

Look at what they are doing. Look at the real issue. We are talking about companies that are committing the very worst atrocities on their own people simply by believing in God. In Sudan, starvation is the weapon of choice, spiced with high-altitude bombing, mass murder, and selling their own people into slavery. In Sudan, over the past decade, about 1.1 million people have been killed or allowed to starve, and I have been in the south and I have seen it.

In China, Catholic bishops and priests and Protestant lay ministers and Buddhist monks and nuns as well as many Muslims are jailed for years and years. And their jails are not patterned after those in this country. Starvation, torture, filth, and darkness are the steady diet. The fate of the prisoner is up to the whim of the guard. Brutal working conditions and brutal hours are the norm. Sometimes death is the only friend they can hope for.

Tibet is in danger of losing its religion, its culture, its language, even its identity. It has already lost thousands of Buddhist monasteries and too many monks and nuns. And I have been to Tibet and have seen this.

In Iraq, the Kurds have been used for target practice and guinea pigs for toxic killing. And MoJo talks about the track record of Burma and Nigeria. The victims of these outrages and more are Anne Wexler's targets. When they and her other well-connected friends are successful in changing a legislative clause here and writing the Dear Colleague letter, do they think about the Catholic bishop starting his third decade in a brutal Chinese prison? Do they think of the young boys on the slave block in southern Sudan?

I know these are harsh thoughts, but we are dealing with harsh dictators and regimes. What we do here matters. And the content of legislation has real impact around the world. Please think about this. Did these companies mean to give Anne Wexler this much power? If one is a government official working on these matters, does he think what his actions mean to those who have no one looking out for them? And if one is a Member of Congress, does he remember when Anne Wexler and company stops by that no one is speaking for those on the other end, those in Sudan, those in prison, those in slavery, those in Iraq, those Catholic bishops in prison, those evangelical pastors in prison in China, and the monks and Buddhist nuns in prison in Tibet?

Mother Jones or "MoJo" is a national magazine of investigative journalism focusing on political reporting. It is named after and in the spirit of the legendary Mary Harris (Mother) Jones who was one of the most effective organizers of her time. Before passing on at the ripe old age of 100, this spirited mother of four effectively led fights against child labor, and on behalf of coal miners and other labor groups during the early years of this century.

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moderate nature of the Freedom from Religious Persecution bill. At its root it calls for withdrawal of non-humanitarian taxpayer subsidies to hardcore persecuting countries and gives the president total discretion to maintain the subsidies.

In the end, however, Members will read bill and understand its moderate character and people in the pews will hear that this bipartisan effort gives the persecuted people of the world a voice.

□ 1845

Anne Wexler is the only voice. But she should not be the loudest voice.

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ILLEGAL DRUGS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, this is probably one of the biggest signs in the history of the House to be used in a special order, but I think it addresses one of the biggest problems that we as a Nation and we as a Congress face today. The theme of this sign that we have here today is Drugs Destroy Lives.

This particular sign is actually part of a billboard and a message that we developed in my central Florida area. We have 20 of these billboards up right now in central Florida. We have more going up, to let our young people know that indeed drugs destroy lives, to let our citizens know that drug abuse will affect their lives and destroy their lives.

We have a tremendous problem in not only my district but throughout the United States. That is why we are trying to create public awareness again among all of our population, particularly our young, to do something about that. That is why we in Congress today, and many Members from our side of the aisle and some from the other side of the aisle have joined together under the leadership of our Speaker to make drug abuse and illegal narcotics a number one priority of this Congress and of this Nation and our communities.

You may say, why? Let me just tell you a little bit of why I am here with this message and why we are here with this billboard and we are going to spread this message across our land.

Since 1992, and these are incredible statistics, drug use among teens has skyrocketed by 70 percent. I heard the Speaker of the House say today as we launched our major congressional initiative that in the 1980s under President Reagan and then under President

Bush, drug abuse and misuse dropped and dropped and dropped because we had a public awareness, we had a Just Say No, we had a commitment and a leadership from Washington and from every level, a focus on doing away with the narcotics problem and illegal drugs in our society, and it worked.

