

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 Hippel. 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

for nearly seven years, how can the United States and Russia continue to be one bad call away from a nuclear disaster?

It is precisely for this reason that last September I sent a letter to the Congressional Budget Office asking them to assess the budget and security consequences of a series of measures designed to reduce the spread of nuclear weapons and the likelihood that they will ever be used. On Friday I received preliminary results from CBO on one means to accomplish this objective—improving Russia's confidence that it is not under attack by providing it with a global awareness of missile launches.

CBO reaches several conclusions in its report. First, there are a number of deficiencies in Russia's ground- and satellite-based early-warning systems. According to CBO, "Russia's early warning radars will not detect all missile attacks, especially missiles launched on shallow trajectories from submarines." The situation is similar with respect to Russia's space-based platforms. Quoting CBO, "Russia's satellite-based early-warning system also has shortcomings . . . CBO has estimated that its [satellite] fleet currently provides coverage of the U.S. missile fields for less than 17 hours a day. Thus, Russia cannot depend on its fleet to detect a U.S. missile launch." Second, CBO states that, "shortcomings in Russia's early-warning system can have a direct effect on the security of the United States." Nothing demonstrates this reality better than the Norwegian missile launch. Third, there are a variety of options available to the United States and Russia to address deficiencies in Russia's early warning system. Although CBO rightly asserts that further study is required to ensure that U.S. security is enhanced, not compromised, CBO lays out 5 options for U.S. policymakers. I ask that all of my colleagues take a look at this excellent study.

It must be noted at this point that during the recently concluded U.S.-Russia summit, just days before CBO released its analysis to me, the Administration and the Russians reached agreement to implement the first of CBO's 5 options—sharing early warning information on the launch of ballistic missiles and space launch vehicles. I commend the Administration for this initiative. I believe it is a small but useful step. However, it does not fully address the underlying weaknesses in Russia's early warning systems. The proposal will give the Russians access to some of our early warning data but does nothing to improve Russia's own ability to collect and assess this same information.

Therefore, much more needs to be done, not only in the area of early warning but elsewhere, if we are to reduce the risk of the spread and use of weapons of mass destruction to an acceptable level. As I stand here today—nearly 8 years after the fall of the Ber-

lin Wall and the end of the Cold War—the United States and Russia still possess nearly 14,000 strategic nuclear weapons and tens of thousands of tactical nuclear weapons. Even more alarming, both sides keep the vast majority of their strategic weapons on a high level of alert, greatly increasing the likelihood of an unauthorized or accidental launch.

Russia's current economic and fiscal woes only add to my sense of concern. Numerous press accounts point out that Russia's early warning sensors are aging and incomplete, its command and control system is deteriorating, and the morale of the personnel operating these systems is suffering as a result of lack of pay and difficult working conditions. The Washington Post ran an article just yesterday that illustrates how increasingly dire economic circumstances in Russia affect U.S. security. According to the Post, street protests are popping up all over Russia, including a town called Snezhinsk, home of a nuclear weapons laboratory where workers said they have not been paid for 5 months.

I believe reducing the risks posed by weapons of mass destruction in Russia and elsewhere must be our number one national security objective in the post-Cold War era. In this regard, there are 3 initiatives the United States could take immediately that begin to address these risks: de-alerting a portion of the U.S. and Russian strategic and nuclear weapons, ratifying the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, and pushing for much deeper reductions in nuclear weapons than currently contemplated in START II.

However, these measures alone are not enough. We must vigorously pursue other possible avenues, many of which may lie outside the traditional arms control process. Therefore, I have asked the Congressional Budget Office to explore the budgetary and security implications of numerous other "non-traditional" proposals. I understand this work is nearing completion and hope to report back to the Senate on CBO's findings before we adjourn. I look forward to working with my colleagues and the Administration in the next session of Congress to fully explore these proposals.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Madam President, at the close of business Friday, September 18, 1998, the federal debt stood at \$5,516,026,623,213.76 (Five trillion, five hundred sixteen billion, twenty-six million, six hundred twenty-three thousand, two hundred thirteen dollars and seventy-six cents).

One year ago, September 18, 1997, the federal debt stood at \$5,374,489,000,000 (Five trillion, three hundred seventy-four billion, four hundred eighty-nine million).

Twenty-five years ago, September 18, 1973, the federal debt stood at \$460,592,000,000 (Four hundred sixty bil-

lion, five hundred ninety-two million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,055,434,623,213.76 (Five trillion, fifty-five billion, four hundred thirty-four million, six hundred twenty-three thousand, two hundred thirteen dollars and seventy-six cents) during the past 25 years.

U.S. FOREIGN OIL CONSUMPTION FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 11

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, the American Petroleum Institute has reported that for the week ending September 11 that the U.S. imported 8,694,000 barrels of oil each day, 667,000 barrels a day less than the 9,371,000 imported during the same week a year ago.

While this is one of the rare weeks when Americans imported slightly less foreign oil than the same week a year ago, Americans still relied on foreign oil for 58 percent of their needs last week. There are no signs that the upward spiral will abate. Before the Persian Gulf war, the United States imported about 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.

All Americans should ponder the economic calamity certain to occur in the United States, if and when, foreign producers shut off our supply—or double the already enormous cost of imported oil flowing into the United States: now 8,694,000 barrels a day at a cost of approximately \$104,154,120 a day.

SECRETARY OF EDUCATION DICK RILEY'S "BACK TO SCHOOL" ADDRESS

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, on September 15, 1998, at the National Press Club, Secretary of Education Dick Riley, delivered an impressive "Back to School" Address on the state of education in the nation.

No one has been more thoughtful and effective in the effort to improve public schools for all children. I believe all of us will be interested in seeing this important address, and I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD.

THE CHALLENGE FOR AMERICA: A HIGH QUALITY TEACHER IN EVERY CLASSROOM

Good afternoon. At the beginning of every school year, I have the good fortune to come to the National Press Club to give my "Back to School" address. I have been traveling from Georgia to the Pacific Northwest as part of my annual back to school push, and I can tell you that America's schools are overflowing with children. It is an exciting time for children and parents; but in too many cases our schools are overcrowded, wearing out and in desperate need of modernization.

As I noted in our annual report on the "baby-boom echo" which we released last week, we are once again breaking the national enrollment record. There are currently 52.7 million young people in school and more on the way. And in the next ten