

Back in Washington, he was lobbying for a bill to ban Federal funding of a controversial program that sprayed Mexican marijuana fields with the herbicide paraquat, shown to cause lung damage in people who smoked the tainted weed. Stroup asked Bourne, Carter's drug adviser, to support the bill. Bourne refused. Stroup was outraged. To him, it was a moral issue: The feds were deliberately poisoning pot smokers! Seeking revenge, Stroup leaked a secret to newspaper columnist Jack Anderson in July 1978: Bourne had snorted cocaine at NORML's 1977 Christmas party. And Stroup revealed the names of a couple of witnesses.

When Anderson broke the story, Bourne told reporters he'd only handled cocaine at the NORML party, he hadn't actually snorted any. It didn't matter, Bourne lost his job.

A few months later, so did Stroup. The folks at NORML didn't like snitches and eased him out the door.

"When I look back on it," Stroup says now, "it was probably the stupidest thing I ever did."

Nobody "in their rational mind," he adds, would jeopardize a relationship with a high White House official over a minor policy dispute.

Is it possible that he wasn't in his "rational mind" because he was too stoned too often?

"Yes," he says. "I think it is possible that my own personal use of cocaine played into that."

In those days he, like many people, thought coke was harmless. Now he knows better. "Cocaine is deadly," he says. "There are probably people who can use cocaine moderately. But I gotta tell you: Based on me and my friends, I didn't see very many of them."

After leaving NORML in 1979, Stroup spent four years as a defense attorney. "Every client I had was a drug offender," he says. "The only people who'd heard of me had been arrested on drug charges."

Unfortunately they weren't the kind of drug offenders he liked—folks who'd been caught with a little weed. They were mostly cocaine smugglers and, he soon realized, a lot of them were thugs.

"So I stepped aside," he says, "and went back into public-interest work."

Stroup, who had divorced in the early '70s, married a television producer and moved to Boston, where he became a lobbyist for the Massachusetts Council on the Arts and Humanities.

In 1986 he moved back to Washington to lobby for a family farm organization. In 1989 he became executive director of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. In 1994 he became a lobbyist for the National Center on Institutions and Alternatives, an Alexandria-based prison reform group.

Then in 1995, NORML—split by infighting—asked Stroup to come back and run the place.

He returned to find that everything had changed. The movement to legalize marijuana had run aground. In the 1970s, 11 states had decriminalized pot; in the '80s, none did. Nancy Reagan's "Just say no" crusade and the deadly spread of crack cocaine had led to a backlash against drugs. And NORML was nearly broke, politically impotent and beset by feuding factions.

Stroup saved NORML from self-destruction. St. Pierre says, but he failed to bring back the glory days: "Keith could not replicate what he did in the '70s."

Part of Stroup's problem was competition. In the '90s, two new groups arose to advocate

drug-law reform, each bankrolled by an eccentric billionaire. The Drug Policy Alliance is funded by financier George Soros. The Marijuana Policy Project, founded by former NORML staffer Rob Kampia, is funded by insurance mogul Peter Lewis. Both groups have spent millions on state referendums to legalize medical marijuana—many successful, some not.

But Stroup has failed to find an eccentric billionaire sugar daddy for NORML.

"I wish we had that kind of funding," he says. "if I had the kind of funding that Kampia has, I think I could have done a lot more with it than he has."

Now NORML limps by on about \$750,000 a year, most of it raised from dues paid by about 12,000 members. It's not enough money to do much politicking, so NORML is now largely a service organization for pot smokers, providing tips on beating drug tests and legal advice for arrested smokers.

Over the past year money was so tight that Stroup laid off two staffers and stopped collecting his \$75,000 a year salary for two months.

"I view NORML as a small and shrinking dinosaur," Kampia says. "NORML's time has come and gone."

Tom Riley, official spokesman for federal drug czar John Walters, agrees. "Keith and people like that have banged their heads against the wall for years saying 'Legalize pot.' But they're farther behind now than they were 20 years ago."

Riley says Stroup's career reminds him of a line from the movie "The Big Lebowski": "The '60s are over, Lebowski. The bums lost. My condolences."

"I have no doubt I'll be smoking marijuana the day I die," Stroup says.

He loves the weed. He smokes it nearly every night. He comes home from work, pours a glass of chardonnay, lights up a joint and turns on the TV news.

He does not smoke pot when he has to work or drive, he says, because, as the movies of stoner comedians Cheech and Chong prove, pot can make you stupid.

"I learned a long time ago that some of those Cheech and Chong jokes are very real," he says. "If you're in a social setting and you're smoking marijuana, there are going to be a lot of those Cheech and Chong situations, where you feel real strongly about something and you start a conversation and about halfway through you forget what the point was." He laughs. "But that's only when you're stoned. Four hours later, you don't have that."

