game negotiations between the majority Republicans and the White House which will conclude by dispensing a package which includes some kind of tax cut. There are also going to be increases for health care, increases for defense, and we want education also to be in that package. We need funding for education, school construction, repair, renovation and technology.

ILLEGAL NARCOTICS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 come to the floor again to talk about the subject that is very important to me and to millions of Americans, unfortunately a subject that does not get a lot of headlines except in local papers; and I will refer to those, some of those headlines across the country tonight, and that is the subject of illegal narcotics and the problem of drug abuse and illegal narcotics trafficking across our great land.

I come to the floor to report to the House and to the American people again on this epidemic, this silent epidemic, but deadly epidemic, that is facing our Nation and a challenge that is facing this Congress I inherited from Speaker HASTERT who chaired the National Security International Affairs Oversight Subcommittee during the last Congress in which I served with him, responsibility for national drug policy in the House of Representatives, working with the Speaker and several other colleagues in committees of jurisdiction, but my particular subcommittee assignment is chairing Criminal Justice and Drug Policy and Human Resources, trying to piece together our national drug policy and whatever efforts this Congress may take to stem this horrible problem, and each week I come to the floor in a 1-hour report to provide sort of an update on what is happening and try to get the message across to the Congress that drugs do destroy lives, illegal narcotics kill and maim, just absolutely devastate family after family in our land.

In fact, last year over 14,000 Americans lost their lives to illegal narcotics in our country. In the last 6 or 7 years of this administration over 100,000 Americans and particularly our young people have been victims and lost their lives, more than the losses in many of our recent international conflicts and some of our wars. We have suffered these tragic losses and those are losses in lives, not to mention the destroyed families, the cost to this Congress, the hundreds of billions of dollars to support our criminal justice system to take care of the social problems, the lost employment and other opportunities that are lost with people who fall victim to the plague of illegal narcotics.

I would be remiss if I did not come to the floor and reflect upon what has been on the minds of the Nation since last Friday evening when we first learned the news of JFK Junior's missing airplane and the whole Nation has focused its attention on this great and tragic loss; and it is a shame that we have lost this young man. I had an opportunity to meet him twice, and he provided a beautiful role model, handsome, young, energetic with so much potential and so much life, and his life lost; and it is sad that a role model coming from a family that has given so much to this Nation should be lost in such a tragedy.

But again across our land every day 50 people die due to illegal narcotics. The toll, as I said last year, is over 14,000. Some die silent deaths, some more tragic deaths from drug overdoses from direct illegal narcotics use and abuse and tragedies.

I had the opportunity this morning to see another great role model. My son who is 20 and was in Washington with me today, he and I attended the Langley medal award for the Apollo 11 astronauts, and we had a chance to talk to Neil Armstrong and to the commander of the module, Mr. Collins, and also Buzz Aldrin, second man on the Moon. Again, great role models for our Nation, tremendous heroes whose names will go down in history.

□ 2300

I did have a few minutes to chat with Neal Armstrong, the first man on the moon. Again, a great, great role model for our young people. He and I, in our brief chat, did discuss our dismay at trying to find a solution, and I salute his efforts now as a private citizen trying to assist us in this war on illegal narcotics in what he has done, not only directly, but indirectly as serving as a role model of what opportunity this great Nation holds for us, that those of us who can live a drug-free life without a life of abuse for illegal narcotics or addiction to illegal narcotics. But 2 beautiful people, 2 beautiful examples of what life can be and hold so much promise and opportunity for each of us. I mention both of those tonight.

As I flew away from Washington last week, I went through the Baltimore airport and picked up the Baltimore Sun. I like to reflect on what is going on around the Nation with the problem of illegal narcotics. I was struck by last Friday's newspaper, the Baltimore Sun, on the front page. The headline, this tragic headline, They Killed Him Over $15. Sure enough, I read on into the paper, and let me read from this article a little bit about this preacher who was slain for $15 in a neighborhood in Baltimore that has been plagued by so many problems emanating from illegal narcotics. Let me just read a little bit of this article.

