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.