

to stop some public schools from giving my daughters free condoms without my permission. So much for protecting children from dangerous influences.

Also, Mr. Speaker, some people who say they are working to prevent teenagers from smoking will not lift a finger to prevent kids from getting access to free drug needles. So much for protecting children from dangerous influences.

Furthermore, some who say they are in favor of a cigarette tax as a means to protect children are not in favor of allowing kids to organize prayer in school. Thanks to these people, groups of kids cannot organize prayer and talk about protection today.

Think about it, America. Is a cigarette tax a plan to save our children from smoking cigarettes or is it really a plan about helping Washington, D.C., helping itself to more power and more money to fund more government bureaucracy?

#### ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO SHOULD DEMAND THE WHITE HOUSE STOP INTERFERING WITH JUDGE STARR'S INVESTIGATION

(Mr. BRADY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BRADY. Mr. Speaker, what is happening right now to Judge Kenneth Starr is just shameful. Attorney General Janet Reno, the President's own appointment, chose Judge Starr to investigate solid allegations of perjury and obstruction of justice. Judge Starr was appointed by the Attorney General because he has a track record of very distinguished and honorable service. In fact, many of those who attack him today on the Democratic side praised him for his honesty and his fairness and his balance.

Mr. Speaker, if Judge Starr has acted improperly in any manner, he should be removed immediately as independent counsel. If he has shown himself to be conducting in an unfair, partisan manner the investigation, he must be removed.

But if he is not acting, if he has not done anything wrong or improper, Attorney General Reno should make a statement now demanding that friends of the White House stop interfering with his investigation and stop the campaign to destroy him. Because how else will we ever get to the truth?

#### THOSE WHO BROKE THE LAW NEED TO BE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, the frustration level on my committee is very high. We know that millions of dollars in illegal campaign contributions have come in from foreign

sources from places like Communist China, Macao and Taiwan and South America. We do not know what these people who contributed this money got for their money. Did it affect our foreign policy? Did it alter our defense strategies? Did it endanger in some way the United States of America down the road?

Mr. Speaker, we need to know these things, and those who broke the law need to be brought to justice.

Now we have been trying to get people to testify. Ninety-two people have fled the country or taken the fifth amendment, 92. Can my colleagues imagine that many people, 92, fleeing the country or taking the fifth amendment, many very close friends of the President who worked in the administration? They would not talk.

Now we have four people who are willing to talk, and they want immunity in order to talk, and the Justice Department has said they have no objection to immunity, and yet 19 of the Democrats on my committee, every single Democrat, voted against immunity. They have erected a stone wall against the facts so the American people will not know what is going on.

The American people have a right to know whether our foreign policy was altered or sold by anybody in the administration.

#### REPUBLICANS EITHER DEFENDING THE TOBACCO INDUSTRY OR ATTACKING DEMOCRATS ON THE CAMPAIGN FINANCE INVESTIGATION

(Mr. WAXMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, there is an interesting intersection today very visible in the comments on the Republican side of the aisle. They are talking about two issues. They are either defending the tobacco industry or they are trying to attack Democrats on the campaign finance investigation.

Mr. Speaker, they want to speak for the tobacco industry because they have received millions of dollars in campaign contributions from that industry and refuse to investigate the corrupting influence of that industry on some of the official actions of their own leadership.

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They are criticizing Democrats for not participating in what has clearly been a reckless, partisan investigation in which the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON), the chairman of the committee, has abused his powers. These are not just my words. These are the words of The Hill newspaper today which declares we have "A Chairman Out of Control."

I am pleased Speaker GINGRICH is now focusing attention on the Burton committee. He did not respond to our letters asking for a joint investigation.

He ought to now debate these issues, and I challenge him to come forward and debate whether this investigation and his role in tobacco deserves further scrutiny.

#### A QUESTION OF PRIORITY

(Mr. DELAY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DeLAY. Mr. Speaker, hypocrisy is a very tough word, so I will not use it in the context of the President's stance on tobacco. But let me just say that the President has his priorities wrong when it comes to his policies regarding children's health.

While he spends much of his time bashing tobacco, he has turned a blind eye to the skyrocketing problem of drug abuse in this country. Over 20,000 children a year die as a result of illegal drugs in this country, but the President's response has been to throw in the towel when it comes to the war on drugs. In fact, last week he not only condoned, but endorsed the free distribution of needles to heroin addicts. While the President is taking a cigarette from a teenager, he is giving them a condom and a needle to shoot up with heroin.

I think the President needs to get his priorities straight, Mr. Speaker. We should stop children from smoking, but first, we need to stop children from using illegal drugs.

#### GIVE CHOICE A CHANCE

(Mr. RIGGS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I just want to alert my colleagues that tomorrow the House will vote on a bill that represents the best chance that thousands of District of Columbia parents will have all year to see real hope in their lives.

The bill, which will be offered by majority leader DICK ARMEY is the D.C. Student Opportunity Scholarship Act, which the Senate has already passed. This is very modest legislation, but it would give low-income parents a scholarship up to \$3,200 so that they could select the school and the education that is most appropriate and best suited for their children. It would give D.C. parents an option of sending their children to a school where real learning takes place, where standards of discipline are enforced and their kids will be safe.

But the liberal Democrats who say they care passionately about public education are adamantly opposed to this bill and ironic it is that these liberals who would not accept for one second having their own children in these dangerous, dysfunctional schools stand in the way of District of Columbia parents having the choice to send their children to a school that performs and is safe.

This is hypocrisy at its worst, and the Washington, D.C. parents who desperately want to give their kids a real

chance in life know it. It is time to give choice a chance, because when parents have the choice, their children have a chance.