It says, ''For generations, this thin band of forest has embraced the residents of Quantico and Oswego and Clausen Avenues in cool, green shade. But in recent years, it became a Sherwood of thieves and dope addicts landscaped with syringes, liquor bottles, and discarded stolen goods.''

Further on in the story, it relates again how this preacher, this good human being, a citizen of Baltimore, was slain for $15 last week. It says, ''Even the presence of a police athletic league center has not discouraged the interlopers who lounge by the wading pool at night snorting heroin and littering the soccer field with empty drug vials.''

This is Baltimore, just a few miles from our Nation's Capital. What a tragedy of a lost life.

My message has been that drugs destroy lives; and in Baltimore indeed, drugs have destroyed lives, a great example.

Again, from the newspaper, to bring my colleagues up to date, Mr. Speaker, this is an article, an Associated Press article from July 18, just a few days ago. In New Orleans, it says, ''Two Jefferson Parish residents who drove to New Orleans to buy heroin were shot and killed early Sunday morning in a hail of bullets, a companion who survived the attack told New Orleans police.'' A wonderful city; probably one of the most beautiful cities in America. Another city ravaged by illegal narcotics and the crime, the death that it brings, just a few days ago. Another article, another city, other lives snuffed out by illegal narcotics.

This is an article that appeared again within the last 3 days, July 17. It says, ''Discovering drug labs is part of the job for probation and parole officers.'' This is not Baltimore, New Orleans or New York or Detroit areas where we might expect it. It is Boise, Idaho. And the AP story reads, ''Finding people making the illegal drug methamphetamine is becoming a potentially dangerous fact of life for Idaho probation and parole officers.'' The story goes on, ''They increasingly are uncovering make-shift meth-looking operations in the course of monitoring and trying to help redirect the lives of ex-convicts and offenders getting another chance to avoid prison.''

The story goes on. It says, ''The State's 170 probation and parole officers have been involved in discovering 51 of the 85 meth labs busted throughout Idaho recently this year. That is up sharply from 98 found Statewide in the entire year of 1998, 23 of them found by probation and parole officers. People have already been busted once,'' the article goes on to say, ''for using meth, and are 2 to 3 times more likely than other offenders to be arrested again.''

Mr. Speaker, ''80 percent of the offenders,'' the article goes on to state, ''are battling addiction to meth or other substances. Right now it is an incredible problem. Every time we write a violation report the word 'meth' is somewhere in it.''

Now, this is an article from the heartland of America from Idaho.

We held hearings in our subcommittee; and we found evidence of

meth production, meth epidemics in Minnesota, Iowa, Idaho, Atlanta, Georgia, the West Coast of the United States. Places where we would not expect this. What was interesting is, the source of most of the methamphetamine has been traced to Mexico, and I would like to just state for the RECORD and show for the RECORD some bad news. Last week, I had some good news that the Mexicans were extraditing a murderer from the State of Florida, and unfortunately, this is the news on the people who are producing this meth, again, across our land.

Jose de Jesus Amezcua Contreras, he is actually known as one of the world's largest producers and traffickers in methamphetamines and is the head of this organization. And unfortunately, the Mexicans, who fail to cooperate with us except on very limited occasions, took some action that is most regrettable this past week.

A judge issued an injunction Monday against a United States request to extradite Amezcua and gave Federal prosecutors 10 days to appeal the decision before setting Amezcua free. Despite overwhelming evidence, all Mexican drug charges have been dismissed against this individual who is helping to import death and destruction, whether it is Idaho, whether it is Minnesota, Iowa, or West Coast, or our southern States. Again, besides the fact that there was overwhelming evidence, all the Mexican charges have been dropped against him. He is still being held in custody, fortunately.

