

So I would like to see a much more heavily engaged, much more largely financed operation of people within the DEA and within the Justice Department helping us to interdict these criminals within our community. They have a long list. They tell me thousands of these traffickers have been arrested. But so many of them have not been brought to justice. So they are out there still, lurking around our communities, banking tens of billions of dollars in investments and creating this problem which we call money laundering, because this money is illegal, it is illicit, it was made from the benefit of selling illegal products within the United States. It has no business moving into the normal legal commerce of this nation or of any nation. And so we need to take greater steps to interdict this money, find out where it is, where it is being deposited, which banks, and making sure that no benefits, no profit, no advance, no monetary benefits are derived from this illegal traffic. That is another area which I feel we need to engage the financial interests of this country.

When you go to Mexico, immediately the big American businesses will come to you and say, "You can't decertify Mexico," because billions of dollars of our American interests are involved in the trade between Mexico and the United States. I certainly will agree to that. There are huge connections of involvement between American business and Mexican business. But I call upon the American businessmen here in this country as well as in Mexico to join forces with the United States in making sure that every effort that they can pursue to help us interdict and arrest these individuals and bring them to justice be done.

So I like to look upon this decertification process as an opportunity for us to examine our policies, to make sure that we are protecting our young people, in the schools we are teaching them about the tremendous hazards of drug consumption and how addictive it is and how they must stay away from it. We must do everything we can to prevent the adult population from engaging in this kind of activity. We have to arrest the people who are on the street selling this stuff. We have to also engage ourselves with the nearly 2 million people that are in our prisons, to make sure that adequate treatment is available to them so that when they are released, and they all will be released eventually, can go back into society completely rid of any habits they might have had previously with regard to drug usage.

So we have an enormous problem. But the most important, it seems to me, for our American communities is to make our streets safe so that while we are teaching our young people and have all these treatment and prevention programs in place, it is not an

easy thing to just walk to the street corner and pick up a gram or two of heroin or cocaine or buy marijuana or whatever. It should not be something which is that easy to do in our communities. I believe that law enforcement agencies need our support, they need our commitment to make sure that these laws are abided by. They need enough funds to make sure that enough people are in their agencies to make it possible for law enforcement activities to take place. They need a lot of intelligence. They need a lot of undercover agents to ferret out where these activities are taking place.

So we in the Congress have a dual responsibility. We have to make sure that adequate resources are being engaged to combat this problem within the United States, because demand is an issue. And if we can get our hands on an adequate control of the demand that comes from the United States to buy these terrible things, then, it seems to me, we have an evenhanded policy with other countries by insisting that they shut off the supply as well.

□ 1445

Mr. Speaker, I shall pursue with great vigor, and great enthusiasm and a great deal of interest my new responsibilities as the ranking member of this subcommittee. I know that I have a great deal more to learn about the hazards of this problem, but I am certainly prepared to engage myself and my staff on a full and complete examination of this issue.

Before I leave the special order this afternoon, I wanted to indicate that the President of the United States does not stand alone on his recommendation that Mexico ought to continue its work, and that we ought to join forces with them, and cooperate with them and encourage them to fulfill their commitment to us and to their own people because their own people are suffering just as tragically from what I have described as our own internal problem. The Mexican people are also suffering.

So I have here a letter that was recently sent to the President of the United States, Mr. Clinton, signed by the Governor of Texas, George W. Bush, the Governor of Arizona, Jane Dee Hull, and the Governor of New Mexico, Gary E. Johnson, urging the President on behalf of the States of Arizona, New Mexico and Texas that they convey their full support for the certification of Mexico as a responsible ally in the international war against drugs. The letter states we believe that under President Zedillo's leadership Mexico's commitment to and cooperation in counter narcotics efforts has definitely improved, and they support full certification of Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I ask that this letter be incorporated at the end of my remarks.

Mr. Speaker, the Congress will be pursuing this matter of certification, our subcommittee will be pursuing the overall national policies of drug control within the United States, and I hope that the Congress and the people of the United States can be engaged in a fair and thorough examination of our own internal domestic crisis and come up with a determination and a will to do much better than we are currently doing.

STATE OF TEXAS,
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR,
February 22, 1999.

Hon. WILLIAM J. CLINTON,
President of the United States, The White House, Washington, DC.

DEAR PRESIDENT CLINTON: On behalf of the States of Arizona, New Mexico and Texas, we are writing to urge your support for full certification of Mexico as a responsible ally in the international war against drugs. We believe that under President Ernesto Zedillo's leadership, Mexico's commitment to and cooperation in counter-narcotics efforts has definitely improved. For this reason, we support full certification of Mexico.

We maintain that the United States should not undermine Mexico in its effort to control the drug trade, but should demonstrate confidence in Mexico's ability to cooperate and actively participate in a long-term counter-narcotics strategy. Mexico has clearly demonstrated a renewed commitment in the battle against drug trafficking by announcing a \$400 million increase in funding for anti-drug operations and agreeing to improve cross-border undercover operations. In addition, Mexico's new three-year plan targeting early detection of drug flights and sea shipments and an increased counter-narcotics role for the Mexican Army should make a significant impact in the number of seizures and arrests.

It is our belief that de-certification could jeopardize existing and future anti-drug and law enforcement efforts, ultimately impairing the positive relationship between our two nations. Moreover, as Governors of border states, whose economies are interdependent with Mexico, we support full certification because potential economic sanctions against Mexico and decreased development aid resulting from de-certification would have a direct negative impact to our states.

