

Both men, realizing the danger of holding a position on the low ground under heavy fire, made a gallant charge and singlehandedly inspired their men despite an extreme risk to their own lives. The only thing that separates these two men is the technology of the time. Both acted with extreme bravery in the true spirit of United States Army. Both men took action at great risk to their own lives. Both men displayed gallantry above all else on the field. One man received the Medal of Honor and the other has yet to. It is time for Theodore Roosevelt to join Sergeant McCleery at the top of that hill.

ILLEGAL NARCOTICS AND DRUG ABUSE IN THE WAR ON DRUGS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) is recognized for half of the time until midnight as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, I come to the floor tonight with just a few minutes remaining before the magic hour of midnight when the House adjourns. I know the hour is late and my colleagues are tired and staff is tired, but I always try on Tuesday nights to address the House on the subject of illegal narcotics and drug abuse and the ravages that has placed upon our Nation.

We heard earlier a resolution relating to music; and as I sat and heard the speakers talk about music and the importance of music in people's lives, I translated that also into the thought that there are 15,973 Americans who died as a direct result of illegal narcotics in the latest statistical year, 1998. None of those individuals will ever hear music again.

The drug czar has told us that over 52,000 people die as a result of direct and indirect causes of illegal narcotics, and none of those people will hear music in their lives. In fact, the only lives that the parents, mothers and fathers and sisters and brothers will hear are funeral dirges and, unfortunately, that music for funerals over the victims of drug abuse and misuse. That music is much too loud across our land and repeated over and over.

It is equivalent for our young people to three Columboes every day across this country. And the latest statistics, and I would like to cite them, each week I come before the House to confirm that this situation is getting worse, rather than better. The latest report that we have on drug use being up is from USA Today, June 8, 2000, just a few days ago. This is an Associated Press story, and it is from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report from the Center in Atlanta. They just released this report. The story says cocaine, marijuana, and cigarette use among high school students consistently increased during the 1990s according to a government survey.

The report went on to say the increases in smoking and drug use came despite years of government-funded media campaigns urging teenagers to stay clean and sober. The record, again, from CDC went on to say that in 1991, 14.7 percent of the students surveyed said that they used marijuana. This was a survey involving 15,349 students in grade 9 through 12. That number steadily increased to some 26.7 percent in 1999, and students reporting that they tried marijuana at least once increased from 31.3 percent in 1991 to 47.2 percent in 1999; and in 1991, 1.7 percent of the students surveyed said they had used cocaine at least once in the prior month.

By 1999, that number rose to 4 percent. Those who had tried cocaine, who had at least tried cocaine, increased from 5.9 percent in 1991 to 9.5 percent in 1999. The latest survey on drug use and abuse by the Centers for Disease Control, again, confirms the problem that we are facing across the land, and this is with cocaine, marijuana, and cigarettes.

Of course, some of you may have seen this headline in the Washington papers, *Suburban Teen Heroin Use On The Increase*, and suburban teen heroin use and youth use of heroin and deadly, more purer heroin than we have seen back in the 1980s when we had single digit purity levels are now reaching some 70 percent and 80 percent deadly purity are affecting our young people; that deadly highly pure heroin is affecting our young people across the land. The number of heroin users in the United States has increased from 500,000 in 1996 to 980,000 in 1999.

□ 2350

The rate of use by children age 12 to 17 is extremely alarming. It increased from less than 1 in 1,000 in the 1980s to 2.7 per 1,000 in 1996. First-time heroin users are getting younger. They averaged some 26 years of age in 1991, now down to 17 years of age by 1997. Some of the latest statistics on drug use and abuse of heroin.

I also have the latest DAWN inter-agency domestic heroin threat assessment, which was produced in February of this year, and it shows the emergency department heroin related incidents involving 12 to 17-year-olds. From 1991 it was around 182, 1992, 232, and that soared in 1997 to 1,397 mentions, again, dramatic increases. We see from CDC, we see from the DAWN heroin report, drugs across the board.

That does not take into account our most recent epidemic, which is the problem of Ecstasy. I recently conducted a hearing in Central Florida on the problem of club drugs and designer drugs, Ecstasy, and we find that now we have another raging epidemic of drug use featured in Time Magazine, which is this past week's edition. "The lure of Ecstasy," one of the designer

drugs of choice for our young people, which we barely had mention of a year or two ago, and now we have incredible incidence of drug use of Ecstasy and abuse of Ecstasy and other designer drugs among our young people.

The problems created by these illegal narcotics are pretty dramatic to our society. I cited the 15,973 deaths, and that in itself is serious, but the cost to our society is a quarter of a trillion dollars a year, plus incarceration of tens of thousands of individuals who commit felonies under the influence of illegal narcotics. How did we get ourselves into this situation?

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TERRY). The gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) is recognized for the remainder of the time.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, how did we get ourselves into this situation? How did we get the flood of illegal narcotics coming in, in unprecedented amounts, heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine, designer drugs, in a torrent which we have never before seen?

Someone mentioned to me, a visiting female constituent from Florida, "You know, I haven't heard the President talk much about a war on drugs, and many people lately have said the war on drugs is a failure." In this discussion, I said, "You know, I think you are right. I don't think we have really heard the President speak either to the Congress or to the American people about the war on drugs."