Now, we have had success again with one individual, a U.S. citizen, who committed a horrible murder in southwest Florida being judged as eligible for extradition. But in fact, we have 270 some other requests for extradition, including this individual who is the ''meth king,'' who again is getting off on these charges. His brother was released from prison in May. The whole family, there are a series of these brothers, and I have shown their posters here on the House floor, before are all involved up to their eye balls in illegal narcotics, particularly the deadly meth trade.

A Mexican appellate judge threw out trafficking charges against his brother, and now we see the same thing happening here with this individual, again with the meth and the story from Boise, Idaho.

□ 2310

This dateline is Birmingham, Alabama, and again it illustrates that illegal narcotics, drugs, do destroy lives. This article is an Associated Press article within the last few days, July 16. It says, Birmingham, Alabama: Pacifiers, temporary tattoos and toothpicks seem like harmless enough items but they are also tools of the teenage drug trade, according to doctors and drug experts.

The article goes on, and let me just cite part of it. Drug abuse doubles and even triples in the summer among children graduating from one school to another, he said. Children also report their first drug experience often comes in the summer, leading up to the move from elementary to middle school and from middle school to high school, because they feel more grown up.

What is becoming a greater problem is also cited in this Birmingham article. It says, Ecstacy is a growing danger. It is a relatively new form of amphetamine that can give a euphoric rush in low doses and it often causes strokes, heart attacks and breathing problems at higher levels, according to this report. Here, again, in the heartland of America and our south Birmingham, Alabama, Ecstacy complements another amphetamine, compliments of some of our Mexican neighbors to the south, coming in in huge quantities.

Here is a story from Albuquerque, New Mexico. It says, in less than 18 months, a drug considered a safe way to help addicts kick heroin habits has been found in the bodies of more than three dozen people who died of drug intoxication in New Mexico. Again, this year we will probably set a record in excess of 14,000 deaths by illegal narcotics or narcotics taken in this fashion. This is a New Mexico, southwest area, Albuquerque a beautiful community. There were about 200 drug-related deaths from January 1998 through mid-May of this year and 41 of the victims had methadone in their systems, according to the Department of Public Safety statistics. Again, illegal narcotics and their effect in one community, Albuquerque, New Mexico. Illegal drugs do destroy lives and have an incredible impact.

More bad news from Mexico this week, Mr. Speaker. A Mexican appeals judge on Friday, according to this report, cut the 50-year prison sentence of Raul Salinas, the brother of Mexico's former President, by almost half. The Swiss Supreme Court overturned the confiscation of about $115 million. Now, how does the former President's brother get $115 million? We know it was drug-related money. We know the family was involved in illegal narcotics up to their eyeballs, too, like some others we have cited tonight.

The money that has been held by Swiss prosecutors, this article says, was derived from drug trafficking.

Mr. Salinas must still serve 27 years for the 1994 assassination of his former brother-in-law, a top ranking official of Mexico's ruling institutional revolutionary party. Here, again, bad news from Mexico; one of the families involved in laundering hundred of millions of dollars.

I have told a story that we had testimony before our subcommittee. Now this is the former President's brother, Raul Salinas, but we had testimony by a Customs agent, and I think a fairly reputable source and other sources, that confirmed this, of one Mexican general most recently attempting to place $1.1 billion, that is $1.1 billion, I did not make a mistake, it is not million, it is $1.1 billion, in illegal drug money into legitimate investments and financial depositories in the United States. We know that those meetings took place. We know that the general, in fact, had skimmed that kind of money.

That is an incredible story of money. We see the President's brother with hundreds of millions and we have Mexican generals with billions of dollars to place. It should raise many questions about our policy and the lack of action by Mexico who wants trade benefits; who wants financial assistance of the United States in international monetary markets; who wants support to be more than a developing nation, to be an equal, again, trading and financial partner. This is the type of cooperation that we get, first of all, the largest methamphetamine dealer in Mexico, with the charges dropped. Next we see the President's brother, the former President's brother, getting his charges reduced, and here we also have a case of a Mexican general trying to place an incredible amount of money and most of the investigation squashed. So it is a pretty sad state of affairs as it relates to Mexico.

