the increase in drug use. The consequence was and remains a natural and national disaster.

Most of our addict population today comes from that cohort of users. Much of our increases in crime and domestic violence trace back to this source.

That episode of rapidly expanding drug use also created a continuing market in this country for illegal drugs that keeps the drugs flowing to our streets. It also created a builtin lobbying group that seeks to legalize drugs and make them available to yet more kids to this day.

Despite this, after 1979, when we woke up to the problem, we made major strides in reducing use among young people. We were very successful. It is interesting that today's legalizers try to cover up that fact. They would have us believe that since you cannot make a difference, our only rational choice is to make drugs widely available. Never mind that this is patently not true. As others have discovered, there is a benefit in relying on public amnesia on certain issues and on the useful lie. The simple fact is, that in the 1980's and early 1990's, with Just Say No and the war on drugs, we reduced drug use among kids by over 50 percent. We reduced cocaine use, which was the drug of choice, by 70 percent.

These were phenomenal gains made in just a few years. It is that success that the present administration is trying to invoke to paper over bad news.

Let me cite some of the current numbers: In 1997, 11.4 percent of young people 12–17 reported using an illegal drug in the 30 days before the survey. In 1992, that number was 5.3 percent. What that means is that we have seen a doubling in the current use of an illegal drug among the most at-risk population in just 5 years. But the administration takes heart in the fact that the 11.4 percent number is still lower than the 14.2 percent number in 1979. The problem is, after 1979 the numbers started going down in response to public and government efforts. Today the trend is against us.

But there's worse. Between 1996 and 1997, current illegal drug use increased significantly among 12- and 13-year-olds, rising from 2.2 to 3.8 percent. We are now seeing the onset of drug use among younger and younger kids. And we know from studies and experience that the earlier the onset of use the longer drug use lasts. The earlier the onset the more serious are the physical, psychological, and health consequences, and the harder it is for treatment to have any effect. And more and more young people are trying drugs.

Based on these numbers, the rate of first use of marijuana among young adults was at the highest levels since 1980.

The estimated number of new heroin users among the young was at the highest levels in 30 years.

The rate of first use of cocaine among youth was at its highest level in 30 years.

These use numbers are bad enough but there's another trend that makes them even scarier. One of the things that predicts increases in use is attitudes toward the dangers of using drugs. When people think using is risky and bad, fewer people use. We see this correlation in the years drug use among 12–17-year-olds was declining. But in the last several years more and more kids see no danger in using drugs.

Somewhere between 1992 and today we lost our clear, consistent, coherent anti-drug message. As a result, 1998 is beginning to look a lot like 1968 in terms of attitudes toward drugs. We are seeing bolder and better-funded efforts by legalizers to push drugs in the public marketplace. Many in Hollywood and the recording industry are back with the them that drugs are your friend. The culture and intellectual elite are back to arguing pro-drug themes.

We are also the beneficiaries of ambivalent messages from the administration on drug use. It has favored needle giveaway programs. It has been largely inert on the effort to legalize marijuana by calling it a medicine. It has downgraded or deemphasized our law enforcement and interdiction programs. And it has consistently tried to whitewash the bad news with happy talk. When you see numbers like these, repeated year after year, you've got a trend. The trend is against us. Where is this administration on this issue. What is it going to do? Clearly, what it has done so far is not working.

This is not right. It is not good. We are today well on our way to creating a drug-using population of young people to pass on to the next generation of policy makers and politicians. We are in the process of committing many of the same mistakes we learned to correct just a few years ago. I have no doubt we will eventually realize the mistake, but how many kids are we going to sacrifice to this new learning before we recover our senses?

DRUGS IN THE HEARTLAND

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, during the last week of the August recess, I traveled around Iowa launching a statewide antidrug coalition effort. I have been working on putting this program together for the last 2 years. It is an effort to bring together elements from all across my State from all areas of life to deal with the growing drug problem. I have spoken often about this problem here and in many of my public speeches. While we often hear about drug use in our inner cities, we are, perhaps, a little less prepared to learn about major drug use problems in our rural areas. Well, it's here and it is every bit as serious as drug use in our major urban centers. On my trip around Iowa, a young man named Josh, all of 15 years old, joined me.

