

wanted to bring to the attention of my colleagues an often overlooked story in the debate over the war on drugs in the Western Hemisphere—that being the surprising success story of Bolivia. Even today, as we consider providing additional counter narcotics aid to Colombia to fight the terrible scourge of the drug trade which has so completely engulfed that nation, there is hardly any mention of the success achieved in Bolivia and Peru nor of the importance of providing additional assistance to those nations. It would be critically important that as the Administration considers a new aid package for the anti-drug fight in Colombia that some additional money be included for Peru and Bolivia so that they can continue their progress and ensure that as the Colombians become more successful in their efforts, the drug trade does not return to these other nations.

Bolivia is a success story which many of my colleagues need to know more about. When the current government of Hugo Banzer took office in 1997, the President proclaimed a goal of ridding Bolivia of all illegal coca and cocaine by the Year 2002. Many people familiar with Bolivia's situation proclaimed their skepticism and said that the drug trade was too lucrative for the farmers and peasants of Bolivia to give up, at least not willingly, that there was too much corruption, that given the condition of Bolivia's economy at the time, the Government could not sustain any type of alternative crop development program to win the coca farmers over.

Now, just a little over two years later, Bolivia has successfully eradicated over 50 percent of the illegal coca crop and reduced re-planting to a historically low level. This story has not been easy, nor without problems but with the firm commitment of President Banzer to succeed and under the strong leadership and direction of Vice President Jorge Quiroga and the Dignity Plan, Bolivia is well on its way to meeting its goals. According to the Bolivian government, between August 1997 and October 1999, over 27,000 hectares of coca have been eradicated. 121,000 square meters of coca seedbeds have been destroyed and 225 tons of cocaine bound for the United States or Europe have been interdicted.

Through a combination of domestic political leadership and international support, mostly from the United States, Bolivia has been able to develop a successful strategy which balances interdiction, eradication and alternative development. It is the alternative development program which has been the real success story and one which could become a model for even Colombia if the guerrilla war in that country is ever brought under control.

Mr. Speaker, the integration of illegal coca farmers into the legal economy of Bolivia has been the most urgent priority of the government and has thus far been highly effective. But it is also the most fragile element of the strategy in that unless the alternative crops can be produced and gotten to market in a timely fashion and can bring a financial return equal to coca, the farmers could very easily return to illegal drug cultivation returning Bolivia to the status of a major coca producing nation as in the past.

The bottom line, Mr. Speaker is that Bolivia has done a remarkable job in reversing the

drug trade in that region and for that, they should be recognized and congratulated. But more than that, we should be rewarding their success with additional funds which they need and have requested in order to continue the successful effort and ensure that the gains are not reversed. It makes no sense to recognize Bolivia's successful efforts, thank them for all they are doing to help protect American citizens from drugs and then not continue to help them finish the job they set out to do. I hope that our Administration understands this and that if and when they send a request for additional counter narcotics assistance to the Congress they consider including some level of additional assistance for Bolivia.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1906,
AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT,
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION,
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID L. HOBSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 1, 1999

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to commend the members of the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee for a job well done on the fiscal year 2000 Agriculture Appropriations Act which contained \$1.2 billion for disaster assistance.

As you know, this summer's drought has placed a heavy burden on the agricultural industry in several parts of the country. Not only have crops been devastated, but the drought has also caused corresponding economic loss to livestock and dairy producers. The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture has recently estimated the natural disaster losses for all affected states to total \$3.56 billion. The State of Ohio alone has suffered losses nearing \$600 million, almost 15 percent of Ohio's largest industry. In my district, Pickaway County's estimated crop value for this year's harvest is \$39 million below average. When this disaster is compounded with the existing low commodity prices, it puts our farmers in the most dire economic situation in recent memory.

Last week, I communicated with both the leadership and committee members to ensure that the final aid package would be augmented to provide adequate funding for United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) disaster assistance programs such as the Crop Loss Disaster Assistance Program, the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program, the Livestock Assistance Program, and the Emergency Conservation Programs. Thankfully, the Republican Congress was able to pass an Agriculture Appropriations bill that included \$1.2 billion in much-needed disaster assistance for our farmers.

To close, Mr. Speaker, I would again like to commend this Congress and especially those who have been instrumental in passing meaningful economic assistance to the farming community that serves as the foundation of this great Nation.

HONORING LINDA DOOLIN WARD,
CENTRAL EXCHANGE 1999 WOMAN
OF THE YEAR

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an exceptional leader and friend to our Kansas City community. Today Linda Doolin Ward will be honored as the 1999 Woman of the Year by the Central Exchange. Linda Doolin Ward has an extensive history with Kansas City and has shown outstanding leadership in her career and contributions to our metropolitan area. This prestigious award recognizes her commitment to gender concerns and her desire for equality in the workplace and society.

She is currently President of the Women's Foundation, a local organization dedicated to funding programs and services which assist women. I am especially impressed with her work at the Women's Foundation to establish grants to help meet the health care, employment, and educational needs of women. This year the Foundation will announce \$125,000 worth of grants addressing domestic violence, parenting, and professional development skills.

Serving on numerous boards, Mrs. Doolin Ward has demonstrated her significant presence as a catalyst for change. She was the first woman to be Board President and Chairperson of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Kansas City and served as the Executive Director of the Central Exchange. She is the Co-Chair of the FOCUS strategic planning project, was recently appointed to the Port Authority of Kansas City, and serves as a Committee Chairwoman for the Partnership for Children.

Linda Doolin Ward's career is just as impressive as her record of volunteerism. For 15 years she worked as an executive with Payless Cashways, Inc., and is now Vice President of Investor Relations and Corporate communications with the American Italian Pasta Company. In addition to these achievements, she is married to her high school sweetheart, Terry Ward, and a devoted mother to her son, Jason. As a role model for women across the nation, Linda Doolin Ward has shown us how to balance family life with work and still make room to contribute to the people in our community.

I am honored to acknowledge Linda Doolin Ward for her successful efforts to promote equity and opportunity for women and her commitment to making our community a better place. Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Central Exchange 1999 Woman of the Year, Linda Doolin Ward.

LAND TRANSFER TO THE
GREATER YUMA PORT AUTHORITY

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, commercial growth along the southwest border increased