His new wife doesn't share his passion for pot. Neither does his 35-year-old daughter, who recently had a baby boy, making Stroup a grandfather. He doesn't care that they don't smoke pot and he doesn't think anybody should care that he does smoke it. Forty years of serious inhaling, he claims, hasn't harmed his body or his mind.

"There's absolutely nothing wrong with it," he says, "and it should be of no interest or concern to the government."

Despite his candor on the topic, Stroup hasn't been busted since his Canadian misadventures. But he knows the government and its drug war are always out there, and that can make a guy paranoid. About a year ago, the feds nearly discovered Stroup's stash in a suitcase he'd checked on a plane.

"I had a few joints in an airtight thing inside a sock so you couldn't see it," he says. "I got back home and opened it up and there was this slip saying, 'We opened your bag, blah, blah blah.' And my weed is a few inches away! I said, 'Man, that was too close!' So I

no longer carry anything when I'm flying. If I'm going to be someplace for a few days, I ship myself a 'care package.'"

The next day Stroup calls, leaves a message on the voice mail. "Man, I was totally goofy yesterday on that cold medicine," he says. "I hope I wasn't totally goofy in my responses. . . . I should have better sense than to do an interview when I'm stoned out of my mind on cold medicine."

## HONORING DEPARTING U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PAGES

### HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, the end of this week marks the completion of our first semester for the Page academic year and thus several of our House Pages will be leaving us. At the completion of my remarks, I am submitting a list of names of those pages that will be departing for home in the next few days.

Not only do I want to note the participation and service of these fine young people, but as the Chairman of the House Page Board, I want to thank them for their service and commitment to this Institution. They have served with distinction and should be commended for their contributions. They and their fellow classmates have served during a time of great historic events that have included the final weeks of session of the 108th Congress, Presidential and Congressional elections, the Opening of the 109th Congress, the meeting of the Electoral College and last week's Inauguration of President Bush. As well, this class have distinguished themselves through their public service and their fund raising for the Red Cross to help the victims of the recent Tsunami.

We are proud of you and wish you only the best in your future endeavors. Thank you.

#### 2004 FALL SEMESTER PAGES

Erin Leigh Baker—NE; James L. Barnes, III—TN; Scott M. Bengtson—MI; Jordan H. Blumenthal—FL; Mark Bracey-Sherman—IL; Stephanie Ching—CA; Kate E. Collins—CA; Jonathan M. Cowgil—MN; David A. Dazlich—CO; Christopher G. Doyle—NY; David G. Duncan—GA; Maxwell W. Epstein—MD; Scott D. Friedman—NY; Jenna C. Gaughan—MO; Ashley E. Gunn—MS; Sarah M. Harley—SC; Kathryn A. Helin—NH; Laura J. Johnson—WI; Jasma Phyllis Jones—MO; Dawn Marie Kling—PA; Johnathan D. Kristan—WI.

Thomas Lane—TX; Madeleine Claire Parish—OK; Eugene Hee Park—CA; Kimberly A. Peters—FL; Malorie Porter—OH; Melissa L. Price—AL; Maxwell Jason Rabkin—NJ; Edwin A. Robinson, Jr.—NY; Nicole Schuerch—PA; Elizabeth Shockey—OH; Alexandra Sunseri—LA; Miles Edward Taylor—IN; Monique Teixeira—CA; Maximilian D. C. Thompson—NY; Lynsey Nichole Thornton—VA; Cassi Turner—TX; Wilfredo Antonio Velasco Vargas—CA; Corey Walker—MD; Ashlee N. Wilkins—VA; Jaron A. Zanerhaft—OK.

January 26, 2005

RECOGNIZING THE MARCH FOR  
LIFE

**HON. JOHN BOOZMAN**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the thousands of people in Arkansas and across the Nation who gathered this week to protest the 1973 Supreme Court decision in *Roe v. Wade*.

Like those who assembled, I believe strongly in the sanctity of human life. 32 years ago, the Supreme Court decided that a woman could end a life by terminating her pregnancy for any reason, including health, gender selection or because it was an unplanned or unwanted pregnancy. As a result, thousands of lives have been ended out of convenience mislabeled as a woman's right to choose.

Mr. Speaker, as we remember this powerful Supreme Court decision this week, I ask that we also remember that we have a responsibility to protect the precious lives of the unborn children to come.

H.R. 304—AIRCRAFT CARRIER END-  
STRENGTH ACT

**HON. ANDER CRENSHAW**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on H.R. 304, a bill I introduced in the name of national security. This bill would set in law a requirement that our United States Navy maintain a fleet of at least twelve aircraft carriers.

Why, my colleagues might ask, is this change in law necessary? I believe the reason is clear. Our Nation is enduring an extraordinary amount of pressures, both financially and militarily. Somehow, Mr. Speaker, those financial pressures have weighed so heavy on our military leaders that they feel forced to propose a reduction in the number of carriers available to our Commander in Chief.