Now, tonight I brought a story of destruction and death from different cities and parts of our country, and that is just in the last few days. This entire problem of illegal narcotics has an impact on every community. In my community, in central Florida, as I have stated before, the recent headlines have said illegal narcotics, overdoses and deaths now exceed homicides. I try to substantiate what we say about illegal narcotics, because illegal narcotics are so glorified by Hollywood and by movies and videos and commentary among our young people.

During our recent hearings in our subcommittee, we had in experts who testified about what drugs do to the human brain. I have a couple of illustrations here. The first one, and I hope this shows up, we talked about Ecstacy and how it is making its presence across the Nation and also among our young people.

This is an interesting image. It is actually of two different brains. This is a brain scan. This is a normal brain. All of this up here is normal brain action. This information again was provided to us by a scientist. The top illustration here, and brain, belongs to an individual who has never used Ecstacy, and we can see how bright these images are. The scans are different scans of the brain from different directions.

The bottom scans here belong to an individual who has used Ecstacy heavily for an extended period but was abstinent from drugs for at least 3 weeks prior to the photographs.

Now, one can see the effect that the drug Ecstacy has had. This is a prolonged effect, again, of what Ecstacy does. Ecstacy is very popular among our young people and we heard a couple of citations here of areas where it is showing up across our country, where we would least expect it.

It says the specific parameter being measured is the brain's ability to bind the chemical neuro transmitter serotonin, and that is what this illustration shows. Serotonin is a substance that is very critical to normal experiences of mood, emotion, pain and a wide variety of other behaviors, but again this shows what damage is done to the brain and to the mind with this illegal narcotic.

I have another scientific chart here. Let me just pull off this information card. This chart shows what methamphetamine does to the brain. This was presented to our subcommittee in a hearing last month. It should be very clear evidence not only that drugs destroy lives but also damage the body and the mind.

□ 2320

This was presented by scientists who completed this study, and the photograph demonstrates the long lasting effects that drugs have on the brain.

The brighter colors in here, this shows a normal brain, and it shows the substance of dopamine, which has a binding capacity. Dopamine function is critical to emotional regulation, and it is involved in the normal experience of pleasure and involved in controlling an individual's motor function.

The scan on this side, the left here, is a nondrug user. The second scan going down here is a chronic methamphetamine abuser who was drug free for 3 years prior to the taking of the image. The third scan, this scan right here, is a chronic meth abuser who was drug free for 3 years prior to the image.

Now, the last brain scan, the very last brain scan here is of an individual newly diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. Parkinson's disease is a disease known to deplete dopamine.

My colleagues can see exactly what is happening to the brain of an individual who uses meth. Meth is one of the biggest problems, and I cited city after city, in the heartland of America and now almost in every community.

This is what methamphetamine does to one's brain. This is scientific evidence. This is not something we made up in our political deliberations. This is scientific evidence, both of these presented to our subcommittee and what these illegal narcotics do to the brains of individuals.

We can talk about treatment, and we can talk about trying to help these people, but once one has destroyed these brain functions through habitual misuse of methamphetamine or ecstacies or other illegal narcotics, this is what we end up. It is a very serious situation.

Unfortunately, drugs have been glorified. Ecstacy is now glorified. Meth is a popular drug. Both of these drugs are primarily used by our young people. We see more and more tragic deaths by our young people and abuse, and not only abuse, but, again, the deadly effects and the long-term effects of these illegal narcotics.

That brings me to the subject of the other drug of plague of the United States, and there is no question about that; that is heroin. Heroin deaths, as I said, in my community are epidemic. We have had the police chief of Plano, Texas, we have had law enforcement, individuals from Police Chiefs Association, the National Narcotics Association all testify about the incredible supply of heroin coming into this country.

Now, the heroin that is coming into the country, too, our testimony has indicated and proven is not of the purity levels of the heroin of the 1970s or the 1980s. This stuff is 60, 70 percent pure. We know exactly where the heroin is coming from, and it is a very deadly heroin. It is coming from South America. As I have said before, if we put this chart up, in 1993, there would be almost no heroin coming from South America.

