

that the gentleman is not a member of the conference committee because he holds, as do dozens of his Republican colleagues, the views that he has expressed tonight. This bill passed the House with 61 percent of the Members of the House voting for it, a broad bipartisan coalition. This is not a Republican or Democratic issue. I am hopeful as a conferee that we will return to the conference table, we will do so under the scrutiny of the public and the media, that we will discuss the issues that the gentleman has raised tonight, and that we will resolve our differences and give the President a bill that he can sign.

I have been on this conference since it initiated in March, and I said a few weeks ago that someone on the other side said the conference was sailing right along, and it was sailing right along smoothly and I said that they had used the wrong nautical analogy, that the conference was not sailing right along, that it reminded me more of the legislative equivalent of the Bermuda triangle, that good ideas go into the conference and are never heard from again. The gentleman has many good ideas. I commend him again for his good work and look forward to working with him to make this the law.

Mr. GANSKE. I thank the gentleman for joining me in this special order tonight. I look forward to working with him and other Members in a bipartisan fashion on both the House side and the Senate side to actually get signed into law a real patient protection piece of legislation.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4810, MARRIAGE TAX PENALTY RELIEF RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2000

Mr. DIAZ-BALART (during the Special Order of Mr. GANSKE), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-726) on the resolution (H. Res. 545) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4810) to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 103(a)(1) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2001, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4811, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

Mr. DIAZ-BALART (during the Special Order of Mr. GANSKE) from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-727) on the resolution (H. Res. 546) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4811) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other pur-

poses, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ILLEGAL NARCOTICS

THE SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to come before the House tonight as it concludes its business to address the House on a subject I normally do on Tuesday nights and one that I take a personal interest in as chairman in the House of Representatives of the Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources. And specifically always on Tuesday evenings, I try to address my colleagues and the American people on the topic of illegal narcotics and our national drug policy and our efforts in our subcommittee to attempt to develop a coherent policy to deal with probably the greatest social problem and challenge I think our Nation has ever faced in its history, a problem that has devastated and I think we have gotten to the point where almost every family in America is somehow touched by illegal narcotics. Certainly the impact in crime, the social costs, the costs that this Congress incurs in funding antinarcotics efforts, criminal justice, the system that is fueled by those who are committing crimes and offenses against society under the influence of illegal narcotics, the whole gamut of problems that have arisen as a result of illegal narcotics is really astounding.

I often cite when I speak before the House the most recent statistics of deaths. Direct deaths from illegal narcotics in the most recent year provided to our subcommittee, 1998, amounted to 15,973 Americans died as the direct result of illegal narcotics. The drug czar, our national director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, Barry McCaffrey, again today used the figure in a hearing before our subcommittee of 52,000 Americans dying in a year as a result of direct and indirect illegal narcotics.

□ 2115

So the toll is mounting. The statistics continue to be alarming and should concern every American because, most of all, we find that this problem is affecting not those people who you would traditionally think have been victimized by illegal narcotics, the inner-city, the metropolitan, the high density areas, but every single corner of our Nation is now victimized by the effects of illegal drugs.

In fact, I cite a recent article, and it this headline says "Drug use explodes in rural America." It shows that in fact in rural America that cocaine, that crack, that heroin and methamphetamines in all of the rural areas of the country are now experiencing an explosion.

One of the things that I try to do as chairman of the Subcommittee on

Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources is not only conduct hearings, such as we did today with the national Drug Czar on our national media campaign that we instituted several years ago, a \$1 billion-plus program, \$1 billion from Federal money over 5 years and an equally significant amount in contributions to the campaign required by the law that we established, but in addition to conducting the hearings and evaluations and oversight of our national drug policy and the programs that we have instituted, we attempt to conduct hearings throughout the United States.

Most of the hearings that have been conducted by our subcommittee are at the request of either my subcommittee members or Members of the House who are experiencing a similar problem. I can tell you without a doubt that in fact the entire Nation, from the Pacific coast to the East Coast, from the Mexican border to the Canadian border, is being devastated by illegal narcotics.

During the recent weeks we have conducted hearings and field hearings. One was in the heartland of America, in Sioux City, Iowa, at the confluence of three states, Nebraska, South Dakota and Iowa. This was a hearing at the request of the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LATHAM). We heard absolutely startling testimony about the explosion of illegal narcotics, the explosion of methamphetamine, narcotics that have infiltrated that region of our Nation, and the devastation on the community, the cost in law enforcement, the cost in social services, the tremendous cost to that entire area that is being borne in destroyed lives.

So we have focused not only on hearings in Washington, but throughout the land, and we confirmed the headline which I cited here of the explosion of illegal narcotics and methamphetamine in particular in rural areas of our country.

It is also significant that we have presentations before our subcommittee that bring us up-to-date on what is happening, because we are a criminal justice, national drug policy oversight subcommittee. Some of the recent information we have had from the Center for Disease Control and other monitoring agencies indicate that over half the crime in this country is committed by individuals under the influence of illegal narcotics.

The National Institute of Justice drug testing program, found that more than 60 percent of the adult male arrestees across the Nation tested positive for drugs. In most cities, over half the young male arrestees are under the influence in fact of marijuana, and, importantly, the majority of the crimes that result from the effects of the drug do not result from the fact that the drugs are illegal.

According to a study by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse, which is also referred to as CASA, at Columbia University, 80 percent of the men and women behind