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Folder ID Number: 13478-005

Folder Title:
National Conference of State Legislatures, 3/7/89 [1]

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
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Pinkerton
comments



1989 MAR - 3 PM Davis/Dooley

March 6, 1989

3 p.m.

REMARKS: NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATORS
OLD EXECUTIVE OFFICE BUILDING/RM 450
MARCH 10, 1989

Thank you Sammy Nunez (Noo-nez). Thank you Lee Daniels.
Thank you all.

The last time I spoke to you, we were in the middle of
America, in the middle of summer, and in the midst of a tough
campaign year.

Fate has smiled on us since that July day in Indianapolis.
Then, we were all candidates. Today, everyone in this room is a
winner. For those of you who are Republicans, I hope my
coattails were of use. For those of you who are Democrats, I
claim absolutely no credit whatsoever . . .

In all sincerity, I want to congratulate every legislative
leader in this room, Democratic as well as Republican. You won
more than a political victory. You won the highest honor of all
-- the opportunity to serve your state and your country.

The problems that confront our country as we near the end of this century often seem bigger than our ability to solve them. And they are -- if we face these problems as only partisan Democrats or Republicans, as parochial members of a region, or a faction, or an interest group. But by working together, as Americans, we can lick any problem -- no matter how big, how complex or how deeply rooted it may be.

True, there are always naysayers who believe we will never clean up the environment; that we will never shelter the homeless; that we will never end that age-old affliction of mankind, poverty -- poverty of knowledge and skills, poverty of opportunity, poverty of hope.

But the cynics never take into account one of the great success stories of our times -- state government. In this decade, power flowed from Washington to Austin, to Springfield, to Sacramento and to every other state capital. With this power came new responsibilities. And history will remember that you met your broadened responsibilities with distinction.

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state govt
Austin, Albu
Cattanta...

I know funds at all levels of government are tight. I know you are called upon to make hard choices, as I am. But, by and large, you are meeting the challenge of a frugal age by devising creative new solutions to the age-old problems of care and concern for the very young, the very elderly, the disadvantaged and the dispossessed.

So whenever I see a problem that some say is insurmountable, I draw inspiration from what you are already doing in the states.

The resilience of state government in the 1980s vindicates the wisdom of the Founding Fathers, and forever discredits those who would have Washington do it all. Let me assure you: I will preserve and protect a healthy balance, a sharing of power, between the states and Washington. *Federalism works.* X

As you know, one policy area clearly designated as a prime responsibility of the federal government is our national defense. So perhaps the appeal I am going to make to you today will be all the more unprecedented. The time has come for me to enlist your energy and expertise in a different kind of national security crisis -- the threat of drug abuse to the health and the very future of our nation.

Crack. Heroin. P.C.P. These drugs are a plague that leaves an aftermath of shattered minds, ruined bodies and wasted potential. No state in the Union is immune to this plague. Drug crimes have claimed thousands of lives, and turned whole communities upside down from the Eastern Seaboard to the Pacific Coast. It is becoming apparent that our struggle against the drug trade is more than the moral equivalent of war.

It is war.

As with every battle this country has ever fought, we are all in this together -- as Americans. And as with any war, we must have a strategy. Our strategy is four-pronged: law enforcement -- interdiction -- rehabilitation -- and prevention through education.

I am encouraged to see so many state governments forming intrastate drug task forces, and interstate panels to share resources and intelligence. Every state should join this common effort. And every state should look for ways to toughen its drug laws.

The federal government, just like the states, is animated by a new get-tough attitude on drugs. We've stiffened the federal sentence for drug trafficking to a maximum of life. We've toughened penalties for drug dealers who use children to deal drugs, or who sell drugs to children. And if you commit a drug-related murder, or ^{kill a cop} [slay a law enforcement officer] the toughest sentence you can receive is the toughest sentence there is -- death. X

We've also increased our resources as we've stiffened sentences. Since 1981, the federal anti-drug budget has grown by nearly 370 percent. But more was needed, so I am asking the Congress for \$6 billion for our anti-drug program in 1990 -- a 21 percent increase over 1989, and a 47 percent increase over 1988. More than \$4 billion will be spent to provide grants to state and local law enforcement agencies, to beef up federal enforcement, and to enhance our prosecution, detention and intelligence capabilities . . .

This includes sustaining the \$150 million drug grant program -- which was targeted for elimination in January -- so that the Department of Justice can help state and local law enforcement agencies catch criminals and warn kids away from drugs.