In this little search that I had conducted by our staff, we went through all of the times that President Clinton has publicly mentioned the war on drugs since taking office. We did a search of all of his public speeches and statements. We find eight mentions in 7 years; two in 1993, March 18, 1993, and April 28, 1993, and that during the appointment primarily of his new Drug Czar, who turned out to be a disaster, or as the President was gutting the drug czar's office from some 130 positions to some less than 30 positions.

We hear other mentions, just casual mentions, about once per year of a war on drugs. That is basically because this administration has closed down the war on drugs.

Finally, the last time we can find a mention of the President, once last year, February 15, 1999, mentioning the war on drugs in casual passing.

In fact, the war on drugs was closed down by the Clinton Administration with the appointment of the chief health officer of the United States, the Surgeon General, Jocelyn Elders, who adopted the "Just Say Maybe," which, again, we can look at the statistics of drug abuse and misuse by our young people reaching record proportions. They understand a message or lack of a message from the highest office of our land to the highest health office of our land.

The close-down on the war on drugs continued on the international scene. I do not have time to get into all the statistics tonight, but there is no question that this administration closed down the international programs that were so successful under the Reagan and Bush Administrations, that stopped drugs at their source, that stopped drugs before they came in to the United States and came in to our borders.

What is sad is they perpetuated a myth that the war on drugs has been a failure, and some of their policies, again, closing down the efforts to stop drugs at their source, have resulted in an incredible volume of heroin, cocaine, coming into the United States.

The most dramatic example, of course, is Colombia. For 6 or 7 years now this administration has done everything possible to stop resources, assistance, right up until the last few months, from getting to Colombia, and even the efforts to get equipment, resources, there, surplus materials, equipment authorized by the Congress, has been a bungled effort. That has had some direct impact.

Colombia in 1992-1993 almost produced zero cocaine. There was almost no coca produced in Colombia. There was almost zero, none produced, of heroin. The poppies were almost nonexistent except for floral bouquets when this administration adopted its policy of stopping assistance in aid and drug combatting resources getting to Colombia. Now we are overwhelmed with the sheer volume.

If that did not do enough damage, the policy of this administration is revealed in this Dallas Morning News article that appeared March 13, 2000, about going after drug traffickers. "Federal drug offenders spending less time in prison, study finds."

Now, liberal papers like the New York Times would have you believe that everyone who puffed a joint or was guilty of some minor possession would be behind bars. In fact, recently I have heard that comment after they editorialized and said we have to do away with the harsh Rockefeller laws.

Our subcommittee in fact found that you really have to work hard to get in prison on a drug offense in the State of New York; that in fact 70 percent of the people behind bars, according to the most recent and most extensive study ever taken by judicial officials in New York that was revealed to our committee, are in jail for committing two or more felonies. Of the 30 percent who remain, they have committed at least one felony, and very few of those who were in prison on lesser charges are there because of small possessions of drugs. In fact, most of them that are there on lower charges, the study found, are there because the charge was reduced. It was plea bargained down.

So we have people who have committed in fact multiple felonies and serious offenses behind bars for these offenses. Our prisons and jails in New York, in particular, this study confirms, are not there because of minor drug offenses.

Unfortunately, tonight we do not have time to get into further detail. We will try to do that in subsequent special orders and update the Congress, you, Mr. Speaker, and my colleagues on these issues, to try to separate fact from fiction and shed some light on how we can do a better job in a multifaceted approach to bringing one of the most serious social challenges we have ever faced as a Nation or a Congress under control.

With those comments, unfortunately, my time has expired, and the business of the House has been completed.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. MARKEY (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of family illness.

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. SANCHEZ) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. MCKINNEY, for 5 minutes, today.

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

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, June 20.

Mr. BUYER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. NETHERCUTT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DUNCAN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. METCALF, for 5 minutes, today, June 14, and June 15.

Mr. LAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to:

Mr. OBEY and to insert tables and extraneous material on H.R. 4577 in the Committee of the Whole today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at midnight), the House adjourned until today, Wednesday, June 14, 2000, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

8098. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Almonds Grown in California; Release of the Reserve Established for the 1999-2000 Crop Year [Docket No. FV00-981-1 IFR] received May 3, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

8099. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule—Allocation of Funds Under the Capital Fund; Capital Fund Formula; Amendment [Docket No. FR-4423-C-08] (RIN: 2577-AB87) received May 2, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

8100. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Postsecondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule—Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (RIN: 1840-AC82) received May 2, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

8101. A letter from the Associate Division Chief, Accounting Policy Division, Common Carrier Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Truth-in-Billing Format [FCC 00-111; CC Docket No. 98-170] received May 2, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

8102. A letter from the Secretary, Bureau of Consumer Protection, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Rule Concerning Disclosures Regarding Energy Consumption and Water Use of Certain Home Appliances and Other Products Required Under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act ("Appliance Labeling Rule")—received May 3, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

8103. A letter from the Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks: Holtec HI-STORM 100 Addition (RIN: 3150-AG-31) received May 2, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

8104. A letter from the Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks: PSNA VSC-24 Revision (RIN: 3150-AG36) received May 2, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

8105. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks: TN-68 Addition (RIN: 3150-AG30) received May 2, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

8106. A letter from the Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the quarterly report on the denial of safeguards information, pursuant to Section 147 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954; to the Committee on Commerce.