

need to talk about as Republicans, as majority members.

I came to this Congress, Mr. Speaker, in 1992 when Bill Clinton was elected President. When Bill Clinton was elected President, he began a dismantling of our drug enforcement programs. I spoke more than any other Member on the floor of the House and in committee about what was going on.

Bill Clinton dismantled interdiction. He dismantled use of the military. He dismantled the Andean strategy to stop the drugs at their source. He hired Joycelyn Elders, the infamous Surgeon General, our chief health officer, who said "Just say maybe" to our children. He took the Coast Guard and the military out of our fight in the war on drugs. Just one disaster after another, and we are paying for it today.

We have the highest incidence of drug use and abuse, particularly among our children, that this Nation has ever seen. From 1992 to present, the statistics for heroin, cocaine, methamphetamines, hard drugs has skyrocketed.

In today's paper, in the Washington Times, there is a big article about cocaine cartels taking on a new product, heroin. Heroin that has killed so many in my district. Let me read what Tom Constantine, the Drug Enforcement Administrator, said in this article. And I quote,

"For years we have seen a hard-core, older population of approximately 600,000 heroin addicts. Today, we are seeing 11th and 12th graders turning to heroin. These initiatives are at the outset of a long, downward spiral into hard-core addiction or death."

That is what has happened. In every area, our young people, some in the elementary schools, are now exposed to hard drugs, cocaine, heroin, methamphetamines. We have 15,000 deaths, many of them teens. I come from Central Florida. I have held this up many times on the floor of the House, Orlando number two in cocaine deaths. Long out of sight, heroin is back killing teens. We have lost nearly two dozen teens in Central Florida to drug—heroin and cocaine—abuse just in the last year or so. It is almost becoming routine to see our young people dying.

Let me tell my colleagues what the Republicans have done. During the Democrat administration, we held one hearing on the national drug policy and that was closed within an hour and I was denied the opportunity to speak. Under the leadership of the Republican Majority, we have held over 50 hearings on our national drug policy. Part of the battle and part of the reason we are here is we wanted 3 additional billion dollars to reorganize and reinstitute the programs that were cut, the interdiction programs that were cut, the source country programs, the involvement of the military and the Coast Guard that were cut by this President.

Mr. Speaker, that is why we are here tonight, because there is a major battle looming on the streets and in the com-

munities across our land dealing with drug abuse and misuse. It is an incredible sad commentary on this administration.

And also I am concerned about the American people when they have a couple of dollars in their pockets that they do not care or express concern or outrage that this is allowed to go on. And it affects them in every community, because crime is tied into this drug use and abuse in every one of our communities.

It is particularly affecting our young people. Again, this administration has ignored any hard steps in this fight. Now, today, they are still fighting us, as the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT), the chairman of our Subcommittee on National Security, International Affairs, and Criminal Justice is fighting to put the dollars that we need to stop, in a most cost-effective way, drugs at their source.

We know where the cocaine comes from. It is coming from Bolivia. It is coming from Peru. It is coming from Colombia. And there is no reason why we do not have the resources, the dollars spent there to stop drugs at their source or in interdiction where we can stop them. Trying to catch them when they get into our communities is like going out on the lawn and having a lawn sprinkler and running around with cans trying to catch all the sprinkles. We will never do it in that fashion, but we can restore the cuts that were made in 1993 through 1995 that destroyed our ability to repel drugs at our source.

That is why we are here. We are here to improve education. We are here to correct the mistakes of 40 years. Again, well-intended but misguided, and very liberal solutions which have gotten us into a fix in education that appalls every teacher, every parent, and every American who takes a serious look at public education today.

We are here because we are having a battle over where we put our resources. Do we put our resources in failed programs? Do we put our resources in programs that are cost-effective that stop drugs at their source, that restore the cuts in the Coast Guard that bring the military back into this battle so we stop heroin, cocaine and hard drugs before they ever reach our shores?

We have 2 million Americans in jail, and any sheriff or any law enforcement official will say that between 60 and 70 percent of those folks are in prison at great public expense because of drug abuse and misuse.

So, my colleagues again we come before the American people. We are winding down. Some of the easier bills are behind us. We have 13 bills to fund the government to make our system of government work. 13 bills. Eight or nine of them have been decided upon. The tough ones are still to go. But they are very important and they are very important differences in the American people and every colleague should know those differences.

Our intent again is to do the very best job for the people who sent us here with their hard-earned tax dollars. So as I conclude, I thank the Speaker for his indulgence this evening. It is my prayer and hope that we can work together to resolve these differences; that we can learn from the mistakes that have been made in the past; that we can come together in the best interest of the American people, the children that are talked about so much, whether it is education or drug policy and resolve these source social problems facing our Nation.

#### ISSUES OF VITAL IMPORTANCE TO THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. CHRISTIAN-GREEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. CHRISTIAN-GREEN. Mr. Speaker, I come from a part of this great country that is known as America's Paradise and for its natural beauty, its comfortable climate, and its hospitable people. But, Mr. Speaker, today the U.S. Virgin Islands is becoming a paradise lost. So, in these final hours of the 105th Congress, I rise to once again draw its attention to some issues of critical importance to my territory and to make this final plea for support and enactment.

