

it certainly does not represent good public policy concerning our diplomatic and foreign policy goals.

Mr. Speaker, the State Department consolidation is an overdue reinvention of the U.S. foreign policy establishment for the information age. This reorganization can help us take advantage of our edge in information and technology by using public diplomacy. During the transition period involving USIA's merger into the State Department, the advisory commission's role would be significant as the two cultures learn to work with one another. The advisory commission has a proven track record in making recommendations to Congress and the Administration in support of this strategy and making it work. It is simply not enough to train our diplomats about the language and culture of a foreign country. Nor should they be trained as narrowly focused and secretive specialists who fail to grasp the extent to which the world has changed around them. Rather, we must help them take advantage of the ever-increasing breadth of information and technology in order to effectively reach out and express our message and principles concerning democracy, human rights, free markets and American traditional values. The advisory commission should be continued, and for these reasons I urge my colleagues to support this important bipartisan legislation.

**THE DUMPING OF CHEAP, ILLEGAL STEEL IN U.S. MARKETS BY JAPAN, BRAZIL, AND RUSSIA**

**HON. NICK J. RAHALL II**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 3, 1999*

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of legislation to be introduced by Representative VISCLOSKY, imposing steel import quotas on countries that are dumping steel in our markets, and by Representative TRAFICANT, to impose a short-term ban on steel imports in the foreseeable future. I also support Representative REGULA's bill calling for immediate changes in the Section 201 procedures used to indicate or prove that foreign imports are causing grave injury to industries and workers in the United States.

The jobs of steel workers are at risk: 10,000 have already lost their jobs, and 24 more will be pushed out of the workplace every day the steel dumping continues.

In 1998 alone, 18 million tons of foreign steel poured into the United States—12.4 million in the third quarter alone. This represents 56 percent more than the third quarter in 1997.

By contrast, America exported a mere 5.5 tons of domestic steel in 1998—the same period in which Russia, Brazil, and Japan unloaded the exact same 5.5 tons of hot-rolled steel imports here.

The United States Steel industry adds \$70 billion a year to the gross domestic product—and you can put a face on that \$70 billion if you think about the thousands of steel workers—their spouses and children—who will suffer even more if we continue to allow illegal steel dumping from foreign markets into ours—for there will be no jobs, no house mortgage or car payment, and no hope for their continued quality of life.

It is time, Mr. Speaker, for the Administration to take care of Americans—and American jobs.

I do not intend to demean the Banana industry—those workers have to be able to earn a living too—but if the President will do for steel what he has done on behalf of bananas, then all will be well.

There have been times in our history when a resource vital to the United States was threatened by foreign producers, and it could happen again. Steel is a vital resource to our national security—our military complex. If we are forced to rely on foreign producers to provide our steel, the entire industry will fold and we could find ourselves held hostage once again.

Mr. Speaker, somebody needs to tell the Administration that it is steel on which our military depends for its weapons and equipment in times of crisis, not bananas, and he must act to stop steel dumping now.

**21ST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA ANTI-SMOKING WRITING CONTEST**

**HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 3, 1999*

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address an issue of great importance to my constituents in Kern and Tular counties, and indeed, all Americans: teen smoking. Each year, millions of young people begin smoking and become addicted. The question we have to ask ourselves as lawmakers is "why?" Many schools have anti-smoking programs; the health risks are clearly printed on every pack of cigarettes; it is illegal for anyone under the age of 18 to purchase tobacco products. Why, then, if students are told in school not to smoke, if we all understand that smoking is dangerous and addictive, and if it is against the law for young people to smoke, do more than one million of our children choose to begin smoking each year?

I wanted to get an accurate assessment of which anti-smoking programs are working and which are not, so I invited fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students in my district to submit their ideas in an essay contest. I asked them to tell me, in their very best writing, the reasons they might choose not to start smoking, ways in which they, their parents, and their schools could discourage other young people from smoking, and finally, I asked them what, if anything, Congress can do on this issue. I read many good ideas from hundreds of students throughout my district on all three points.

Many students proudly took personal responsibility for this decision, saying that the decision not to begin smoking is ultimately left to individuals. Some suggested the creation of new anti-smoking programs in schools, such as one proposed by Eddie Mota, a fifth grader from Panama Elementary School in Bakersfield. Eddie suggested that schools create a program called "Smoking Detour," so that kids won't make the wrong turn." Another idea came from Ashley Cullins, a sixth grader at James Monroe Middle School in Ridgecrest, California, who thinks that communities should create and support anti-smoking clubs.

A lot of students pointed to their parents as the strongest influences in making the decision not to smoke. Britney Lout, a sixth grader at California City Middle School said that it is parents', and not a school's responsibility to tell children the dangers of smoking. Similarly, George Montoya, a seventh grader at Sequoia Middle School in Bakersfield, said that parents should begin teaching their children not to smoke at an early age.

Students presented several interesting, creative ideas as to what Congress could do to eliminate teen smoking. Christopher Duck, an eighth grader at Visalia Christian Academy, proposed stronger penalties for merchants caught selling cigarettes to minors, and creating a limit on the amount of nicotine in cigarettes. And James Margrave, a sixth grade student at Quailwood Elementary School in Bakersfield, wants smoking in movies and television shows to be banned. These are a small sample of the outstanding ideas I heard from students in my district. This is an issue that young people care about very deeply, and I hope that any action we take will consider such options.

I ask unanimous consent to include in the RECORD the full text of the essays submitted by the six students mentioned above.

Smoking causes harm to your body. The tobacco in cigarettes can turn your lungs black. Tobacco can cause you to get cancer and heart disease. Tobacco can make you think unclearly and unable to sleep. Smoking can make you sick and make you die. Kids should be taught about the harmful effects of smoking.

Schools should have a class or programs for students on the bad things smoking can do. The classes should show the students examples of a healthy lung and a black lung. Parents should also teach their kids about smoking at an early age, like eleven years. If one of my friends asked me to smoke, I would say no because I am not a stupid person. I would tell an adult that my friend has cigarettes.

I learned about the awful things smoking can do to your body. I've decided I'd rather live a smoke free life and not die young from lung cancer. I think that Congress should raise the price of cigarettes so that kids could not afford them. Then people would not die from smoking.—George Montoya, seventh grade student, Sequoia Middle School, Bakersfield, California.

Smoking is an option and only one person can make the decision to smoke, and that's you. I personally decided not to begin smoking because I plan on going places with my life and if I start smoking, I won't be able to fulfill my plans. Smoking can become a very bad habit and I don't want to make it a personal habit of mine. My grandmother influenced me not to smoke because I saw how addicted she got and I don't want to be like that.

"Home is where the heart is," and that's where parents should be telling their children how bad smoking can be. No matter the age, from the beginning, children should never want to smoke. Parents can be very skeptical about who their children hang around, but they can't control what their children do when they aren't around so they should be sure to let their children know all they should know. Schools can't search every child every day because it's useless, but every child should have to take health classes to show just how unhealthy smoking is. Friends shouldn't smoke around friends, so that they can't influence others. The only thing Congress can do to stop the use of cigarettes is to stop making cigarettes altogether. People shouldn't be smoking, no