**PROHIBITING THE EXPENDITURE OF FEDERAL FUNDS FOR DISTRIBUTION OF NEEDLES OR SYRINGES FOR HYPODERMIC INJECTION OF ILLEGAL DRUGS**

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 409 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 409

*Resolved*, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 3717) to prohibit the expenditure of Federal funds for the distribution of needles or syringes for the hypodermic injection of illegal drugs. The bill shall be considered as read for amendment. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) two hours of debate on the bill equally divided and controlled by Representative Wicker of Mississippi or his designee and a Member opposed to the bill; and (2) one motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BLUNT). The gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I would ask for every Member to turn on and watch this debate, because it affects every child in this country and every future child in the next generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, for the purposes of debate only, I yield half of our time to the gentlewoman from Rochester, New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, Mr. Speaker, all time yielded is for the purposes of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, I mentioned just a few minutes ago that I would wish that every Member would either come to the floor or would listen to this debate that is about to take place, because it does affect all of my children, my grandchildren, all of your children, your grandchildren, and future generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, this bill provides for consideration of H.R. 3717. It is a bill to prohibit the expenditure of Federal funds for the distribution of needles or syringes for the hypodermic injection of illegal drugs under a closed rule. The rule provides 2 hours of debate in the House, equally divided and controlled by the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) and an opponent; and finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I say to my colleagues, this bill was introduced on April 23 by myself, by the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER), the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT), the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BARR), and our majority whip, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY). This

legislation initiative and its counterpart in the Senate is a proactive response to recent disturbing events in the Clinton administration with respect to the needle exchange policy of the United States.

In recent weeks, it was reported that the Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala was going to ask the use of Federal funds in a needle exchange program as an effort to halt the spread of AIDS.

Now, Mr. Speaker, last Monday President Clinton, after I had contacted Erskine Bowles, the Chief of Staff of the President, President Clinton did not go along with that policy and changed his mind. He endorsed the use of needle exchange programs while refusing to allow Federal funds to be spent to subsidize it, and that is what this bill does here today.

Mr. Speaker, the point is, illegal drug use in this country is of critical importance to the health and to the safety of our entire Nation, but especially our children. The Clinton administration's endorsement of needle exchange programs is part of an intolerable message to our Nation's children sent by the White House that drug use is a way of life. Mr. Speaker, we cannot let that happen. This legislation says once and for all that there is no way that this government will take taxpayers' money and spend one penny of it to support a deadly drug habit.

We have heard a lot of rhetoric recently about saving lives and treating drug addiction by handing out free needles. Well, it is time for this Congress to stand up once again and to deliver a resounding message that drug use kills, and that the best way to deal with the addiction is to never use drugs in the first place, just like Nancy Reagan used to say when she was here, just say no. That is the message we ought to be sending, not handing out needles to these people. Hundreds of our children are falling prey to these killer drugs every single day, and thousands of them are killing themselves.

According to studies by the President's own, this is President Clinton's own Office of National Drug Control Policy, listen to this: 352 new young people try heroin every day, 352 more children, these are children, not adults; with more than 4,000 deaths attributed to overdoses every year. My gosh, what are we doing here?

Other studies have shown that drug use, and this is something I think that all of my colleagues ought to listen to, drug use is the common denominator in 75 percent of violent crime against women and children. That means that 75 percent of all of the crime against our children and our wives are drug-related.

Mr. Speaker, the bottom line is that needle exchange programs increase illegal drug use, and that is what we have to pay attention to in this debate. The evidence is absolutely clear. In 1986, in Switzerland, the Swiss began experimenting with needle exchange

programs in an attempt to counter their drug problem. Within months, I say to my colleagues, the distribution stations turned into chaos centers. Needle exchanges grew to 15,000 per day in the major city in Switzerland. One park opened for needle distribution became a war zone between rival drug-dealing gangs, and that is true up in Montreal, it is true in Vancouver, it is true in Amsterdam, Holland, and it is true in the United States where there are needle programs.

Furthermore, the largest supporters of the Swiss needle exchange program are vocal proponents, that means they are supporters of, a nationwide heroin distribution program in Switzerland. In other words, this is giving away free heroin. And what has this great experiment given to this once wonderful country of Switzerland? Switzerland now has the highest heroin addiction rate and the second highest HIV infection rate in all of Europe.

And just across our border, as I just mentioned a minute ago, Vancouver, Canada has one of the largest needle exchange programs in the world. It has distributed over 1 million needles annually for the last 10 years, 1 million needles annually.

According to a study by the Office of National Drug Control Policy earlier this month, and this again is the President's own drug control policy, the HIV rates among participants in this program are higher than the HIV rates among injected drug users who do not participate in the programs. There is proof positive if we are going to give away these needles, we are going to increase heroin drug use. The death rate due to illegal drugs in Vancouver has skyrocketed since 1988 when this policy was first instituted, and during the month of March, the death rate in Vancouver was averaging 10 deaths due to drugs per week, 10 a week, deaths of a human being.

Furthermore, and this is, I think, so important, too, because some people will probably come to this floor and say that they want to help their neighborhoods by establishing these programs. Listen to this: The highest rate of property crime in Vancouver are within two blocks of these needle exchange distribution centers. In other words, they attract the drug sellers, they attract the criminals. As the number of needles exchanges grow, drug use rises, violent crime increases, and more people died in Vancouver. These are absolute facts.

Mr. Speaker, needle exchange programs do not save lives, they destroy lives. They destroy hope, they destroy opportunity, they ruin families, and they ruin communities, and in some cases they are actually destroying a Nation, like the Netherlands and like Switzerland. We cannot let that happen in this country.

I urge all of my colleagues to stand with General Barry McCaffrey, the President's drug czar, even though the President does not agree, the Director