I am going to talk a little bit about the source of heroin and this heroin. We know, in fact, that the heroin is coming from South America, because it can be traced scientifically. Just like the shots I showed my colleagues of the brain scans, scientifically, we can tell how brains are affected by the chemicals and show exactly what takes place, we can test, and our DEA agents can test, heroin and trace it almost to the field that it came from.

So we know that heroin taken and seized in the United States, we know 75 percent comes from South America. Again, in 1993, the beginning of this administration, almost no heroin came from there. Most of it came from the Southwest Asia and Southeast Asia. And Mexico is now a double-digit heroin producer. It produced a little bit of black tar heroin. Now it is producing much more. This is where heroin is coming from.

Now, again, I tell my colleagues who are listening about what illegal narcotics do from a scientific standpoint. From a personal standpoint, again, I bring out these charts. I have only showed these photographs one other time on the House floor. But, Mr. Speaker, I bring these photographs here again to the floor because there is so much glorification of ecstacy, methamphetamine that is so popular, and heroin, which is on the rampage.

Heroin is now, among our teenagers, and actually since 1993, listen to these statistics, there has been an 875 percent increase in teenage use of heroin. That is this incredible supply that is coming in from South America.

I am holding this up. I am holding this up. This is one of my constituents from Central Florida, a young man in his twenties, and this is how he ended up. This is the shot that was taken by the police that the mother allowed for me to bring here and show to the House of Representatives.

The next photograph that I have of him is just a horrible photograph. I really hate to show this, but I want my colleagues and others to see what illegal narcotics do. Now, this heroin that is coming in, this is what it did to the young person. If anyone thinks that illegal narcotics are glamorous and that the experience of illegal narcotics is something that should be praised and glorified, they should look at the body of this young man. I do not like to hold this up for too long. But I want my colleagues to know what heroin does to the individual.

Heroin is ingested in the body. There is a time, usually within 30 seconds, where the drug hits the nervous system. A warm sensation overcomes the user, and there is euphoria and relaxation as a result. The user begins to feel the effects on the respiratory system breaking down, and the user's breathing becomes labored.

What my colleagues saw in this photograph of this young man from Central Florida is what took place. The respiratory system breaks down, and the breathing becomes very slow. The corresponding drop in body temperature begins, and the heart beat becomes irregular.

If the user is, at this point, conscience, this is the stage where fear grips the individual. Soon the body is demanding more oxygen, and the user's respiratory system cannot accommodate the growing need. Fluid begins to enter the lungs, and this is the beginning of the drowning stage. Sometimes during this phase, blood vessels and capillaries begin to rupture. My colleagues saw the face of a young man who died a horrible death.

This is how thousands and thousands of our young people are dying, some of them silently, some of them we just read in an obituary page.

□ 2330

This is how this young man died. And the photograph, as I said, was released to me by the mother, the photograph taken by the sheriff's department. She wanted the House of Representatives and the American people to see the inglorious effects of heroin and illegal narcotics on her precious son, who she loved so much.

As evidenced by the photograph that I showed here, the blood on the face of the heroin user is the result of blood vessels rupturing. Entering into the final stage, the user is now in great distress and experiences severe pain throughout the thoracic region, much like a heart attack. The user's head is splitting with pain. The amount of fluid in the lungs has increased and the user is now in excruciating pain and begins to drown as his or her lungs fill with fluid. At this time the user becomes unconscious, begins seizures and death is slow but inevitable.

Unfortunately, the picture that I showed here tonight is a picture that is repeated dozens and dozens and dozens of times in central Florida. We have had more than four dozen heroin deaths, and most of them by young people in central Florida. Each of these individuals died a death similar to what I described here, and they ended

up in a human tragedy displayed as I showed in this photograph; a horrible end. And again leaving behind a loved one; this young person that was a son or a daughter, loved by parents, brothers or other family members.