Josh began using drugs at 11 and was an addict before he was a teenager. He began using marijuana. His friends told him it was ''cool.'' He moved from that to just about every drug you can name. His story is becoming all too common. Last April, I held a field hearing in Cedar Rapids. The star witness at that hearing was a young woman of 17 who was a methamphetamine addict at 15. She was not only a user, she was also a pusher.

Today, methamphetamine use in Iowa is twice the national average. Iowa is the target for Mexican criminal gangs pushing this drug every bit as much as San Diego or Los Angeles. Iowa and other States in the Midwest are also becoming home to an epidemic of meth-producing laboratories.

Many of these are located on farms or in small towns little prepared to be drug-producing emporiums.

If you talk to local sheriffs or police officers in even tiny towns, the story is shocking. I had a letter recently from a policeman in Ottumwa, Iowa, the home of Radar O'Reilly. What he tells me is that meth is now a major problem in this community of 30,000. It's not just a problem of users. It is increasingly a problem of producers. Many of the meth addicts have gone into the business of making their own. It's all to easy. If they can't get advice on how to make meth from their friends or contacts, why, they can simply pull it down off the Internet. Try it, if you don't believe me, it's that easy. You can put a small lab together in your kitchen.

You can use common household chemicals or chemicals used in agriculture, a frying pan, coffee filters, and a microwave.

Police have found labs in trailers, in vans, and sport vehicles. According to the policeman from Ottumwa, hardware stores there are having a problem keeping supplies of drain cleaner in stock because it is popular with the kitchen-lab crowd. Farmers across Iowa are having trouble with people stealing anhydrous ammonia. Anhydrous ammonia is used as a fertilizer to help fix nitrogen in the soil to grow corn. It is also used to produce meth. Local addicts and producers are stealing it from farms. County farm bureau organizations are having to issue advisories to farmers how to spot these thefts. This is only one of the chemicals. Many of these are carcinogenic. They are all dangerous and polluting.

This means the lab sites are toxic and dangerous and expensive to clean up. In many cases, the toxic waste materials are dumped into the ground or poured down the kitchen sink.

One of the major farming magazines in Iowa, Wallaces Farmer, devoted most of its September issue to this problem. Wallace Farmers does not normally deal with drug questions. But the most recent issue has a 20-page special on how meth is tearing apart the heartland. This should tell us something about what's happening. This story is increasingly common not only in Iowa but throughout the Midwest and the West. It is a problem moving eastward.

Along with cocaine, heroin, marijuana, and inhalants, we are seeing a resurgence in drug use in this country. I will have more to say on this later. Like our earlier epidemic, most of this increased use is occurring among the young, between the ages of 12 and 20.

Drug use among this age group has doubled in the past 5 years. We are well on our way to recreating the drug epidemic of the 1960's and 1970's.

There are some people who seem to welcome this development. The financier, Mr. Soros, is spending some of his fortune to promote drug legalization. He has convinced others to join him. He has a lobbying group that uses funds to promote legalization in the States, internationally, and to give the idea intellectual legitimacy. He is joined in the argument to make drugs legal and therefore available by worthies like Milton Friedman and William F. Buckley, Jr. Hollywood, TV, and our recording industry recognize the market potential of this and have begun pushing drugs in movies, music, and entertainment.

Now, many of these people will tell you that they don't mean to sell drugs to our kids. They mean it for adults. I have a problem with that, but it's not the central concern. The chief problem is, few adults actually start using drugs. That's a risky behavior we find almost exclusively among young people before the age of 20. By divorcing this reality from the argument to legalize, these people are little different from tobacco company executives. At least, privately, the tobacco companies were prepared to acknowledge that the primary market for new smokers was teens and preteens. They did not hide behind polite fictions and intellectual smoke screens.

What we are seeing in my State today and across this country is the fruits of these labors. The most recent reports on teenage drug use continue a disturbing cycle. That is why I began work to fight back. While I think there are many things government can and must do to deal with this problem, it is not solely or even wholly something that government can do. We need parents, schools, business, and other folks at the community level engaged in dealing with this problem. We need to be doing a lot more. This is not just a money problem. Resources are necessary but they are not sufficient. This is a people problem and we need to engage people to fight back. If we don't we are going to find ourselves in a drug problem every bit as serious as our last one. We are perilously close to that now.

