

of the issue by parents and other adults; calls for drug-legalization; and the marketing of products to young people that legitimize and elevate the use of alcohol, tobacco, and illicit drugs.

All Americans must accept responsibility to teach young people that drugs are illegal and they are deadly. They may land you in jail; they may cost you your life. We must renew our commitment to the drug prevention strategies that deter first-time drug use and stop the progression from alcohol and tobacco use to marijuana and harder drugs.

The National Drug Control Strategy is designed to prevent a new drug use epidemic through an aggressive and comprehensive full-court press that harnesses the energies of committed individuals from every sector of our society. As I said in the State of the Union, we must step up our attack against criminal youth gangs that deal in illicit drugs. We will improve the effectiveness of our cooperative efforts among U.S. defense and law enforcement agencies, as well as with other nations, to disrupt the flow of drugs coming into the country. We will seek to expand the availability and improve the quality of drug treatment. And we will continue to oppose resolutely calls for the legaliza-

tion of illicit drugs. We will increase efforts to prevent drug use by all Americans, particularly young people.

The tragedy of drug abuse and drug-related crime affects us all. The National Drug Control Strategy requires commitment and resources from many individuals and organizations, and from all levels of government. For the Strategy to succeed, each of us must do our part.

We ask the Congress to be a bipartisan partner and provide the resources we need at the federal level to get the job done. I challenge state and local governments to focus on drug abuse as a top priority. We ask the media and the advertising and entertainment industries to work with us to educate our youth, and all Americans, about the dangers of drug use. Finally, we invite every American—every parent, every teacher, every law enforcement officer, every faith leader, every young person, and every community leader—to join our national campaign to save our youth.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,
April 29, 1996.

Statement on Action on Gasoline Prices

April 29, 1996

Over the last several weeks, I have been concerned about the rise in gasoline prices at the pump. Today I am directing my administration to take the following steps.

First, I am asking the Secretary of Energy to immediately begin the process of orderly sales of approximately 12 million barrels of our Nation's strategic petroleum reserves. This step was authorized by the Congress last week as part of the omnibus appropriations bill.

Second, I am asking the Secretary of Energy to review market circumstances and report back

to me within 45 days about the factors that led to the runup in prices. As part of that analysis, I am asking her to evaluate the expected market prices for the remainder of the peak summer driving season.

I believe these are the appropriate steps to take at this time. My administration will continue to monitor developments in this market in the coming weeks.