

funding the American needs, but more importantly, in the area of personnel and initiatives, it is really unbelievable. This administration is willing to spend \$1.6 billion in Colombia, but they spent absolutely nothing in their budget on the methamphetamine initiative of the Drug Enforcement Administration. Nothing. The methamphetamine initiatives of DEA have been some of the most successful initiatives they have undertaken.

Talk to people in Colorado, Missouri, Minnesota, and all along the southwest border. They will tell you methamphetamine is the drug that is growing most rampantly. It is growing at the most dramatic rate. Its production is growing at the most dramatic rate.

Two years ago, the Congress set up 10 initiatives in the area of methamphetamine. They have been successful. Yet this administration has zeroed out for all intents and purposes any new initiative in methamphetamine, even though the DEA specifically requested of OMB—part of the administration—and said they needed 10 more initiatives in the area of methamphetamine. I think it was 10. But that was zeroed out by the White House while at the same time they are willing to spend \$1.6 billion to buy planes for Colombia. It makes no sense.

We know that 85 percent of the methamphetamine that is being sold in Minnesota is smuggled in from Mexico. We know that. We know, if we are going to stop that smuggling, that we are going to have to have a border enforcement capability that can identify it, track it, arrest it, and then prosecute it. But you can't do that if you are going to underfund the DEA, the INS, and the judiciary to such dramatic levels. But the White House has done exactly that. But who have they been willing to fund for initiatives in Colombia? That is not the only instance.

The Border Patrol was supposed to receive an increase of 1,000 people a year for 3 years. That is what the Congress asked this administration to do. That is what we actually funded—1,000 people for 3 years. This administration has refused to fill those slots. The administration has basically refused to fulfill its obligation to fill those slots. So the Border Patrol goes undermanned and in many instances underpaid. As I have already pointed out, the facilities and equipment it has are woefully inadequate.

The Border Patrol, obviously, does things other than just drug enforcement, but because the Mexican border is the primary vehicle and the Mexican cartels are the primary force behind the drug flow into the United States, the Border Patrol is constantly being drawn into the drug fight. Therefore, adequately funding the Border Patrol is critical to having an adequate drug enforcement policy in this country.

My point is simple and obvious. Before we send \$1.6 billion to Colombia, before we send this money down there so they can have more planes, goggles,

and radar sensors, how about funding the American needs in the area of drug enforcement? How about funding our own law enforcement community and our Judiciary so we can act adequately, interdict and fight drugs in the United States.

I believe this administration's priorities are skewed. I think this Congress has an obligation to take a hard look at the Colombian drug proposal when it comes here. In my opinion, we should reallocate significant amounts of those funds so we can appropriately fund and support DEA, INS, and the Judiciary.

I yield back the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. AL-LARD). Under the previous order, the time between 11 o'clock and 11:30 shall be under the control of the Senator from New Hampshire or his designee.

The Senator from New Hampshire is recognized.

HOLY SEE

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, first, I want to make my colleagues aware I have a resolution regarding the Holy See. This resolution would block any effort to remove or demean the nine-member permanent observer status at the United Nations held now by the Catholic Church. I want my colleagues and the American people to know this is being blocked from being heard by the other side of the aisle, which is a very interesting story considering the controversy on the House side regarding the Chaplain. It is interesting that this simple resolution that says we will not block or demean in any way the nine members of the permanent observer status at the United Nations by the Pope and the Catholic Church is being blocked on the other side of the aisle.

I want the American people to know I can't get this to the floor because of holds on this bill on the other side. When we hear the stories about who is anti-Catholic and who isn't, we ought to shine the light where the light should be shined.

ELIAN GONZALEZ

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I want to pick up on a couple of points I made last night regarding Elian Gonzalez.

My colleagues need to understand today this young boy is going to be yanked from the arms of his family, literally, at the direction of Janet Reno, and placed on an airplane and taken God knows where—we are hearing maybe to Bethesda—where he meets with Juan Gonzalez in the confines of the Cuban control which is where this Cuban diplomat lives, or perhaps ultimately on an airplane and headed for Cuba. There are no restrictions. We don't know.

The speech I made on the floor last night I thought was very compelling regarding this situation. There is talk

about how this young man is going to go back to his father. I will repeat briefly what I said last night. He is not going to go back to his father, if we let this young boy go back to Cuba. The Cuban diplomats have already said this young man is controlled by Cuba. He is a child of the state. He is a child of Cuba. He is not a child of Juan Gonzalez—only biologically. Beyond that, he is not the son of Juan Gonzalez; he is the son of Cuba.

