

inmate of that prison decided that they wanted to send a Mother's Day card to their mother.

They had so much success, the greeting card company came back on Father's Day and they made the same offer. They had practically zero participation.

You say, well, what in the world happened here? The thing was that the great majority, almost all of the men in that prison, did not have a father. Their father had simply abandoned them, probably early in life, and as a result they were not interested at all in sending them a card.

Certainly the family structure has changed in our country, and I think we have to pay attention to that. We have to buttress it as much as we can. We can't legislate a lot of these things, but we can certainly attempt to do something about it.

The second thing that I will address, and this will be the last thing I will talk about, is the fact that the environment that our young people are now growing up in has certainly changed as well. The family, the launching pad, has changed, has become less stable, and the environment into which we are thrusting our young people has certainly become more difficult, has become more challenging, has become more dangerous, and, as a result, we have seen some major changes.

One thing that I was very proud to see this House address yesterday was the matter of underage drinking. This has become a huge problem in our Nation, and we did pass the STOP bill yesterday. I don't know if we will get it done in the Senate or not. I hope we will. It simply made an attempt to do something about the ravages of underage drinking. I will just present a few interesting details regarding underage drinking.

A recent National Academy of Sciences study showed that alcohol kills six-and-a-half times more children than all other drugs combined. So if you look at cocaine, if you look at heroin, marijuana and on and on, and you combine all of those, alcohol kills six-and-a-half times more children, more than 4,000 a year, which is a huge number. It costs the United States \$53 billion annually. There are currently 3 million teenage alcoholics. So it is by far the biggest drug problem we have.

The average age for the first drink of a young person who decides to use alcohol before age 21 is 12.8 years of age. When you start using alcohol that young, that early in your life, it makes a huge difference because of your psychological and your physiological immaturity. A young person who starts drinking before age 15 is five times more likely to become an alcoholic than one who waits until they are 21 years of age.

Anyway, this body has done something about this, not probably enough, but at least it is a good start, and I was proud to see that happen yesterday.

Another drug that is particularly pernicious and is spreading like wild-

fire across the country is methamphetamine. Many places will find that the rates of use of heroin and cocaine are going down rather dramatically, and the reason for that is methamphetamine is moving in.

Methamphetamine is cheaper and methamphetamine is much more addictive, so it is sweeping across the country. It started in California and has slowly moved across, and now there is a pocket up in the north-eastern part of the country where we don't see much of it, but through the Midwest, through the South, through most of the rest of the country, it has become pretty much a tidal wave. So we have been very concerned about this.

We find that in Nebraska roughly 22,000 people, according to a recent report, are addicted in a State of only 1.7 million. The average meth addict will cost society about \$50,000 a year, so in Nebraska it is about a \$1 billion a year problem, and nationally it is huge. It is eating up a huge amount of our money at the present time.

So we did again make some attempt to address that here, the Combat Meth Act was important, and I think maybe the most important part of that bill was that we did something to try to regulate sudafedrine, which absolutely is necessary in order to produce methamphetamine.

There are only about six or seven countries in the world that produce sudafedrine, and so what we did in that bill was, we said those countries that produce sudafedrine and ship it to other countries will need to give the United States invoices of where those shipments of sudafedrine are going, which enables us then to track the sudafedrine to the "superlabs," which are mostly in Mexico; and we think that is the most helpful way we have of getting at some of those superlabs that are shipping about 80 to 90 percent of the methamphetamine into the United States.

These are some things that have been done.

Of course, we realize that we have a huge problem with pornography and some of video games that are affecting our young people and so on. I will not try to outline all of these, but I just want to mention the fact that I believe that it is important that we, as a body, as a Congress, pay attention to what is going on with our young people, because if we don't, if we fail to address those issues, it is a little bit like a football team ignoring something that eventually will catch up with you.

As Tony Blair mentioned, "The long-term well-being of a nation is served well only when you pay attention to the next generation."

□ 1315

And we have a lot of warning signs out there that we are beginning to slip, that we have not paid adequate attention, that the next generation coming up may not be able to carry the ball, so

to speak. So I hope that that will be a major concern and a major thrust in this body as we move forward.

It has been a pleasure for me to be here for the last 6 years. A lot of great friends, both sides of the aisle. It has been very challenging at times, and I see great potential. I do hope that we will pull together and hope that we will serve the Nation as best we can as time moves forward.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. CHANDLER (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of official business.

Mr. TANNER (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of official business.

Mr. KUHL of New York (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of personal business.

Mr. HEFLEY (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for the week of November 13 on account of attending the NATO Parliamentary Assembly in Quebec.

Mr. GILLMOR (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for the week of November 13 on account of attending the NATO Parliamentary Assembly in Quebec.

Mr. BOOZMAN (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for the week of November 13 on account of attending the NATO Parliamentary Assembly in Quebec.

Mr. TANCREDO (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for the week of November 13 on account of attending the NATO Parliamentary Assembly in Quebec.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. MCCARTHY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SCHIFF, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CARDOZA, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. POE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. SEKULA GIBBS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BUYER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. NUSSLE, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Member (at his own request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. OWENS, for 5 minutes, today.