Another shining example of federal and state cooperation is the seizure and forfeiture of assets from drug dealers. State agencies that cooperate in drug cases will share the benefits from the sale of yachts, planes and autos used in drug deals. To convert the profits of vice to finance our war against the multi-billion dollar drug empire is more than good financial sense. It is swift justice . . .

Even with these programs, the campaign against drug abuse will be a hard-fought war that will last for years.

Perhaps we should take inspiration from a nation at war almost fifty years ago. As Britain faced an adversary that tested the courage and character of its people, Winston Churchill vowed to never surrender. In today's war against the pushers, we must -- as a people -- draw from these same deep wells of national purpose to summon a spirit of defiance. What shall we do?

We shall fight the drug lords on the beaches and the streets, we shall fight them in the schools, we shall interdict them in the skies and on the high seas. We shall never surrender, not until the last pusher is put behind bars and the last playground is free of drugs.

Perhaps the classroom will be the most decisive battleground of them all. Toward this end, I am proposing a \$1.1 billion allocation for drug education -- a 16 percent increase over 1989. Some \$367 million of this will go to the Department of Education budget, to help keep drugs out of our schools, campuses and neighborhoods -- an increase of \$12 million.

The programs are many. But our purpose is singular: to keep kids off drugs and out of trouble. You will be able to take the lead in this effort, since more than 80 percent of the funds of the Drug Free Schools and Communities program will be allocated to the states and territories.

As you may have heard, we can already take heart from some good news from the classrooms of America. According to the 1988 National High School Senior Survey, the proportion of seniors using illicit drugs during the prior year fell from 42 percent in 1987 to 39 percent in 1988. This compares with the peak year of 1979, when an astounding 54 percent of all American high school seniors abused drugs.

Still, 39 percent is 39 percent more than I will accept. How can we convince these teen-agers to leave drugs alone? Even if money wasn't tight, we would never be able to solve the problem with money alone. We need something else -- an attitude of intolerance.

Let me tell you, Presidents usually do not speak in favor of intolerance. But the day must soon come when this nation is utterly intolerant of so-called casual drug abuse. Then, and only then, will we be able to declare victory.

It is with this in mind that I hope the Senate soon confirms Bill Bennett as the nation's drug czar. Bill's talent as an educator, and his rapport with young people, will be of particular help in communicating our attitude of zero tolerance to the next generation.

Over the next four years, we will face many common challenges -- to our environment, to our prosperity, to our compassion for those who have yet to fully participate in the American Dream. But we face no common domestic challenge as grave or as urgent as that of drug abuse.

*This is news
Public Enemy #1 need to let the deficit
are we changing?*

I pledge, leader to leader, to work with you and your state governments in this struggle. Just as war tested America and our allies in the 1940s, so our people are undergoing a test of our national will today. Again, to paraphrase Churchill, we shall not flag or fail. We shall go on to the end fighting the scourge of drug abuse, with growing confidence and growing strength . . . we shall never surrender. With your help, and your leadership in the states, I know that we shall also prevail.

Thank you.

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David Tell's
comments

(Handwritten signature in red ink, circled)

1989 MAR -3 PM Davis/Dooley

March 6, 1989

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wimpy Gerald
Fordism/J. Carter

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This includes sustaining the \$150 million drug grant program ~~which was targeted for elimination in January~~ so that the Department of Justice can help state and local law enforcement agencies catch criminals and warn kids away from drugs.

Another shining example of federal and state cooperation is the seizure and forfeiture of assets from drug dealers. State agencies that cooperate in drug cases will share the benefits from the sale of yachts, planes and autos used in drug deals. To convert the profits of vice to finance our war against the multi-billion dollar drug empire is more than good financial sense. It is swift justice . . .

Even with these programs, the campaign against drug abuse will be a hard-fought war that will last for years. *We must take back our streets from the drug traffickers, We must protect our citizens & bring to justice those who hinder our law enforcement officers.*

Perhaps we should take inspiration from a nation at war almost fifty years ago. As Britain faced an adversary that tested the courage and character of its people, Winston Churchill vowed to never surrender. In today's war against the pushers, we must -- as a people -- draw from these same deep wells of national purpose to summon a spirit of defiance. What shall we do?

in
PKA

drug problem # WWII, 'apocalyptic' rhetoric

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Perhaps the classroom will be the most decisive battleground of them all. ^{FBI} Toward this end, I am proposing a \$1.1 billion allocation for drug ^{and prevention} education -- a 16 percent increase over 1989. Some \$367 million of this will go to the Department of Education budget, to help keep drugs out of our schools, campuses and neighborhoods -- an increase of \$12 million.