But since 1992, 1993, and some of the actions of this administration, we have seen that trend turn around and now skyrocket with drug use among teens increasing by some 70 percent. The latest statistics show that half of the high school seniors think it is easy to obtain cocaine and LSD. These are the most recent statistics. Eighth grade use of drugs has increased 150 percent since 1992. Again a dramatic figure. Today the latest figures are that 25 percent of our high school seniors are current users of illegal drugs.

This is a scourge across our whole land. We have a tremendous problem. Some of it is a result, quite frankly, of policy of this administration. I do not want to get into all the details of what took place in the past, but one of President Clinton's first actions on taking office was to gut the Office of National Drug Control Policy, our Drug Czar's office. The statistics and the facts are these. He cut the staff from 146 individuals, staff positions, to 25.

In his first year, President Clinton cut \$200 million from drug interdiction efforts in the Caribbean and another \$200 million from alternative crop production and crop eradication. That means he took the bulk of money out of the programs that were the most cost-effective in stopping drugs at their source, in stopping drugs where they only cost a few cents, a few dollars.

I serve on a committee that overviews this national drug policy, and we have seen that the most effective dollars can be spent where drugs are produced and grown in their source countries. We know that all of the cocaine and the heroin and some of these other products are coming both through Colombia, the cocaine, 100 percent of it is coming from Peru, Bolivia and Colombia, so why not target the source?

We here in Congress are launching a program this week and today to stop drugs at their source. We are also launching a program that we think will help everyone by again bringing attention to this problem; not only bringing Federal resources such as we have done in central Florida, creating a high intensity drug traffic area, bringing every law enforcement mechanism together in central Florida and other communities, but across this whole land we are going to ask for accountability, responsibility, tough enforcement.

We have started in my local community with this theme. We have a high intensity drug traffic area from Daytona Beach all the way through Orlando and over to Tampa. We have organized State, local and Federal forces. We are going to today launch a real

war on drugs. We are sending this message that in fact drugs can destroy lives.

CHINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the gentleman from Florida for his presentation. I just came back from Southeast Asia where heroin is being grown, actually it is opium and turned into heroin, especially in Burma and in Afghanistan, and I was informed by the DEA agents there that we know exactly where the fields are that produce about 90 percent of the heroin, and with leadership from the White House we could attack those fields without hurting anybody before they ever got beyond those countries.

But like the gentleman stated, since 1992 we have not had leadership from the White House in the area, in that type of interdiction, plus we have not had the moral leadership that Ronald Reagan provided during the 1980s which made the use of illegal drugs something that was socially unacceptable. It was just something that people did not find it acceptable to have that in their presence because it was something that was regarded as insulting and degrading and immoral.

Instead, that attitude has now unfortunately changed again without that type of rejection from the leadership in the White House. Unfortunately, we see the trends in heroin use by young people is up. It is just a terrible trend.

Mr. MICA. If the gentleman will yield, I want to thank him for his leadership on this issue, in trying to call to the attention of the American people this drug problem and other problems relating to our national security that he has so eloquently presented on the floor.

He also mentioned the heroin production out of Asia. I serve on the national security subcommittee. We have found now 50 percent of the heroin, and heroin was not even really coming in any quantities out of Colombia, is now coming out of Colombia, mostly because of the policy of this administration.

We asked that waivers be granted because Colombia was decertified as not cooperating. Time and time again over the past 2½ years we have asked for equipment, resources, materials to fight the war on drugs in that country and to stop the production of heroin. This is all new just in the course of this administration that heroin is being grown in incredible quantities, poppy fields.

That is coming into Florida, it is coming into California, the gentleman's State, it is coming into the Nation. We see the results. The results are, I have heroin deaths in central

Florida that equal our largest metropolitan areas in the United States. Not only the poor children in Detroit and New York and Los Angeles, but in Orlando and other suburbs across this country, are dying in the streets, in our community, now reaching 20,000 deaths, more than any war.