Mr. Speaker, the military might of the United States is unmatched. It is unmatched, Mr. Speaker, because no other Nation faces the challenges we face. And that is why I have introduced this legislation. Our unique challenges require force strength, flexibility, and presence. This is not my lesson; this is the lesson of past military conflicts.

The consistent message from senior Department of Defense leadership is that many of the important tactical missions accomplished in Afghanistan and Iraq would not have been possible without our fleet of aircraft carriers.

Aircraft carriers are in constant demand all over the globe. There is no technology, no way they can be in two places at the same time.

The Navy's CNO himself believes even with the technological advances, quantity has a quality all its own.

So this legislation, H.R. 304, will ensure that our Nation's Commander in Chief has a full fleet of carriers in times of peace, and in times

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

of crisis. My colleagues, I urge you to support H.R. 304, support our carrier fleet, and support keeping the fabric of our national security whole.

INTRODUCTION OF THE EARLY  
WARNING AND RAPID NOTIFICATION  
ACT

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to be introducing the Early Warning and Rapid Notification Act, which will fix some of the communications problems that plagued the effort to effectively warn people about the tsunami of December 26, 2004.

Mr. Speaker, exactly one month ago over 160,000 people in the Indian Ocean region died as a result of a catastrophic tsunami caused by the largest earthquake the world has seen in over 40 years. In the wake of that disaster, an outpouring of sympathy across this country has resulted in over \$350 million in private donations, with the United States government pledging nearly that much as well. Having witnessed such devastation, we're now asking the question: How can we keep this from happening again?

There were two entirely avoidable problems that contributed to the scale of the December 26 tragedy. The first was a lack of tsunami sensors in the Indian Ocean, which made it difficult for the scientists at the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center in Hawaii to determine if the massive earthquake had in fact spawned a killer wave. In response to this we've seen a number of proposals, both from this Congress and around the world, to establish a global tsunami sensor network. I support these proposals, since there is no reason why we should be caught unaware in the event of any disaster where we have the ability to detect it beforehand.

The second problem on December 26 was far more fundamental, and far more maddening. It was, in this era of cell phones and instant text messaging and worldwide satellite coverage, a complete breakdown of communications. In some cases, we had the ability to let people know, but couldn't. The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center simply wasn't sure who to contact in those countries bordering the Indian Ocean that were in danger from the tsunami. They did an excellent job in reaching who they could, but there was too much confusion, and far too much time passed before they could get the warning to those who needed it. There's no reason for this. The United States should know exactly who to contact in every country in the world if we have information about a natural disaster that they need. In this legislation, the State Department is directed to conduct a study examining the lines of communication about natural disasters between the United States and other countries, and to make recommendations to strengthen those lines if they're found lacking.

But even if we had known exactly when, where, and how hard the tsunami was going to hit, and had been able to get that info to the

governments of every nation in the region, not much would have changed. Because in order to save lives, you have to get that information to the people in danger. The people in the towns and villages along the coasts. The tourists on the beaches. Without a way to get warnings to these people, all the sensors in the world won't do a bit of good.

Mr. Speaker, in this country we're used to all types of warning systems. Warnings about tornadoes, warnings about floods, warnings about hurricanes; warnings about chemical spills and potential terrorist attacks; we grew up with the Emergency Broadcast System to warn us about the unthinkable. In short, we have one of the most advanced systems in the entire world for warning people about all types of hazards. And these warning systems save lives. But many other countries are missing even the most rudimentary ways of getting warnings to people at risk, which results in tens of thousands of unnecessary deaths each year.

The United Nations recognizes the need for a comprehensive, worldwide effort to establish early warning systems in countries that don't have them, and last week launched the International Early Warning Programme. The Programme identifies four elements of effective early warning systems: knowing what the risks are, detecting disasters, disseminating warnings, and making sure people know how to respond.

The legislation I am introducing today directs the United States to work with the United Nations in implementing the International Early Warning Programme, and authorizes \$50 million to help establish early warning systems in other countries for all types of hazards. This isn't merely protection against another tsunami; it's protection against floods, fires, storms, volcanoes, and any other event where a timely warning can save lives. This bill also expands the scope of our existing research programs on early warning systems to include an international component, and directs additional research into the use of advanced technologies to provide quick and effective warnings, both at home and abroad.

Mr. Speaker, setting up a worldwide tsunami warning system is important, but the sad likelihood is that far more people will be killed from floods and storms in the future than from another tsunami. This legislation will help establish systems that provide effective early warnings around the world for all types of hazards, and will help protect lives and property from the next disaster that, I fear, will come all too soon.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES W. EVATT

**HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor James W. Evatt for his many years of service to the Boeing Company and our Nation's defense programs. Jim is stepping down from his role as vice president and general manager of Boeing's Missile Defense Systems and vice president and general manager for