First is the issue of the excise tax on Virgin Islands-produced rum, although I must tell my colleagues that this also applies to Puerto Rico. By law, all of the excise taxes on this rum is to be returned to the territory. But, Mr. Speaker, we have never received the full "cover over" as it is called.

In the early 1980s, it was agreed that the full 100 percent would be returned. But, due to problems unrelated to the Virgin Islands and long since resolved, it was never realized. Up until 5 years ago, we received only 77 percent of those taxes. At that time it was increased to 80 percent, but only through this fiscal year 1998.

In this year's budget submitted by the President, funds were provided to fully correct this and return the full amount to the Virgin Islands and to Puerto Rico, but this has still not been passed nor has it been assured. If nothing is done to extend the return at its current level, or hopefully at the full 100 percent, it will revert. The territory would lose badly-needed revenue, and this would further jeopardize our already troubled economy because we depend on it for needed capital projects and bond repayments.

The second issue is one that is also important to the people of Puerto Rico as it is to my own constituents in the Virgin Islands. It is the provision of insurance to meet the health care needs of our children. This too has been included and was fully offset in the budget sent to the Congress in 1997, and again in this year. Last year, the funding was cut back to one-sixth of what

was initially proposed. Unfortunately, the health needs of our children did not commensurately reduce.

□ 2300

All we ask is that this year's chip be fully funded at the proposed level and that no American child be left behind for any reason and surely not just because of where he or she lives.

There is one more issue that I would like to address to this as well as to the other body. That is also to ask for inclusion of the miscellaneous tariff bill in the final budget agreement. This was a part of the proposed 1999 budget and its budgetary impact is negligible.

Mr. Speaker, included in this bill is an extension of a provision that would save our watch industry and badly needed jobs, particularly on my home island of St. Croix. All of these programs represent minuscule dollars in the larger scheme, but to my district, which has been buffeted by storm after storm, they have enormous impact.

Mr. Speaker, many of the districts represented in this House have been, all of them have been experiencing an economic boom, while ours, largely because of repeated natural disasters, is languishing.

Let me interject a word here about the latest hurricane to hit us, Georges, because not much has been said in the national press about its impact on the Virgin Islands. For us, as in other parts of the Caribbean and the United States, Hurricane Georges was a major hurricane that affected all four of our islands. However, because we have learned from the past and with FEMA's help applied those lessons successfully, our damages, though quite disruptive to our lives, were minimized and our recovery is moving steadily ahead. But we cannot fully rebound and take up a path of economic revitalization and sustainable growth without the help that these three programs would provide. So we ask that all be included in the final budget package.

The rum excise taxes so that we can continue to build, the children's health insurance dollars to help our families and alleviate the burden on our Medicaid capped government, and the lifeline needed by our otherwise dying watch industry.

I want to join my colleagues who spoke earlier in thanking Congressman JOE KENNEDY for his contributions to this House and this country and to wish him well as he leaves to continue what I know will be a life of service to all of us.

OMMISSION FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD OF OCTOBER 10, 1998

A portion of the following debate was inadvertently omitted from the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of October, 10, 1998:

□ 1815

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. MILLER of California asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of regret that I object to the passage of S. 2095 as amended by our counterparts on the other side of the aisle.

Historically, the excellent programs of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation have had strong support of Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle since the foundation's inception in 1984. I supported similar legislation to this as introduced and as reported by the Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans last October.

Unfortunately, the amendments adopted by the Committee on Resources that have now been attached to this Senate bill have transformed what would have been a straightforward reauthorization of a popular program into a partisan platform for objectives to undermine the Endangered Species Act.

In particular, the amendment adopted by the committee which is now attached to this bill would prohibit the foundation from funding any activities related to the reintroduction of the wolves or the grizzly bears in Idaho, Montana, Utah and Wyoming. While this may seem like a narrow exception, it seriously undermines the fundamental integrity of the foundation's ability to do its job.

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation is an established, competitive grant-making organization with a long history of funding successful conservation programs throughout the United States. The amendment that has been established to this legislation really questions whether Congress should now be getting into the second-guessing of these programs.

Let me say that the foundation has not funded any grizzly bear reintroduction efforts, though it has funded research and education programs on the prevention of human being/grizzly bear interactions. In addition, the foundation was awarded less than \$100,000 worth of projects related to the reintroduction of wolves.

For those reasons, I reluctantly oppose this legislation, because this has been an outstanding organization, with many, many people who have served on the board of directors, who have given an inordinate amount of time and money and have secured really significant amounts of private contributions to the ongoing efforts of both the programs sponsored by the Federal government, State governments, local governments and the private sector.

I would hope that we would not now start trying to micromanage this agency with Congressional amendments, given their track record of success both in creating programs that are highly successful, with a great deal of local

support, and also in creating the kind of private/public partnership that we so often say we want.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers at this time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BRADY of Texas). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 2095, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5, rule I, and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

#### 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 Mr. MCNULTY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mrs. TAUSCHER, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. PELOSI, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. CLAYTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. CAPPS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BECERRA, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CONYERS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MINGE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

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

Mr. MORAN of Kansas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. RIGGS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MANZULLO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. COBURN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SANFORD, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SNYDER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Member (at her own request) to revise and extend her remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mrs. MALONEY of New York, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Member (at her own request) to revise and extend her remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. CHRISTIAN-GREEN for 5 minutes today.

#### ENROLLED BILL AND JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee on House Oversight, reported that that