

But each generation must be taught that illegal drug use is wrong and harmful. This lesson must be taught by the community as a whole; indeed, by our culture. Children learn about drugs by what the adults around them as a whole say and do. Parents teach by precept and example. The same is true of schools and the communities. If drug use and sale is not aggressively opposed and prevented, children learn it is acceptable, despite what some adults may occasionally tell them. Teaching drug prevention must be a part of teaching children right from wrong. It will always fall to parents to provide that education in the home and act to ensure that schools and their communities are teaching this lesson effectively. This task is easier if national leaders set the right example and speak in support of parents. But since that national support has seriously eroded, parents, churches, schools, youth organizations, and communities are more important than ever. They have always been, and will always remain, the first line of defense for children.

Seventh, open-air drug markets feed addiction and are a visible sign of the toleration of the drug trade in our nation. It is a national disgrace that such markets are tolerated in virtually every major American city. Drug pushers cannot operate effectively when law enforcement personnel are present. Forcing drug deals from open spaces makes their lives more difficult and dangerous and hence their activities less frequent. Many communities have demonstrated that creating a law-enforcement presence and maintaining it in response to relocation efforts by drug dealers is doable—but only if closing drug markets is made a priority. In the next year, mayors, city councils, and police chiefs should pledge to close all open air drug markets in their communities. Citizens should demand such a pledge and make clear that they will insist that these officials keep it. We need to stop claiming that the crime and drug problem in our communities is someone else's responsibility. Decisive action can be taken by local officials and community members now.

Eighth, drug testing is a proven tool to discourage drug use by individuals in treatment and those in the criminal justice system. Good treatment programs require regular testing and apply sanctions against individuals who relapse. Drug testing arrestees provides a basis for using bail, sentencing, release conditions and other aspects of the criminal justice system to compel individuals to stop using drugs. Including an extended period of regular testing after convicted drug-using offenders complete their sentences, discourages a return to drug use and crime. Positive drug tests must involve steadily escalating penalties (starting with a one or two-day return to jail or a half-way house and moving to reincarceration for an extended period). Most heavy drug users pass through the criminal justice system and any short-term costs of creating temporary detention facilities for the enforcement of a drug testing program will save larger costs to the community in repeated criminal justice expenditures on the same individuals and the damage their crimes do to the innocent.

These eight steps—involving federal, state, local, and individual action—will reverse the dangerous resurgence of drugs that has occurred during President Clinton's watch. These actions will help turn the country away from its present course and go a long way toward making progress in the war on drugs. And that, in turn, will help America to become a safer, more decent and more civilized society.

TONIGHT ONLY: ABC DOES DRUGS

(By John P. Walters)

Tonight, Jeff Diamond—the NBC "Date-line" producer who took the blame for rigging those exploding pickup-truck gas tanks—is back, and he's on drugs. Specifically, he is part of the team that created the ABC News special: "America's War on Drugs: Searching for Solutions."

The show, hosted by Catherine Crier, begins with the usual "we've lost the drug war" footage and rhetoric. Of course, the show never explains that drug use declined steadily and dramatically prior to the Clinton administration, which undermined anti-drug efforts on all fronts. But this is standard fare. Tonight's program is designed to break new ground.

It begins in earnest with the story of Jim Montgomery, who, we are told, was sentenced to life in prison for having two ounces of marijuana in the backpack of his wheelchair. This is the show's illustration of drug enforcement in America. Apparently, ABC couldn't find a grandmother on death-row for carrying a roach clip in her purse. ABC does not just want to keep alive the liberal myth that prisons are filled with "low-level drug offenders," ABC wants to take that myth to a new level. Never mind that the Bureau of Justice Statistics reports that federal inmates convicted of marijuana trafficking were involved, on average, in the sale of 3.5 tons of pot. And forget that only 21.3 percent of state prisoners are drug offenders and that more than 96 percent of state prisoners have prior convictions.

But this is all just an introduction to the "solution" ABC wants to offer for the drug problem. That solution is, of course, legalization.

First, Ms. Crier and Mr. Diamond present a loving portrait of—you guessed it—the Netherlands, especially Amsterdam. Drugs are accepted, addiction is limited, and, according to ABC, crime is not a serious problem. The only problem with this idyllic picture is that it is an utter fabrication. A 1992 study found that the Netherlands now ranks first in Europe in the category of threats and assaults; robberies increased by more than two-thirds from 1988 to 1992 (with 43 percent of burglars describing themselves as drug-users); gun-related deaths are on the rise (almost all involving drug disputes); and out of roughly 100 "highly organized" criminal gangs operating in the Netherlands, 73 are engaged in drug trafficking.

The Amsterdam Municipal Health Service reported a rise in hard-core addicts, attributed to a significant rise in the local heroin supply and a drop in price of as much as 75 percent in the last few years. ABC also missed the fact that the Rotterdam Municipal Council has reported that cocaine use has risen substantially, to 3.3 percent of the resident population over age 15. And in Amsterdam, cocaine users have been estimated at 5.8 percent of the population—vastly higher than anything in the United States.

After a fantasy trip to the Netherlands, Ms. Crier takes her audience to England for a loving look at the "successes" of legally prescribing heroin to addicts. ABC, however, does not review what happened the last time Britain experimented with legalization, back in the 1960's. As James Q. Wilson has written, that British Government experiment with controlled heroin distribution resulted in, at minimum, a 30-fold increase in the number of addicts in 10 years as heroin was diverted from patients to new users on the streets. And a British Medical Journal report on the "experiment" estimated that the number of heroin users doubled every 16 months from 1959 to 1968. Now some in the English medical community are trying to repeat this experience, and ABC seems to think Americans should join them.

If America's drug problem were not so serious, it would be possible to regard a program this bad and heavy-handed as comic. But America's drug problem is no laughing matter. Thus this show is not just inexcusably bad journalism—it is highly irresponsible broadcasting.

THE AMTRAK RESTRUCTURING
ACT OF 1995

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 1995

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, at the request of the President Bill Clinton and Secretary of Transportation Federico Peña, Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Ranking Member Norm Mineta and I are today introducing the Amtrak Restructuring Act of 1995 and the Interstate Commerce Commission Sunset Act of 1995.

I have not agreed to introduce these two pieces of legislation at the request of the President because I support or endorse them in their entirety. Rather, I am introducing them in an attempt to bring the administration's views to the table on these important and controversial issues.

Mr. Speaker, these are but two of the bills that will be introduced this Congress on the restructuring of Amtrak and the sunset of the Interstate Commerce Commission. I may even introduce other legislation on these issues myself. These two bills are merely the Administration's contribution to the debate.

When we return from the April District Work Period, the Subcommittee on Railroads will be marking up legislation on Amtrak and the ICC. As the Ranking Democratic Member on the Subcommittee, it is my responsibility to evaluate every alternative—Democratic, Republican, bipartisan, or Administration—and provide the opportunity for the other members of the subcommittee to do the same. That's why I've agreed to introduce these bills today.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DELAURO-
LOWEY WATER POLLUTION CONTROL
AND ESTUARY RESTORATION
ACT OF 1995

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 1995

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, today Congresswoman DELAURO and I are once again joining with a geographically diverse group of our colleagues in reintroducing legislation to renew and expand the Federal Government's role in controlling pollution and in stewarding our coastal resources.

Our legislation—the Water Pollution Control and Estuary Restoration Financing Act—was first inspired more than 4 years ago by the dedication of citizens in our communities who have spearheaded the effort to save Long Island Sound. In fact, labor, business, and environmental groups in New York and Connecticut have taken the bold step of setting aside historic differences to work together to address the need for effective water pollution