We have confidence in President Zedillo's efforts and commitment to a zero tolerance policy for drugs. Mexico has been steadily on its way back to economic recovery, and de-certification would only hinder Mexico's efforts to implement political and economic reforms.

We thank you in advance for your consideration of our joint position and look forward to working with you to ensure that our congressional leaders support full certification of Mexico as an ally in the war against drugs.

Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH,
Governor of Texas.
JANE DEE HULL,
Governor of Arizona.
GARY E. JOHNSON,
Governor of New Mexico.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 48 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, March 16, 1999, at 9:30 a.m., for morning hour debates.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

1009. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Pyriproxyfen; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions [OPP-300794; FRL-6062-4] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received February 23, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

1010. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Dicamba (3,6-dichloro-o-anisic acid); Pesticide Tolerance, Technical Correction [OPP-300767A; FRL-6049-2] received February 26, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

1011. A letter from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the event-based decision making for the F-22 aircraft program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

1012. A letter from the Legislative and Regulatory Activities Division, Comptroller of the Currency, transmitting the Office's final rule—Risk-Based Capital Standards: Construction Loans on Presold Residential Properties; Junior Liens on 1- to 4-Family Residential Properties; and Investments in Mutual Funds; Leverage Capital Standards: Tier 1 Leverage Ratio [Docket No. 98-125] (RIN: 1550-AB11) received March 3, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

1013. A letter from the President and Chairman, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting the Annual Report to Congress on the operations of the Export-Import Bank of the United States for Fiscal Year 1998, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 635(b)(3)(i); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

1014. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Final Flood Elevation Determinations—received February 22, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

1015. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Changes in Flood Elevation Determination—received February 22, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

1016. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations [Docket No. FEMA-7272] received February 22, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

1017. A letter from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Law, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule—Accident Investigations—

received March 1, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

1018. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans: Revisions to the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) Administrative Code for the Air Pollution Control Program [AL-049-1-9907a; FRL 6236-1] received February 23, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

1019. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Michigan: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revision [FRL-6236-2] received February 23, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

1020. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Regulation of Fuels and Fuel Additives: Extension of the Reformulated Gasoline Program to the St. Louis, Missouri Moderate Ozone Nonattainment Area [FRL-6306-1] received February 26, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

1021. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting notification concerning the Department of the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) to Bahrain for defense articles and services (Transmittal No. 99-08), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(b); to the Committee on International Relations.

1022. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule—Revisions and Clarifications to the Export Administration Regulations; Commerce Control List [Docket No. 981229330-8330-01] (RIN: 0694-AB77) received March 8, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on International Relations.

1023. A letter from the Mayor of the District of Columbia, transmitting the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report of the District of Columbia, pursuant to D.C. Code section 47-117(d); to the Committee on Government Reform.

1024. A letter from the Executive Director, Committee For Purchase From People Who Are Blind Or Severely Disabled, transmitting the Committee's final rule—Additions—received February 22, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

1025. A letter from the Director, Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting the FY 2000 Annual Performance Plan for the Federal Emergency Management Agency; to the Committee on Government Reform.

1026. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Housing Finance Board, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

1027. A letter from the Administrator, General Services Administration, transmitting the Performance Plan of the General Services Administration for fiscal years 1999 and 2000; to the Committee on Government Reform.

1028. A letter from the Inspector General, National Science Foundation, transmitting the semiannual report of the National

Science Foundation for the period March 1 1998 through September 31, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

1029. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; American Lobster Fishery; Fishery Management Plan (FMP) Amendments to Achieve Regulatory Consistency on Permit Related Provisions for Vessels Issued Limited Access Federal Fishery Permits [Docket No. 981026267-9013-02; I.D. 100798B] (RIN: 0648-AL36) received February 22, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

1030. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Trawling in Steller Sea Lion Critical Habitat in the Central Aleutian District of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands [Docket No. 981222313-8320-02; I.D. 021299A] received February 22, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

1031. A letter from the Director, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Taking of Marine Mammals Incidental to Commercial Fishing Operations; Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan Regulations [Docket No. 970129015-9044-09; I.D. 031997C] (RIN: 0648-AI84) received March 3, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

1032. A letter from the Director, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Taking of Marine Mammals Incidental to Commercial Fishing Operations; Pacific Offshore Cetacean Take Reduction Plan Regulations; Technical Amendment [Docket No. 970129015-8123-06; I.D. 042798B] (RIN: 0648-AI84) received March 3, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

1033. A letter from the Director, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Final List of Fisheries for 1999; Update of Regulations Authorizing Commercial Fisheries Under the Marine Mammal Protection Act [Docket No. 980724195-9038-02; I.D. 070798F] (RIN: 0648-AK95) received March 3, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

1034. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Taking of Marine Mammals Incidental to Commercial Fishing Operations; Harbor Porpoise Take Reduction Plan Regulations [Docket No. 970129015-8287-08; I.D. 042597B] (RIN: 0648-AI84) received March 3, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

1035. A letter from the Director, Executive Office for Immigration Review, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final rule—Rules of Practice and Procedure for Administrative Hearings Before Administrative Law Judges in Cases Involving Allegations of Unlawful Employment of Aliens, Unfair Immigration-Related Employment Practices, and Document Fraud [EOIR No. 116P; A.G. Order No. 2203-99] (RIN: 1125-AA17) received February 26, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.