

NAYS—23

Blumenauer	Diaz-Balart	Rivers
Cannon	Duncan	Royce
Chenoweth	Hostettler	Ryun
Coble	Jones	Sawyer
Cox	Manzullo	Sensenbrenner
Crane	McIntosh	Shadegg
DeFazio	Miller (FL)	Wamp
DeLay	Paul	

NOT VOTING—21

Christensen	Maloney (CT)	Salmon
Doolittle	McInnis	Scarborough
Gonzalez	Neal	Schiff
Gutknecht	Poshard	Shimkus
Harman	Ros-Lehtinen	Smith, Linda
Hefner	Roukema	Torres
Luther	Rush	White

So, two-thirds of the Members present having voted in favor thereof, the rules were suspended and said bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider the vote whereby the rules were suspended and said bill, as amended, was passed was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

Ordered, That the Clerk request the concurrence of the Senate in said bill.

¶12.14 MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—HUD

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. LATHAM, laid before the House a message from the President, which was read as follows:

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to the requirements of 42 U.S.C. 3536, I transmit herewith the 32nd Annual Report of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, which covers calendar year 1996.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *March 3, 1998.*

By unanimous consent, the message, together with the accompanying papers, was referred to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

¶12.15 MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—INTERAGENCY ARCTIC RESEARCH POLICY COMMITTEE

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. LATHAM, laid before the House a message from the President, which was read as follows:

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 108(b) of Public Law 98-373 (15 U.S.C. 4107(b)), I transmit herewith the Seventh Biennial Report of the Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee (February 1, 1996 to January 31, 1998).

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *March 3, 1998.*

By unanimous consent, the message, together with the accompanying papers, was referred to the Committee on Science.

¶12.16 MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—DRUG CONTROL STRATEGY

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. LATHAM, laid before the House a message from the President, which was read as follows:

To the Congress of the United States:

On behalf of the American people, I am pleased to transmit the *1998 National Drug Control Strategy* to the Congress. The *1998 Strategy* reaffirms our

bipartisan, enduring commitment to reduce drug use and its destructive consequences.

This year's *Strategy* builds upon the 1997 *Strategy* and is designed to reduce drug use and availability in America in half over the next 10 years—a historic new low. This plan has been developed under the leadership of General Barry McCaffrey, Director of National Drug Control Policy, in close consultation with the Congress, the more than 50 Federal agencies and departments involved in the fight against drugs, the dedicated men and women of law enforcement, and with stakeholders—mayors, doctors, clergy, civic leaders, parents, and young people—drawn from all segments of our society.

I am also proud to report that we have made real and substantial progress in carrying out the goals of the 1997 *Strategy*. Working with the Congress, we have begun the National Anti-Drug Youth Media Campaign. Now when our children turn on the television, surf the “net,” or listen to the radio, they can learn the plain truth about drugs: they are wrong, they put your future at risk, and they can kill you. I thank you for your vital support in bringing this important message to America's young people.

Together, we enacted into law the Drug-Free Communities Act of 1997, which will help build and strengthen 14,000 community anti-drug coalitions and brought together civic groups—ranging from the Elks to the Girl Scouts and representing over 55 million Americans—to form a Civic Alliance, targeting youth drug use. By mobilizing people and empowering communities, we are defeating drugs through a child-by-child, street-by-street, and neighborhood-by-neighborhood approach.

We have also helped make our streets and communities safer by strengthening law enforcement. Through my Administration's Community Oriented Police (COPs) program, we are helping put 100,000 more police officers in towns and cities across the Nation. We are taking deadly assault weapons out of the hands of drug dealers and gangs, making our streets safer for our families. We have taken steps to rid our prisons of drugs, as well as to break the vicious cycle of drugs and crime. These efforts are making a difference: violent crime in America has dropped dramatically for 5 years in a row.

Over the last year, the United States and Mexico reached agreement on a mutual *Threat Assessment* that defines the scope of the common threat we face; and, an *Alliance* that commits our great nations to defeating that threat. Soon, we will sign a bilateral *Strategy* that commits both nations to specific actions and performance benchmarks. Our work to enhance cooperation within the hemisphere and worldwide is already showing results. For example, Peruvian coca production has declined by roughly 40 percent over the last 2 years. In 1997, Mexican drug eradication rates reached record levels, and

seizures increased nearly 50 percent over 1996.

We are making a difference. Drug use in America has declined by 50 percent over the last decade. For the first time in 6 years, studies show that youth drug use is beginning to stabilize, and in some respects is even declining. And indications are that the methamphetamine and crack cocaine epidemics, which in recent years were sweeping the Nation, have begun to recede.

However, we must not confuse progress with ultimate success. Although youth drug use has started to decline, it remains unacceptably high.

More than ever, we must recommit ourselves to give parents the tools and support they need to teach children that drugs are dangerous and wrong. That is why we must improve the Safe and Drug-Free Schools program, and other after school initiatives that help keep our kids in school, off drugs, and out of trouble. We must hire 1,000 new border patrol agents and close the door on drugs at our borders. We must redouble our efforts with other nations to take the profits out of drug dealing and trafficking and break the sources of supply. And we must enact comprehensive bipartisan tobacco legislation that reduces youth smoking. These and other efforts are central elements of the *1998 National Drug Control Strategy*.

With the help of the American public, and the ongoing support of the Congress, we can achieve these goals. In submitting this plan to you, I ask for your continued partnership in defeating drugs in America. Our children and this Nation deserve no less.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *March 3, 1998.*

By unanimous consent, the message, together with the accompanying papers, was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Agriculture, the Committee on Banking and Financial Services, the Committee on Commerce, the Committee on Education and the Workforce, the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, the Committee on International Relations, the Committee on National Security, the Committee on Resources, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, the Committee on Veterans Affairs and the Committee on Ways and Means.

¶12.17 PROVIDING FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 856

Mr. SOLOMON, by direction of the Committee on Rules, reported (Rept. No. 105-426) the resolution (H. Res. 376) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 856) to provide a process leading to full self-government for Puerto Rico.

When said resolution and report were referred to the House Calendar and ordered printed.

¶12.18 NATIONAL SUMMIT ON RETIREMENT SAVINGS

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. TIAHRT, pursuant to the provisions of