We have a 6-year-old little boy who survived a terrible incident at sea, watching his mother drown. Her dying words literally were: Please get Elian to the shores of America. The two survivors told me that themselves because they saw her die, as did Elian.

Later they were separated and Elian floated for 3 days in an inner tube. When he was picked up by two fishermen, he was surrounded by dolphins. We know dolphins are a protection because sharks do not interfere with dolphins. He was being protected by the dolphins. He had no sunburn after 3 days at sea. He told me he saw the Virgin Mary while he was floating in this inner tube.

This is a very special little boy who had never been inside a church until he came to America. We now have said, the Justice Department has said, Janet Reno has said, this boy has no rights under the law. She is wrong. She has discretion under the law to send him back, but there is no law that says he must go back. I want to make that very clear.

I think the Senate should go on record, as tough as it is, and take a vote one way or the other, binding or nonbinding, but take a vote. Every Senator should let the American people know how they feel about this because Elian went through an awful lot—a lot more than most of us go through in our lifetimes. His mother died trying to get him to America, and we have now taken her rights away. She has no voice because she can't speak for herself. Perhaps ultimately in the custody court without the Justice Department would be the right way to resolve it. However, the Attorney General has chosen to be confrontational, as she did at Waco, and said he will be taken. She has made this statement over and over in the past several days.

I read the polls that say 61 percent of the American people say Elian Gonzalez should go back to his father. This is not about polling. There were no polls out there when Elian was floating around in the ocean in rough seas for 3 days.

I have met Elian Gonzalez and until yesterday I don't think Janet Reno had. He is a special boy. He is going to be Castro's main objective when he gets back to Cuba. This boy cannot succeed in saying good things about America to his classmates. This boy will go into a Communist education camp. He will be taken away from his father most of the time, probably 11 months out of 12, and he will be "re-educated." Fidel Castro himself has

said this boy will be reeducated. He will be reeducated all right. Ask some of the Vietnamese who came out of Vietnam what a reeducation camp is and ask some of the Cuban American community today what it is like in Cuba and why thousands have come here and thousands more have died trying to get here.

Now because little Elian's mother drowned, he has no rights. I thought this was America. But I guess it isn't anymore.

I want everybody to understand what happens to Elian Gonzalez. We hear about Fidel Castro. You would think he loved this little boy and would want to get the little boy back to his father. "That is all I want," says Fidel.

I will close on this point: On July 13, 1994, 72 Cuban men, women, and children boarded a tugboat called the *13 de Marzo* and they set sail, hopefully, they thought, to freedom in the United States. Three hours later, 32 of them would be forced back to Cuba and imprisoned and another 40—23 children among them—would be killed by the Cuban goon squads of Fidel Castro.

Do you know how it happened? I will tell you how it happened. We got this firsthand from the survivors: Two Government firefighting boats pummeled the helpless passengers, who were unarmed, with water from high-pressure firehoses 7 miles off the coast of Cuba. The passengers repeatedly attempted to surrender to Government officials, going so far as to hold their children in their arms up like this, saying: Please, these are my children, stop, stop.

But the Cuban Coast Guard was relentless. The firehoses were enormous. Survivors said children were sprayed from the arms of their mothers into the ocean waters. Other children were simply swept off the deck by the firehoses and drowned in the sea. Desperate to protect their children, some of the mothers went down below deck with their children. What did they get for that? The Cuban Coast Guard rammed their vessel again and again and sank it with these people in the hold.

Here is a picture of a little girl, Caridad Leyva Tacoronte, 4 years old. She was one of those children.

If Castro's goons could have caught that boat, they would have done the same thing to Elian Gonzalez.

So I don't want to hear any more of this talk about how this is going to be the nicest thing for Elian, to go back to his wonderful little home in Cuba and live happily ever after with his dad because that is a bunch of pure, unadulterated garbage. Let's face reality. If the Senate does not have the courage to stand up and vote and be on record against that, then what do we stand for? What do we stand for?

Here is another one, Angel Rene Abreu Ruiz, 3 years old, sprayed from the arms of her mother by a high-pressure firehose and drowned in the ocean before her mother's eyes.

