

For decades, he served as a weather reporter in Prescott for the National Weather Service. His work helped to warn the weather service and the community of incoming severe weather, which no doubt helped to save the lives of friends and neighbors. Whether rain, sleet, snow or shine—through the heat of summer and the cold of winter, through droughts and floods—Mr. Teeter was there to record and report the conditions. As a weather reporter, he also worked with the Nevada County Rescue Unit to help them anticipate and respond to any severe weather disaster.

In addition to his service to the National Weather Service and the rescue unit, Mr. Teeter has been a member of the Kiwanis Club for over 40 years, helping to improve the lives of children in our community and throughout the world, and he is still active with the organization. He also continues to man the Nevada County Depot Museum in Prescott, which he has done for several years, showing students, visitors, and their families around the local museum at any time.

John Teeter is an outstanding example of the value of giving back to the community and an inspiration to so many of us. As a young boy growing up in Nevada County, he was a role model for me. Although I will be unable to attend the celebration on Thursday due to my responsibilities here in our nation's capitol, I join his family and friends in honoring him for his lifetime of achievements, and I am grateful for his many contributions to people of Prescott, Nevada County, and the State of Arkansas. I extend my warmest wishes to him for continued health and happiness in the years to come.

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE,  
JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDICIARY,  
AND RELATED AGENCIES  
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

SPEECH OF

**HON. BOBBY L. RUSH**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 18, 2001*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2500) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes.

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of Representative WATERS and Representative KUCINICH's amendment to restore the ability of developing countries to make HIV/AIDS drugs available to their citizens. While I understand the importance of the intellectual property rights of the companies that create these vital drugs, my consciousness compels me to support this amendment. I must support this amendment out of a sense of morality and concern for my fellow mankind in Africa and other developing countries.

HIV/AIDS is ravaging developing countries and wiping out a whole generation of men and women. More than 25 million Africans are now living with HIV and last year alone, 2.4 million Africans died from the disease. Sub-Saharan

African women are now the fastest-growing HIV-positive population.

The loss of mothers and fathers in Sub-Saharan Africa has resulted in a new social epidemic, parentless children. Two-thirds of 500,000 orphaned children in South Africa lost parents to HIV/AIDS, and over 30% of the children born to HIV+ women will develop pediatric AIDS. I have witnessed the orphanages overflowing with children who have lost parents to this disease and it is astonishing.

I commend the pharmaceutical companies who have made efforts to provide HIV/AIDS medications available to Sub-Saharan Africa. Also, I thank the 39 pharmaceutical companies for placing humanitarian concerns over profits by dropping their suit against the South African HIV/AIDS law earlier this year.

However, if we do not act now whole cultures may perish before our very eyes. If we do nothing, our tacit acceptance of the HIV/AIDS crisis in Africa and other developing countries is unforgivable. We must pass this amendment and allow developing countries the flexibility they need to provide cost-effective treatment for people with HIV/AIDS. If for any other reason, we should pass this amendment for the children whose parents these drugs can keep alive.

SPEND COLOMBIA MONEY AT  
HOME

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 24, 2001*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I want to share with all of my colleagues the attached editorial from the July 21, 2001 Chicago Tribune that articulates a position that I share. That is that our counter-narcotics efforts in Colombia are misguided, have not achieved the stated goals of US policy toward that country, and the funds required for implementation of this policy would be better spent working to address substance abuse here in the United States.

In the US, there are some 5.5 million people in need of substance abuse treatment. The federal government only provides treatment funding sufficient to cover 2 million of those individuals. That means that 3.5 million people in this country who are seeking treatment for their substance abuse problems are turned away. We know from a study conducted by the Rand Foundation that dollar for dollar it is twenty three times more effective to reduce drug consumption by investing in education, prevention, and providing treatment rather than trying to eradicate drugs at their source. Again, I strongly support the suggestion put forth by the attached editorial, that we should redirect the money we are spending to battle drugs in Colombia toward more effective programs here in the US, and I urge all members to consider it when making decisions on US policy toward Colombia and the Andean region.

[From the Chicago Tribune, July 21, 2001]

SPEND COLOMBIA MONEY AT HOME

In government, failed policies seldom are re-thought let alone abandoned—they tend

to expand. Rather than blame flawed thinking or bad information, failure is interpreted as a sign of insufficient time or funding.

During the past 18 months, the \$1.3 billion anti-narcotics Plan Colombia has not markedly reduced violence or drug production there—or made it more difficult or expensive to buy cocaine in the U.S. Undeterred by such failure, however, the Bush administration now is pushing a nearly \$1 billion sequel, the Andean Counterdrug Initiative, that largely reinforces and expands past mistakes.

Debate began this week on funding the new initiative. Congress ought to consider alternatives, such as rechanneling the money into expanded drug rehabilitation at home.

A key component of Plan Colombia has been fumigation of coca crops. After fumigating approximately 128,000 acres of coca—along with people, farm animals and food crops—the effort has only succeeded in relocating the coca fields.

Most of the coca that used to grow in the Putumayo province has moved to nearby Nariño. “And if they fumigate Nariño, the problem will go to another place,” warned its governor, while governor of Putumayo estimated that half the fields sprayed in his area were food crops.

The military component of Plan Colombia hasn't fared much better. Colombia guerrillas now are seeking shelter in neighboring Ecuador, spreading the violence. And by failing to deal with the murderous paramilitary units, the plan has increased bloodshed. On April 12 paramilitaries massacred 40 peasants and cut up their bodies with chainsaws, and the war-related body count nationwide is up to about 20 a day.

The Andean Initiative's solution to the spreading mayhem is to continue military aid to Colombia (about \$363 million) and increase military aid to its six neighbors to defend themselves from the aftershocks. Ecuador and Brazil, for instance, would get about \$32 million and \$16.3 million respectively to reinforce their borders with Colombia.

Bush's initiative also provides social and economic aid to these countries—a welcome change—but still nearly 55 percent of the entire package would go to military aid.

Previous U.S. interventions succeeded only in moving coca production and drug violence from neighboring countries to Colombia. Now the process seems to be working in reverse.

American addicts' insatiable craving for narcotics—and the obscene profits to be made by suppliers—doom most supply-side police or military tactics, particularly remote-control operations masterminded from Washington.

Early in his administration, President Bush said he appreciated this reality and wanted to increase funding for drug administration programs.

Rethinking Plan Colombia and channeling some or all of that money into treatment and education programs would be a place to start. Such a U-turn would not be a typical government move, but it is the most sensible thing to do.