I only showed that photograph of this young man with the permission of the mother and the sheriff's department. This mother is so courageous. And other mothers have banded together in central Florida and they have produced a film with our local sheriff in Orange County, Sheriff Barry, who has done a tremendous job working with the victims' families in producing a tape, and it shows these photographs and others that are much more graphic than I could show on the floor of the House today, about how their young people met their demise through illegal narcotics, and particularly heroin.

So tonight I bring a very clear scientific message about Ecstacy, about methamphetamines, what it does to an individual's brains, and about the effect of heroin and the tragedy. The heroin again that is out there is not the heroin that was of the low purity levels of a decade ago. This is deadly, deadly heroin.

Again, we know where that heroin is coming from. The sad part about all this is that we, in fact, did not have heroin coming in in this quantity some 6 or 7 years ago. Almost all of this is a new phenomena, and some of it can be very directly related to the policies of the Clinton administration, unfortunately.

It is my hope that we can turn that around. Today, I would like to cite a story about where this heroin is coming from. Most of it is grown in Colombia, but I would like to cite a story by Robert Novak, a very talented columnist who writes for The Washington Post, and he wrote this in yesterday's column. He says, ''As critics feared, the peacetime initiative crafted by President Pastrana, and encouraged by the Clinton administration, is a disaster.''

Now, we have to go even further back than this article cites, and we will talk about the Clinton policy of 1993, when this President took over and how we got to all this heroin being produced in Colombia, but Robert Novak cites quite correctly that the current policy, backed by the Clinton administration, is a disaster.

He goes on to cite, and let me quote his story, ''Colombia is the first western hemispheric state falling under the control of guerrillas financed by international drug trade, but it remains a State Department back water. While the United States is committed to the Balkan ethnic wars, Colombia's priority has always been low.''

That is unfortunately true. And I would like to cite some of the history of what has taken place with this administration, and it has been one poor policy compounded by another. I was elected to the Congress and took office in January of 1993. This administration took office and this President in January of 1993 also. From the very beginning bad decisions were made by this President and this administration relating to Colombia, and I would like to cite some of them.

The very first one, and I bring to the floor evidence, and this is the committee on which I serve, The Committee on Government Reform, the ranking minority member at the time, the Republicans were in the minority in 1994, and I also wrote to the then drug czar Lee Brown, who was President Clinton's first drug czar. We wrote to him saying that the policy was wrong, and this is an August 25 letter in response to our request to have a change in United States policy adopted by the Clinton administration relating to sharing information with Colombia, with Peru, and with Bolivia and other countries that involved going after and shooting down, in some cases, illegal narcotics traffickers.

A liberal attorney, who I understand went from the Justice Department over into the Clinton administration's DOD, came up with a ruling that we could not share information. This was the beginning of a bad policy that led to the production of both heroin and cocaine in Colombia in the quantity that we see coming out of there today. In 1994, we knew this was the wrong policy. We asked the other side to change this.

In fact, at the Conference of the Americas we met with President Clinton, and I remember that meeting very well, many Members challenging his policy that Mr. Lake, his adviser, I believe, was aware of. The President said he was not. But we ended up changing our law to change the Clinton policy that did not allow us to provide this information to go after drug traffickers. And here are the letters dating from 1994 on that policy.

What happened with that policy, in fact, was that during the Bush administration the United States shared real-time intelligence with Peru and other countries in an effort to allow them to force down drug-carrying aircraft so that illegal cargoes could be seized. This was primarily done through ground-based radars and surveillance systems.

On May 1, 1994, again to cite the history of this, the Clinton administration stopped this program due to a legal interpretation and, again, lacking this real-time intelligence, the highly effective program was essentially blinded.

□ 2340

It was the beginning of a bad policy in South America that led to this tremendous change in the production of illegal narcotics and the incredible volume of heroin and cocaine coming from Colombia.