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As you may have heard, we can already take heart from some good news from the classrooms of America. According to the 1988 National High School Senior Survey, the proportion of seniors using illicit drugs during the prior year fell from 42 percent in 1987 to 39 percent in 1988. This compares with the peak year of 1979, when an astounding 54 percent of all American high school seniors abused drugs.

Still, 39 percent is ^{too much.} ~~39 percent more than I will accept.~~
~~How can we convince these teen-agers to leave drugs alone? Even if money wasn't tight, we would never be able to solve the problem with money alone. We need something else -- an attitude of intolerance.~~ We will spend the money to get the job done, but we need something more -- an attitude of intolerance.

Let me tell you, Presidents usually do not speak in favor of intolerance. But the day must soon come when this nation is utterly intolerant of so-called casual drug abuse. Then, and only then, will we be able to declare victory.

It is with this in mind that I hope the Senate soon confirms Bill Bennett as the nation's drug czar. ~~Bill's talent as an educator, and his rapport with young people, will be of particular help in communicating our attitude of zero tolerance to the next generation.~~ Bill Bennett + I will lead our fight against drugs on all fronts.

talk re: Bennett
as drug czar,
not as Fmr.
Sec of Educ.

Over the next four years, we will face many common challenges -- to our environment, to our prosperity, to our compassion for those who have yet to fully participate in the American Dream. But we face no common domestic challenge as grave or as urgent as that of drug abuse.

I pledge, leader to leader, to work with you and your state governments in this struggle. ~~Just as war tested America and our allies in the 1940s, so our people are undergoing a test of our national will today. Again, to paraphrase Churchill, we shall not flag or fail.~~ We shall go on to the end fighting the scourge of drug abuse, with growing confidence and growing strength . . . we shall never surrender. With your help, and your leadership in the states, I know that we shall also prevail.

Thank you.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 7, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRIS WINSTON

FROM: MARGARET CACCIA *mc*
OFFICE OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE
LEGISLATURES

-
1. The proper name of the organization is: National Conference of State Legislatures, not Legislators. (pg. 1, Heading)
 2. If the President thanks Sam Nunez and Lee Daniels, he must also thank Ted Stickland who is Immediate Past President of NCSL and Bush's co-chair in Colorado. (pg. 1, 1st para)
 3. Per Legislative Affairs, Bennett is scheduled to be voted on in Committee on March 9, and tentatively confirmed March 10. If this happens, the President should remark on it. Instead of the language "...I hope the Senate soon confirms Bill Bennett..." Just a warning! (pg. 7, para 4)

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 3/6/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 3/7/89 c.o.b.

SUBJECT: NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATORS

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STUDDERT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BREEDEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PINKERTON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	GRIFFITH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	BENNETT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



REMARKS: Please forward any comments directly to Chriss Winston, Rm. 122, x2930, by c.o.b. Tuesday, March 7, 1989, with an info copy to my office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

James W. Cicconi
 Assistant to the President
 and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
 Ext. 2702

1989 MAR -3 PM Davis/Dooley

March 6, 1989

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REMARKS: NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATORS

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MARCH 10, 1989

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co-chair

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To President

GB
Davis/Dooley
March 6, 1989
3 p.m.

REMARKS: NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES
OLD EXECUTIVE OFFICE BUILDING/RM 450
MARCH 10, 1989

I am very pleased to be here. I would like to thank the present and past officers for your gracious invitation -- Sammy Nunez (Noo-nez), Lee Daniels, Ted Strickland. Thank you all.

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I am encouraged to see so many state governments forming intra-state drug task forces, and inter-state panels to share resources and intelligence. Every state should join this common effort. And every state should look for ways to toughen its drug laws.

The federal government, just like the states, is animated by a new get-tough attitude on drugs. We've stiffened the federal sentence for drug trafficking to a maximum of life. We've toughened penalties for drug dealers who use children to deal drugs, or who sell drugs to children. And if you commit a drug-related murder, or kill a cop, the toughest sentence you can receive is the toughest sentence there is -- death.

We've also increased our resources as we've stiffened sentences. Since 1981, the federal anti-drug budget has grown by nearly 370 percent. But more was needed, so I am asking the Congress for \$6 billion for our anti-drug program in 1990. More than \$4 billion will be spent to provide grants to state and local law enforcement agencies, to beef up federal enforcement, and to enhance our prosecution, detention and intelligence capabilities . . .