In closing, let me read something that Ben Stein, host of a TV game show, wrote recently about his young son. He took him to what he thought was a safe retreat in rural Idaho, far from his native Los Angeles, for a summer vacation. What he discovered there was that his 11-year-old was being exposed to drug use every day. The source of that was other kids. The users and pushers were kids telling kids that drugs were cool. After all, that was the message everywhere. They were also providing the drugs. Stein wrote how it made him feel:

> I don't like being under siege about my boy's future. . . . I wish I had some help here from my Hollywood, my home, my workshop. I'd like some help from ''The Simpsons'' and ''South Park'' in telling my son that dope smoking is for losers and fools, that being high is stupid and unnatural and unhealthy, and that the cool people take life as it comes, sober and healthy and in some control of their own destinies.

There are a lot more people out there under siege. We need to be doing something about that.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. COLLINS). The Senator from New Mexico is recognized.

Mr. DOMENICI. Parliamentary inquiry, are we in morning business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate is considering the bankruptcy bill, S. 1301.

Mr. DOMENICI. I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to proceed for up to 10 minutes as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, first, I say to my good friend, Senator GRASSLEY, I was here for most of his speech and discussion. I commend him for not only what he said today, which many, many people ought to read, but because of his constant effort in the Senate and, obviously, back in his home State directed at trying to get our young people some help with reference to this siege that is upon them with reference to illegal drugs. I commend the Senator from Iowa for it.

(The remarks of Mr. DOMENICI pertaining to the introduction of S. 2503 are located in today's RECORD under ''Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.'')

Mr. DOMENICI. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DOMENICI. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DOMENICI. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ENHANCING NUCLEAR SECURITY

Mr. DASCHLE. Madam President, over the course of the past several months, I have come to the Senate floor on three occasions to discuss what I believe is the most important national security challenge we face today—reducing the risks associated with the spread and potential use of weapons of mass destruction. The depth and urgency of this challenge were dramatically illustrated in a recent article from Scientific American by Drs. Bruce Blair, Harold Feiveson, and Frank von Hippl. I am quoting from that article:

> [M]ilitary technicians at a handful of radar stations across northern Russia saw a troubling blip suddenly appear on their screens. A rocket, launched from somewhere off the coast of Norway, was rising rapidly through the night sky. Well aware that a single missile from a U.S. submarine plying those waters could scatter eight nuclear bombs over Moscow within 15 minutes, the radar operators immediately alerted their superiors. The message passed swiftly from Russian military authorities to the Russian President, who holding the electronic case that could order the firing of nuclear missiles in response, hurriedly conferred by telephone with his top advisors. For the first time ever, that nuclear briefcase was activated for emergency use.
>
> For a few tense minutes, the trajectory of the mysterious rocket remained unknown to the worried Russian officials. Anxiety mounted when the separation of multiple rocket stages created an impression of a possible attack by several missiles. But the radar crews continued to track their targets, and just a few minutes short of the procedural deadline to respond to an impending nuclear attack, senior military officers determined that the rocket was headed far out to sea and posed no threat to Russia.

As I noted, this chilling excerpt was not taken from Tom Clancy's latest techno-thriller. It happened. The event described did not occur during the heart of the Cold War. It happened January 25, 1995. It was not an isolated incident. According to public sources, Russian nuclear missiles have automatically switched to launch mode several times.

A look at the record since the January 25, 1995 incident demonstrates that, if anything, our concerns about Russia's early warning system, command and control system, and the morale of the people assigned to operate these systems, have only grown. That record is clear. No longer should anyone believe Russia's nuclear forces are exempt from the neglect and disarray that has been experienced by her conventional forces. A leading member of the Russian parliament, Lev Rokhlin, best summed up this deterioration: ''[Russia's] strategic nuclear forces are headed for extinction. There are no means to maintain the forces.'' The dramatic economic downturn in Russia's economic circumstances will only exacerbate this situation. Some may be tempted to take joy in this situation. They should not. As the event of January 25, 1995 reminds us, U.S. security is dependent on the reliability of Russia's strategic warning and launch control systems.

Reasonable people can only ask the obvious question: with the Soviet Union dissolved and the cold war over