Additionally, this mistake by the Clinton administration was compounded and we researched this just to show again the fact that one mistake was compounded by another. In 1996, and the Republicans had taken over the House of Representatives. I might add, from 1993 in January through 1995 when Lee Brown was the director of drug policy, our national drug policy, there was only one real hearing held, and it was less than an hour, on our national drug policy and that was only after a request which I circulated and signed by over 130 colleagues for a review of the administration's policy, but one hearing on this subject during an entire 2-year period as the Clinton administration dismantled the war on drugs.

The further dismantling of the efforts to stop illegal narcotics in South America and in particular in Colombia came repeatedly in 1994 and 1995. In 1995, Republicans took over the House with the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) from the Committee on International Relations who has chaired the committee since. I have communications requesting back to early 1996 that this administration provide assistance, arms, helicopters, equipment, resources to Colombia because of what we were seeing in the increase in production of heroin and cocaine in that country. Every request, and I have page after page, every letter that we submitted requesting that attention be given to this problem was ignored, in fact blocked by the other side of the aisle and this administration.

I brought with me tonight additional evidence of how we got ourselves into this situation. Having taken over the Congress, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT), who chaired the National Security International Affairs subcommittee, held dozens and dozens of hearings on this subject trying to get the administration to move on what was going to take place and what was taking place in Colombia. Hearing before the National Security Subcommittee, July 9, 1997, International Drug Control Policy, Colombia, the title. Oversight of United States Counternarcotics Assistance to Colombia. Ignored. This one held July 9, 1997, ignored. February 14, 1997, ignored. Colombian Heroin Crisis, June 24, 1998, ignored. Hearing on United States Narcotics Policy Towards Colombia, ignored. Regional Conflict, Colombia's Insurgency and Prospects for a Peaceful Resolution, hearing ignored, August 5, 1998. Here is a markup dealing with the same subjects, March 26, 1998. Anti-drug Effort in the Americas, a Mid-Term Report, hearing conducted again. United States Counternarcotics Policy Towards Colombia March 31st, 1998, another hearing ignored. Hearing before the International Relations Committee, the U.S. Annual Drug Certification where contrary to recommendations of the House of Representatives, the President decertified Colombia and then almost jokingly certified Mexico as cooperating in the drug war, keeping away from Colombia the resources.

Now, there could not be more evidence of a failed policy and again the source of illegal narcotics than what I

have cited here tonight. The response now and the problem is that Colombia is completely out of control.

I brought to the floor tonight a GAO report, General Accounting Office report, Narcotics Threat From Colombia Continues to Grow. How many reports, how many more hearings do we need? And I hear again this comment about the drug war has been a failure. Mr. Speaker, the only thing that has happened with the drug war is that this administration has destroyed the war on drugs.

This is the evidence. In 1993, we see this huge dent in international, this is the source country funding, it went in fact from $660 million down to less than half as a result of the Clinton and Democratic-controlled Congress. Interdiction funding decreased 37 percent. International funding, the part that stops drugs at their source most effectively, decreased 53 percent. You might say, well, what happened to treatment during this period of time? That increased 30 percent. And that was during the time that they had a full majority in the House, the other side, and controlled also the White House.

Actually if you look at this chart, it goes up quite a bit in 1998 and 1999. Most folks are now reporting that Colombia is our third largest aid recipient. Well, that is as a result of this Republican administration of Congress and particularly the leadership of the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT) who last year tried to get us back to the 1991 levels in funding.

The interesting thing is that news accounts say that Colombia is the third largest recipient of aid after Israel and after Egypt. The fact is only a few million dollars have even gotten into the pipeline after repeated requests. It is my understanding that they only have two operating Huey helicopters in all of Colombia. Some are on the way that this new Republican majority provided, but still ammunition supplies and most of the $300 million that we funded last year still to this day has not gotten to Colombia. It is interesting that this week, this past week with the situation deteriorating and the situation getting worse, more drugs coming in, more guerilla Marxist activity, more loss of lives, there is more loss of lives in Colombia than there ever was in Kosovo or in that area where we have sent our troops and resources. Some 35,000 people killed, thousands and thousands of police, Supreme Court justices, Members of Congress, elected officials throughout Colombia have been killed. Almost 1 million refugees in Colombia as a result of the narcotics trafficking. In this report that came out that I cited, this report from the GAO says that last year we reported that Colombia was restricted from receiving some narcotics, counternarcotics assistance as a result of the President's decision to decertify Colombia in 1996 and 1997.