This includes sustaining the \$150 million drug grant program, so that the Department of Justice can help state and local law enforcement agencies catch criminals and warn kids away from drugs.

Another shining example of federal and state cooperation is the seizure and forfeiture of assets from drug dealers. State agencies that cooperate in drug cases will share the benefits from the sale of yachts, planes and cars used in drug deals. To convert the profits of vice to finance our war against the multi-billion dollar drug empire is more than good financial sense. It is swift justice . . .

Even with these programs, the campaign against drug abuse will be a hard-fought war that will last for years.

Perhaps we should take inspiration from a nation at war almost fifty years ago. As Britain faced an adversary that tested the courage and character of its people, Winston Churchill vowed to never surrender. In today's war against the pushers, we must -- as a people -- draw from these same deep wells of national purpose to summon a spirit of defiance.

Our single, most important task is to keep kids off drugs and out of trouble. Toward this end, I am proposing a \$1.1 billion allocation for drug education and prevention -- a 16 percent increase over 1989. Some \$367 million of this will go to

the Drug Free Schools and Communities program, to help keep drugs out of our schools, campuses and neighborhoods -- an increase of \$12 million.

The programs are many. You will be able to take the lead in this effort, since more than 80 percent of the funds of the Drug Free Schools and Communities program will be allocated to the states and territories.

As you may have heard, we can already take heart from some good news from the classrooms of America. According to the 1988 National High School Senior Survey, the proportion of seniors using illicit drugs during the prior year fell from 42 percent in 1987 to 39 percent in 1988. This compares with the peak year of 1979, when an astounding 54 percent of all American high school seniors used drugs.

Still, 39 percent is too much. We will spend money to get the job done, but we need something more -- an attitude of intolerance.

Let me tell you, Presidents usually do not speak in favor of intolerance. But the day must soon come when this nation is utterly intolerant of so-called casual drug abuse. Then, and only then, will we be able to declare victory.

Over the next four years, we will face many common challenges -- to our environment, to our prosperity, to our compassion for those who have yet to fully participate in the American Dream. The challenge of drug abuse will test our resolve and our mettle as a people.

I pledge, leader to leader, to work with you and your state governments in this struggle. Bill Bennett and I will lead the fight against drugs on all fronts. Just as war tested America and our allies in the 1940s, so our people are undergoing a test of our national will today. To paraphrase Churchill, we shall not flag or fail. We shall go on to the end fighting the scourge of drug abuse, with growing confidence and growing strength . . . we shall never surrender. With your help, and your leadership in the states, I know that we shall also prevail.

Thank you.

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Davis/Dooley

March 6, 1989

3 p.m.

REMARKS: NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATORS

OLD EXECUTIVE OFFICE BUILDING/RM 450

MARCH 10, 1989

Thank you Sammy Nunez (Noo-nez). Thank you Lee Daniels.
Thank you all.

The last time I spoke to you, we were in the middle of
America, in the middle of summer, and in the midst of a tough
campaign year.

Fate has smiled on us since that July day in Indianapolis.
Then, we were all candidates. Today, everyone in this room is a
winner. For those of you who are Republicans, I hope my
coattails were of use. For those of you who are Democrats, I
claim absolutely no credit whatsoever . . .

In all sincerity, I want to congratulate every legislative
leader in this room, Democratic as well as Republican. You won
more than a political victory. You won the highest honor of all
-- the opportunity to serve your state and your country.

The problems that confront our country as we near the end of this century often seem bigger than our ability to solve them. And they are -- if we face these problems as only partisan Democrats or Republicans, as parochial members of a region, or a faction, or an interest group. But by working together, as Americans, we can lick any problem -- no matter how big, how complex or how deeply rooted it may be.

True, there are always naysayers who believe we will never clean up the environment; that we will never shelter the homeless; that we will never end that age-old affliction of mankind, poverty -- poverty of knowledge and skills, poverty of opportunity, poverty of hope.

But the cynics never take into account one of the great success stories of our times -- state government. In this decade, power flowed from Washington to Austin, to Springfield, to Sacramento and to every other state capital. With this power came new responsibilities. And history will remember that you met your broadened responsibilities with distinction.

I know funds at all levels of government are tight. I know you are called upon to make hard choices, as I am. But, by and large, you are meeting the challenge of a frugal age by devising creative new solutions to the age-old problems of care and concern for the very young, the very elderly, the disadvantaged and the dispossessed.