Elian did not get caught, so Castro did not kill him. He made it to the

ocean. The ocean, though, took the lives of his fellow passengers, all but two. One other couple and Elian survived. His mother died.

So rather than send this to a custody court—I am not asking anybody to make a decision on where Elian should go. All my resolution does, that I have been trying to get a vote on now for a month and a half, is it gives permanent residency status to Elian, to his father, to his father's current wife, and to his child, to Elian's two grandmothers and grandfather—all the family. It lets them come here free of Castro, sit down as a family, talk with the Miami relatives, and decide how little Elian's fate should be resolved. That is all I am asking.

But, oh, no, we cannot do that because Janet Reno and Fidel Castro have decided the kid has to go back to Cuba. I want everybody in America to know what is going to happen. I promise you, this is the kind of stuff that happens in Cuba. He is going to go into a little reeducation camp, and he is going to learn all about communism, and we are going to make mighty sure, in Cuba, that he does not tell his classmates about Disney World or anything else nice that happened here in America. He is not going to let that happen. So he is a special little boy, all right, to Fidel Castro.

When I hear all this stuff about this nice little happy relationship with Juan Gonzalez, his father—where has his father been for 4 months? Has anybody stopped him from going to Miami and sitting down with the family and talking this out? Yes. Fidel Castro has stopped him.

Do you know where Mr. Gonzalez' mother is right now? She is under house arrest in Cuba so she cannot move freely. Let's get real here. That is where she is. He is afraid to say anything because he fears for his mother's life. He has his wife and child here but he doesn't have his mother here.

What a tragedy this is, that this little boy, who survived all of this, is now going to be forced back and he has nothing to say about it. I am never going to forget, as long as I live, no matter what happens, that little boy looking me in the eye about 2 months ago, 3 months ago, and saying: Senor, ayudame, por favor—help me, please. I don't want to go back to Cuba.

I asked him: Elian, don't you want to see your father?

He said: Si, senor—yes, but I want my father to come here to America because that is what my mother wanted.

Frankly, that is what his father wanted, too, but he can't say it. His father knew Elian was coming. He spoke to the hospital the night Elian was rescued and he was in the hospital. The father spoke to the doctors and to the family and thanked the family and the doctors for taking care of him and said, "I'll see you soon." But, oh, no. Then comes the Attorney General blundering into this thing: Oh, no, this is an immigration matter.

Do you think he came in here by yacht?

Once again, I plead with my colleagues, whoever the powers that be are around here: Bring this thing to a vote today before 2 o'clock. Don't block it. Bring it to the floor and allow us to be recorded so the American people will know where we stood on a matter as important as this.

VOLUNTARY MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN ACT OF 2000

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I would like to talk a bit about The Voluntary Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Act of 2000—S. 2319.

This bill allows seniors to enroll in a new program under Medicare which will provide for prescription drug coverage without increasing Medicare premiums or costing the Federal Government one penny.

This is an issue about which, as you know, many seniors are very concerned.

The Senate unanimously approved a sense-of-the-Senate amendment on the budget resolution offered by myself, Senator ALLARD, and Senator DOMENICI.

This sense-of-the-Senate is very simple. First of all, under the plan the Senate Democrats are committed to passing this year, there are six basic principles.

I agree with them all.

No. 1, it is voluntary.

I agree with this. If the senior doesn't want it, he or she should not have to take it.

No. 2, it is accessible to all Medicare beneficiaries.

I agree with that. A hallmark of Medicare is that all beneficiaries, even those in rural or underserved communities, have access to dependable health care. It should be accessible to everybody. The Smith-Allard plan is fully accessible for all beneficiaries.

No. 3, it is designed to provide meaningful protection and bargaining power for Medicare beneficiaries in obtaining prescription drugs.

A Medicare drug benefit should assist seniors with the high cost of drugs and protect them against excessive, out-of-pocket expenses. I agree with that.

No. 4, it is affordable for all Medicare beneficiaries and for the Medicare program.

It should be affordable to all beneficiaries, and it should be affordable to the Medicare program itself. The Smith-Allard bill is free. Free to all beneficiaries, free to the trust fund. If free qualifies as affordable, I think we are there.

No. 5, it is administered using private sector entities and competitive purchasing techniques.

The management of the prescription drug benefit should mirror the practices employed by private insurers. Discounts should be achieved through competition, not through price controls or regulation.