

came from Dr. Damadian right from Long Island. Two years later, back in 1974, he received that patent from the U.S. Patent Office in Washington. By July 1977, Dr. Damadian and his assistants achieved the world's first whole body human MRI image. In March 1978, Dr. Damadian formed a company called FONAR and began to develop and market MRI scanners and, within 2 years, unveiled the world's first commercial MRI scanner.

The problem Dr. Damadian encountered was not really from the U.S. Patent Office, but in fact it was a failure by them to enforce his ownership of that patent. Eleven years after Dr. Damadian unveiled the world's first commercial MRI, his patent became infringed upon by several international corporations including Johnson & Johnson, General Electric, and Hitachi. For those who do not know, I mean by infringement that Dr. Damadian's patent technology for the MRI, the intellectual property that he owned, was basically copied by these large corporations.

Well, 25 years later, after literally millions of dollars in legal expenses, Dr. Damadian has finally won his day in court. He was judged by the courts to in fact be the rightful owner of the patent for the MRI. FONAR, a Long Island corporation, could today be clearly a corporation that would have retained and employed tens of thousands of Long Islanders were it not for the 25 years of legal maneuvers that kept Dr. Damadian tied up in court.

Mr. Speaker, again I think it is important to understand that the U.S. patent is really pure Americana. It is at the heart of American ingenuity and our ability, frankly, to remain No. 1 in the global marketplace. But afoot here in the Congress is something that has been evolving over the last several years, and that is to harmonize patents, to take American ingenuity and harmonize it to the lowest common denominator.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate this chance to talk about the MRI and Dr. Damadian's important contributions.

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AMERICA MUST REENERGIZE ITSELF IN FIGHTING THE WAR AGAINST ILLEGAL DRUGS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arkansas [Mr. HUTCHINSON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to address a matter of the greatest public concern. Illegal drug abuse is soaring in our country, and it is the most serious social problem that faces our communities, our families, and our children. We hear this from every side. It is our children themselves who are telling us this. Thirty-five percent of teenagers ages 13 through 17 identified drugs as their most serious concern.

Our law enforcement agents are telling us this as well. Thirty-one percent of the Nation's police chiefs believe that the best way to reduce violent crime is to reduce drug abuse. Drug-related activities have been identified as being at the core of the violent crimes, the property crimes, and, yes, domestic abuse which afflict our communities.

During the 1980's our Nation declared a war against drugs. I was in that battle as a Federal prosecutor. It was during that time that our families, our communities, and our law enforcement officials mobilized in a united effort to fight this war. Because of this national crusade, teenage drug abuse declined from 1985 to 1992.

Then what happened? It was then that our national commitment against this war of drugs waned. It was then that teenage drug use again started to increase, and we saw that teenage experimentation with drugs was on the incline.

Today it is my belief that we need to renew our national commitment to saving our children, to restoring the vibrancy of our inner cities, and strengthening our families. How do we do this? By reenergizing ourselves in this war on drugs. We must not retreat. It is not the time. We must not be satisfied to hide in the foxhole. It is imperative that we fight on.

It is particularly timely today that we reenergize our country because last week the administration released its report on our Nation's drug control strategy. In that report, the administration criticized the war against drugs, and said the term war against drugs was misleading. The administration preferred to adopt the language of pessimism, and say that we should more appropriately use the term cancer. To me the implication of using the word cancer in relation to our drug problems is that it implies that it is going to be with us a long time, and we simply must learn to live with it.

I believe it is a war that we must fight, and not a problem that we must learn to accept and deal with. It is the wrong message when we change the terminology. It is the wrong message to our teens, who deal in symbols and listen to the nuances of language as to whether it is a serious national problem or it is something that is acceptable in our society. It is the wrong message to send with our families, who are struggling day in and day out, and as the parent of teenagers, I understand this. They face daily the corrosive effects of drug abuse. And it is the wrong message to our law enforcement officers who daily place their lives on the line in this struggle.

In signaling a retreat from the war on drugs, we also undermine the efforts of other nations, which are looking to the United States of America for leadership. The other nations are putting the lifeblood of their leaders, in many cases, and soldiers out on the front line in an effort to stop drug production and trafficking within their own borders.

While the administration says we should not call this a war, it refused to certify certain countries for not fighting hard enough, not fighting hard enough to stop the flow of illegal drugs into America. I applaud the administration for not certifying certain countries, but our country must lead in this battle. We must not change the terminology. We must call it a war, because it is a war for our families, it is a war for our children, it is a war for our streets and our inner cities, and it is a war that we must win.

In Mexico alone, 40 drug agents were killed fighting the importation of drugs into the United States of America to satisfy the demand we see in our country. We must provide leadership to Mexico. We must provide leadership to South America. We must call it a war, because it is a war in which people's lives are being lost, not just in America, but also in other countries.

So it is my hope that this administration will reengage itself in the war against drugs, that this Congress will reenergize itself, that we will provide leadership to our American families, to our teenagers, and to set the appropriate example. I pledge that support as a Member of this body.

WE SHOULD VALUE AND CHERISH OUR NATION'S IMMIGRANTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. DAVIS] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to an all too familiar debate in our country, immigration and immigrants. This is an age-old topic that has taken many different faces since the founding of this Nation. Today the immigration debate seems to be focused on mostly Latino and Asian-American immigrants, or individuals from the Caribbean or African nations, people of color.

However, I am concerned that the immigration issue is too often raised in a negative manner. Why is it that we cannot talk about immigrants without mentioning the undocumented, those who may not have complied with all of the rules and regulations? The politicizing of the immigration issues and programs like Citizenship U.S.A. made by certain groups have attempted to demonize immigrants.

I submit that certain groups have been using immigrants as a scapegoat for years. Oftentimes they have been marginalized in the great divide between black and white. As illustrated in the words of W.E.B. DuBois, he pointed out that mass immigration hurt both black and white laborers, as he foreshadowed future events by noting the Republican Party platform of 1864, which advocated increased immigration in the interests of big business:

A new flood of eager-to-work immigrant labor was brought into the country to work