

flow of narcotics into this country, and to lead America toward coming to grips with the domestic demand that is tearing this country apart while enriching the drug cartels of Latin America and our own organized crime groups.

This legislation acknowledges the problems endemic in waging the war on drugs while domestic demand continues to remain high. It further recognizes the failure of numerous previous efforts at stemming the flow of illegal narcotics. It consequently expresses the sense of Congress that the President should appoint a high level task force, to be chaired by the Director of the Office of National Drug Policy, to establish a framework for improving international cooperation in these efforts. Finally, and of particular importance, it suspends for 2 years the process by which countries are certified as cooperating in the war on drugs.

The drug problem in this country dates at least as far back as the Civil War, when wounded soldiers were turned into morphine addicts as the only way to deaden the horrific pain caused from battle and disease. The problem grew to such an extent that President Nixon felt compelled to establish the Drug Enforcement Administration in order to better coordinate the antidrug effort. President Reagan assigned Vice President Bush to oversee a major escalation in the war on drugs, a war carried on at considerable monetary cost throughout the Bush administration. President Clinton, to his credit, appointed perhaps our finest "drug czar" in Gen. Barry McCaffrey, who has waged the drug war as valiantly as he led troops in combat during Desert Storm.

And still, the flow of illegal narcotics continues virtually unimpeded. Record-breaking seizures serve mainly to remind us of how much more is getting through our porous borders undetected. Street prices alert us to the failure of our best efforts at putting a dent in the problem of drug trafficking. To the extent that one area, for example, cocaine, is tackled with any degree of success, another bigger problem—the resurgence in heroin abuse comes to mind—rises up in its place. Clearly, it is time to step back again and look more critically at every facet of the problem.

I do not believe "chicken-and-egg" debates about which problem, supply or demand, should take higher priority serve any useful purpose. The bill we are offering today addresses both problems. Nor do I believe the certification process has accomplished its intended goal any more than such processes ever really do irrespective of the subject matter. In fact, the decision by the White House to decertify Colombia, which has waged a valiant and costly—in both lives and treasure—struggle against extremely powerful and ruthless cartels while recertifying Mexico, whose law enforcement agencies are so rife with corruption that that coun-

try's equivalent of Gen. McCaffrey was arrested for drug-related crimes, illuminates all too well the impracticality of the current process.

It is easy to argue that the drug problem has been studied to death. It has not, however, been examined from the perspective, and at the level, recommended in this resolution. If I believed for a second that this resolution represented just another attempt at studying the problem of drugs, I would not have attached my name to it. The recommended steps, however, combined with the suspension of the drug certification process, constitute a real and meaningful effort at focusing the Nation's attention on one of our most serious problems. Drugs are, in every sense of the word, a scourge upon our society. We must take a comprehensive, sober look at the scale of the problem and what realistically can be done about it. We must do this domestically and internationally. We must, once and for all, wage the war on drugs as though we intend to prevail. I hope that my colleagues in the Senate and the House of Representatives will support this legislation.

#### U.S. FOREIGN OIL CONSUMPTION FOR WEEK ENDING JULY 4

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, the American Petroleum Institute reports that for the week ending July 4, the United States imported 8,960,000 barrels of oil each day, 918,000 barrels more than the 8,042,000 imported each day during the same week a year ago.

Americans relied on foreign oil for 58.4 percent of their needs last week, and there are no signs that the upward spiral will abate. Before the Persian Gulf War, the United States obtained approximately 45 percent of its oil supply from foreign countries. During the Arab oil embargo in the 1970's, foreign oil accounted for only 35 percent of America's oil supply.

Anybody else interested in restoring domestic production of oil? By U.S. producers using American workers?

Politicians had better ponder the economic calamity sure to occur in America if and when foreign producers shut off our supply—or double the already enormous cost of imported oil flowing into the United States—now 8,960,000 barrels a day.

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

##### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12 noon, a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 748. An act to amend the prohibition of title 18, United States Code, against financial transactions with terrorists.

H.R. 822. An act to facilitate a land exchange involving private land within the exterior boundaries of Wenatchee National Forest in Chelan County, Washington.

H.R. 849. An act to prohibit an alien who is not lawfully present in the United States from receiving assistance under the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970.

H.R. 951. An act to require the Secretary of the Interior to exchange certain lands located in Hinsdale, Colorado.

H.R. 960. An act to validate certain conveyances in the City of Tulare, Tulare County, California, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1086. An act to codify without substantive change laws related to transportation and to improve the United States Code.

H.R. 1198. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land to the City of Grants Pass, Oregon.

H.R. 1840. An act to provide a law enforcement exception to the prohibition on the advertising of certain electronic devices.

H.R. 1658. An act to reauthorize and amend the Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act and related laws.

H.R. 1847. An act to improve the criminal law relating to fraud against consumers.

H.R. 2016. An act making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2018. An act to waive temporarily the Medicaid enrollment composition rule for the Better Health Plan of Amherst, New York.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following joint resolution, without amendment:

S.J. Res. 29. Joint resolution to direct the Secretary of the Interior to design and construct a permanent addition to the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial in Washington, D.C., and for other purposes.

##### ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The message further announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 173. An act to amend the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 to authorize donation of Federal law enforcement canines that are no longer needed for official purposes to individuals with experience handling canines in the performance of law enforcement duties.

H.R. 649. An act to amend sections of the Department of Energy Organization Act that are obsolete or inconsistent with other statutes and to repeal section of the Federal Energy Administration Act of 1974.

The enrolled bills were signed subsequently by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

The message also announced that pursuant to the provisions of section 711 of Public Law 104-293, the minority leader appointed the following individual to the Commission to Assess the Organization of the Federal Government to Combat the Proliferation of