children and children of people around this country will have a safe street; will have safe schools, where we are not employing another law enforcement officer at the school and following the arts teacher and the music teacher and the teachers that we need; where we can walk our streets as free Americans; where seniors do not have to fear walking outside in their own streets and neighborhoods and only go out in daylight.

So I thank you for shedding light and for the leadership of the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. PORTMAN]. I thank my colleague, my dear friend from Florida [Mr. MILLER], for his leadership and I yield back.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I commend the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MICA] for putting this in perspective for us and also for all the time and effort that he has put into this issue. He has become a true expert on it. He is one of our leading policy makers on this issue now, and I wish him luck in his hearing tomorrow in getting some answers.

We have a little time left, and I would like to yield to the other gentleman from Florida who has joined us.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, my friend from Florida was talking about the tie-in between crime and drugs and the need for the leadership at the top. When the President of the United States, as we have said, laughs about whether he would do it again, he says, sure if I could, I tried it before. When the spokesman for the White House says, when asked about marijuana, quote: I was a kid in the 1970's, did I spoke a joint from time to time? Of course, I did.

They do not say it is wrong. They do not say it was a mistake. They do not apologize for it. They just kind of laugh it off.

Starting with marijuana is where we have to attack the problem, and that is where moral leadership is so important. There was a study out by Joseph Califano, the head of the center on addiction and substance abuse. He was Secretary of HHS under Jimmy Carter, a Democrat. A teenager who uses marijuana is 85 times more likely to graduate to cocaine than those who abstain. The percentage of children who are using marijuana that graduated from high school in 1992, 22 percent of graduating seniors had used marijuana during the past year. Last year, in 1995, that increased to 35 percent, going from 22 to 35 percent in 4 short years.

Mr. Speaker, let me read what Joseph Califano said, quote: The jump in marijuana use among America's children from 1992 to 1994 signals that 820,000 more of these children will try cocaine in their lifetime. Of that number, about 58,000 will become regular users and cocaine addicts.

It is terrible what is happening. I wish the President would put as much focus on drugs as he does on tobacco. Tobacco is wrong. I oppose some of the programs in tobacco, too, but focus on drugs that are killing people at the youngest age and that is cruel to the kids and the families and the communities today.

I thank my colleague for having this special order. I appreciate the possibility to have been able to join with you.

Mr. PORTMAN. Let me add, Mr. MILLER, what I view as a hopeful statistic to those that you have mentioned. That is, if you can keep a kid drug-free until that kid is 19 years old, then he or she has a 90-percent chance of being drug-free for the rest of his or her life.

Those are those critical years, those teenage years. This is why, as I said earlier, it is tragic that this drug use is occurring at an earlier and earlier age. We talked about the eighth graders. In a typical class of eighth graders, five kids have now tried marijuana. What we have got to do is address this problem at every level. Mr. MICA talked about it in terms of interdiction, source country, treatment, our criminal justice system, and finally prevention and education.

Mr. Speaker, I would again like to close by saying that it is my view that part of what we need to do is to increase our efforts at the community level, the grassroots level. It is a philosophy that I think is very consistent with where this Congress is headed in terms of giving people more a sense of personal responsibility, the sense that our communities are where we are going to solve a lot of our problems.

Certainly, the drug problem is one of those. I urge all of my colleagues to do whatever they can, not only at the national level where it is very important but also in their communities, in their homes, in their neighborhoods, in the school districts they represent, to attack this problem. We know it can help. We know it can begin to reduce the dramatic increase in drug use that we have seen since 1992. And with that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the remainder of my time.

IMPACT OF CHERNOBYL DISASTER ON NATION OF BELARUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COBLE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I know that I will be joined by some other colleagues to talk about education cuts and the effect of Mr. Dole's economic plan on education programs in the Nation.

Before my colleagues join me, I would just like to take some of the time here during this 60 minutes to talk about another issue unrelated to the issue of education but an important issue to many constituents in my district.

This Saturday I will be appearing at a dinner sponsored by members of the Belorussian community in my district in New Jersey. They will be raising money for the victims of Chernobyl, of the Chernobyl nuclear accident which took place about 10 years ago now.

Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to detail, if I could, for about 5 minutes some of the problems that resulted from the Chernobyl disaster in the country of