And it says, ''This restriction was lifted in 1998,'' but the fact is that money, those supplies, still have not gotten there.

It is interesting that this past week, the administration has said that they were going to reinstitute an information-sharing policy with Colombia. Now that the country has nearly been taken over by guerillas and rebels, now that thousands have been killed, we are going to information-share. That is the latest news this week. Then just within the last few days, the administration has come forward with a new policy towards Colombia. They advocated through the National Drug Czar, Barry McCaffrey, that we appropriate $1 billion in the next 2 years to aid Colombia.

It is incredible that after years of very direct failed policies, years after very direct stopping of assistance, resources, helicopters, any type of aid to combat illegal narcotics, it is incredible that even after this Republican majority in Congress has provided the resources through appropriations and through specific legislative initiatives that this administration still does not have those funds there, that now that we have a full-blown crisis, there are reports now that the crisis in Colombia is so critical that it may destabilize the whole South American region.

□ 2350

Colombia now has insurgents going across the border in many of its neighboring countries and should be of concern in Panama where the United States is getting kicked out and has also been blocked from conducting any further forward operating locations for surveillance in that, from that country or in that area which begin in our former base at Howard Air Force Base. All that was closed down May 1. So here we have Colombia exploding with guerrilla activity, here we have our bases closed, the United States kicked out of Panama and trying to put the pieces to the puzzle back together.

But tonight my major point is that we have an eruption of illegal narcotics across this country with methamphetamine coming through Mexico again because of the failed policy of this Congress and this administration. We have illegal narcotics now in unbelievable quantities coming from Colombia, we have a disastrous situation in Colombia confirmed by the most recent studies and reports that we have received, and by almost every news account, again an incredible disruption of that society and, in fact, that whole part of the western hemisphere.

And all this can be directly linked to United States policy in ignoring hearing after hearing by the new majority in Congress, request after request by the new majority in Congress, legislative initiatives being blocked, money and funds that we sent to this region to deal with this problem diverted, as this report also cites by GAO to Kosovo and to other regions, and now we have again the source, and stop and think of this:

Fourteen thousand deaths, thousands and thousands of heroin deaths. We can trace that heroin, that death, back to the fields in Colombia. Three quarters of the heroin comes from Colombia, three quarters now according again to this report, according to the DEA signature reports. A failed policy of this administration has resulted in that death and destruction; there is no question about it.

I mention the deaths. We have now incarcerated in our prisons across our land more than 1.8 million Americans; 60–70 percent of them I am told in our State prisons and jails are there because of illegal narcotics. Stop and think now, 60–70 percent of those folks that are in our prisons, those drugs came from Colombia. Six–7 years ago there was almost no heroin produced in Colombia. Six–7 years ago there was almost no production of coca in Colombia. We have been able to get aid to Peru and to Bolivia re-started again by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT) who is now Speaker of the House in the past 2 years, and those are very successful programs, 50 and 60 percent reduction. We see less cocaine than we see heroin because we can stop it at its source.

So tonight we have got to learn by the mistakes of the past, we have got to pay attention to the facts and the evidence. We hopefully will not repeat those mistakes, and we will do a better job in stopping drugs at their source.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. VITTER). Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 55 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 0051

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DREIER) at 12 o'clock and 51 minutes a.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2488, THE FINANCIAL FREEDOM ACT OF 1999

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106–246) on the resolution (H. Res. 256) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2488) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 986 to reduce individual income tax rates, to provide marriage penalty relief, to reduce taxes on savings and investments, to provide estate and gift tax relief, to provide incentives for education savings and health care, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.