

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

Weapons of Mass Destruction: Mr. Tony Beilenson of Maryland.

The message further announced that pursuant to the provisions of section 806(c)(1) of Public Law 104-132, the majority leader appoints the following individual to the Commission on the Advancement of Federal Law Enforcement: Mr. Gilbert Gallegos of New Mexico.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and second times by unanimous consent and referred as indicated:

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; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 951. An act to require the Secretary of the Interior to exchange certain lands located in Hinsdale, Colorado; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 960. An act to validate certain conveyances in the City of Tulare, Tulare County, California, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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

H.R. 1198. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land to the City of Grants Pass, Oregon; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 1840. An act to provide a law enforcement exception to the prohibition on the advertising of certain electronic devices; to the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 1658. An act to reauthorize and amend the Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act and related laws; to the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation.

H.R. 1847. An act to improve the criminal law relating to fraud against consumers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-2410. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulations Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of a rule entitled "Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 1996" (RIN:2900-AI66), received on July 1, 1997; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-2411. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulations Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of a rule entitled "Veterans Education: Submission of School Catalogs to State Approving Agencies" (RIN: 2900-AH97), received on July 1, 1997; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-2412. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule relative to export administration regulations (RIN0694-AB60), received on June 27, 1997; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2413. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule relative to revisions to the entity list, received on June 27, 1997; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2414. A communication from the Acting Executive Director, Thrift Depositor Protection Oversight Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report for calendar year 1996 under the Federal Home Loan Bank Act; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2415. A communication from the Deputy Secretary, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to Release No. 33-7427 concerning the Electronic Data Gathering, Analysis, and Retrieval system; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2416. A communication from the Program Director, National Fund for Medical Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the audited financial statement for the year ended December 31, 1996; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2417. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation entitled "To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to authorize appropriations for refugee and entrant assistance for fiscal years 1998, 1999, and 2000"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2418. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Legislative Affairs, U.S. Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the employment of Americans by the United Nations and Specialized Agencies under the Foreign Relations Authorization Act; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2419. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, U.S. Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, agreements relative to treaties entered into by the United States under the Case-Zablocki Act; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2420. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Maritime Terrorism: A Report to Congress" for calendar year 1996 under the Omnibus Diplomatic Security and Antiterrorism Act; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2421. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, U.S. Information Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of a rule relative to the Exchange Visitor Program, received on June 27, 1997; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2422. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a proposal to obligate \$23.5 million in Fiscal Year 1997 to implement the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program under the Fiscal Year 1997 Defense Appropriations Act; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2423. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Calendar Year 1996 Report on Accounting for United States Assistance Under the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program under the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1996; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2424. A communication from the Director, Operational Test and Evaluation, Office

of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to an alternative live fire test; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2425. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to medical care for children of members of the Armed Services under the 1997 National Defense Authorization Act; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2426. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship and Financial Assistance Programs under the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1997; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2427. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, a notice relative to a retirement of General George A. Joulwan; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2428. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, a notice relative to a retirement of Lieutenant General Paul K. Van Riper; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2429. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, a notice relative to a retirement of Vice Admiral Douglas J. Katz; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2430. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Legislative Affairs, U.S. Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to property transferred to the Republic of Panama under the Panama Canal Act of 1979; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2431. A communication from the U.S. Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the financial status of the railroad unemployment insurance system for calendar year 1997; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-2432. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulations Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of a rule entitled "Servicemen's and Veterans' Group Life Insurance" (RIN: 2900-AI73), received on July 7, 1997; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-2433. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulations Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of a rule entitled "Minimum Income Annuity" (RIN2900-AI83), received on July 7, 1997; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-2434. A communication from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation relative to memorialization of spouses of veterans; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-163. A joint resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 97-1003

Whereas, The federal "Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991" (ISTEA) was designed to be the comprehensive solution to federal surface transportation funding since it replaced the "Surface Transportation and Uniform Relocation Assistance Act of 1987", which marked the end of the interstate era; and