I thank the gentleman again for his great leadership, and also for his taking time with a special order to bring this and other matters to the attention of the Congress and the American people.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. This does fit into my special order which is focused on China because one of the things this administration is totally ignoring is the Chinese relationship to the drug lords in Burma. China has become a major distributor of heroin as it takes the heroin from Burma by providing weapons to the Burmese dictatorship, then takes the heroin or the opium out of Burma and takes it down through Vietnam and Cambodia and then out to distribution points in the United States and elsewhere.

Tonight I would like to discuss China policy. But before I do, I would like to say that I understand why the American people probably are a little bit frustrated right now when they turn on their TV, as I have over these last few months, and heard more about the sex life of our President than any of us want to know.

Yes, there may be a situation where a person was told to lie on a legal deposition, which is somewhat of a serious matter. But I for one, however, have been disappointed with the zeal of our news media in digging ever deeper into the lurid details of this ongoing circus, not to shed light on legal issues but instead to sell newspapers and to boost ratings. Accomplishing this, boosting their ratings or selling newspapers, has meant appealing not to the public sense of justice or even offering a better understanding of the legal issues that underlie this spectacle. No, the exhaustive attention paid to the Monica Lewinsky-Paula Jones maneuverings has nothing to do with the public interest and has everything to do with appealing to the public's prurient interest.

For those who claim there is nothing else to cover of such a magnitude, of something that could attract the attention of the people, I rise tonight to say nay. We are living in times where decisions are being made that will determine the fundamental safety and prosperity of our people for decades to come. In a way, our President should be grateful that the media has focused on the trivial yet nevertheless inexcusable decisions that he has made in his personal conduct, rather than on some of the horrendous decisions he has made that have mind-boggling implications for our future.

Tonight I would like to discuss for the record an issue that has yet to fully make itself present to the American people. It is not now part of the public consciousness but will, I predict,

once the public is aware of what is going on, result in widespread rage and ultimately an equally widespread sense of betrayal by our people. Whether purposely or as a result of well intentioned but unforgivably wrong policies, our country has been put in serious jeopardy.

First let me say that in my first 10 years that I have been here in the House of Representatives, I have suffered great frustration over our country's China policy, both Republicans and Democrats in charge of the White House. When Clinton was elected in 1992, in fact, I expected at least I would be able to work with our new President from Arkansas on the issues concerning China. After all, candidate Clinton attacked President Bush for kowtowing to the Chinese despots, and when asked in an interview a few weeks before the election, candidate Clinton pledged that he would not support most-favored-nation status for China and that he was appalled by the human rights abuses of the Communist regime in Beijing.

But once elected and sworn in as President, Bill Clinton's tune changed. He was different from President Bush, all right. Instead of not being tough enough on the Communist Chinese regime, he decided not to be tough at all. Instead of revoking most-favored-nation status for Communist China as he pledged during his campaign, President Clinton waited till Congress was out of town on a break and then announced that his administration was decoupling Chinese trade issues from any discussion of human rights. In one single stroke, Bill Clinton earned an infamous place in history.

□ 1900

In the years since he has done nothing to rectify or correct this horrendous violation of our trust. This act was the worst setback for the cause of human rights at least since the time that I have served in Congress.

Not only did we step off the high ground in our relations with the Communist Chinese regime, but we have been wading in the muck with them ever since. The tough guys in Beijing now know darn well that anything this administration says or does about human rights is meant for internal consumption in the United States only. In other words, we are being played for suckers.

Every time a pronouncement is made by Bill Clinton's White House about Tibet or the savagery against religious people in China, the regime in Beijing laughs. I mean, Madeleine Albright is over there now, and it was reported that she said something really tough on human rights, and you know she was taken very seriously by, you know, the gangsters in Beijing.

Any talk of liberty or justice by the President of the United States or any member of this administration is seen as a joke by Third World despots and Chinese dictators. This has been a tremendous disservice to our country as