So whenever I see a problem that some say is insurmountable, I draw inspiration from what you are already doing in the states.

The resilience of state government in the 1980s vindicates the wisdom of the Founding Fathers, and forever discredits those who would have Washington do it all. Let me assure you: I will preserve and protect a healthy balance, a sharing of power, between the states and Washington.

As you know, one policy area clearly designated as a prime responsibility of the federal government is our national defense. So perhaps the appeal I am going to make to you today will be all the more unprecedented. The time has come for me to enlist your energy and expertise in a different kind of national security crisis -- the threat of drug abuse to the health and the very future of our nation.

Crack. Heroin. P.C.P. These drugs are a plague that leaves an aftermath of shattered minds, ruined bodies and wasted potential. No state in the Union is immune to this plague. Drug crimes have claimed thousands of lives, and turned whole communities upside down from the Eastern Seaboard to the Pacific Coast. It is becoming apparent that our struggle against the drug trade is more than the moral equivalent of war.

It is war.

As with every battle this country has ever fought, we are all in this together -- as Americans. And as with any war, we must have a strategy. Our strategy is four-pronged: law enforcement -- interdiction -- rehabilitation -- and prevention through education.

I am encouraged to see so many state governments forming intrastate drug task forces, and interstate panels to share resources and intelligence. Every state should join this common effort. And every state should look for ways to toughen its drug laws.

The federal government, just like the states, is animated by a new get-tough attitude on drugs. We've stiffened the federal sentence for drug trafficking to a maximum of life. We've toughened penalties for drug dealers who use children to deal drugs, or who sell drugs to children. And if you commit a drug-related murder, or slay a law enforcement officer, the toughest sentence you can receive is the toughest sentence there is -- death.

We've also increased our resources as we've stiffened sentences. Since 1981, the federal anti-drug budget has grown by nearly 370 percent. But more was needed, so I am asking the Congress for \$6 billion for our anti-drug program in 1990 -- a 21 percent increase over 1989, and a 47 percent increase over 1988. More than \$4 billion will be spent to provide grants to state and local law enforcement agencies, to beef up federal enforcement, and to enhance our prosecution, detention and intelligence capabilities . . .

This includes sustaining the \$150 million drug grant program -- which was targeted for elimination in January -- so that the Department of Justice can help state and local law enforcement agencies catch criminals and warn kids away from drugs.

Another shining example of federal and state cooperation is the seizure and forfeiture of assets from drug dealers. State agencies that cooperate in drug cases will share the benefits from the sale of yachts, planes and autos used in drug deals. To convert the profits of vice to finance our war against the multi-billion dollar drug empire is more than good financial sense. It is swift justice . . .

Even with these programs, the campaign against drug abuse will be a hard-fought war that will last for years.

Perhaps we should take inspiration from a nation at war almost fifty years ago. As Britain faced an adversary that tested the courage and character of its people, Winston Churchill vowed to never surrender. In today's war against the pushers, we must -- as a people -- draw from these same deep wells of national purpose to summon a spirit of defiance. What shall we do?

We shall fight the drug lords on the beaches and the streets, we shall fight them in the schools, we shall interdict them in the skies and on the high seas. We shall never surrender, not until the last pusher is put behind bars and the last playground is free of drugs.

Perhaps the classroom will be the most decisive battleground of them all. Toward this end, I am proposing a \$1.1 billion allocation for drug education -- a 16 percent increase over 1989. Some \$367 million of this will go to the Department of Education budget, to help keep drugs out of our schools, campuses and neighborhoods -- an increase of \$12 million.

The programs are many. But our purpose is singular: to keep kids off drugs and out of trouble. You will be able to take the lead in this effort, since more than 80 percent of the funds of the Drug Free Schools and Communities program will be allocated to the states and territories.

As you may have heard, we can already take heart from some good news from the classrooms of America. According to the 1988 National High School Senior Survey, the proportion of seniors using illicit drugs during the prior year fell from 42 percent in 1987 to 39 percent in 1988. This compares with the peak year of 1979, when an astounding 54 percent of all American high school seniors abused drugs.

Still, 39 percent is 39 percent more than I will accept. How can we convince these teen-agers to leave drugs alone? Even if money wasn't tight, we would never be able to solve the problem with money alone. We need something else -- an attitude of intolerance.

Let me tell you, Presidents usually do not speak in favor of intolerance. But the day must soon come when this nation is utterly intolerant of so-called casual drug abuse. Then, and only then, will we be able to declare victory.

It is with this in mind that I hope the Senate soon confirms Bill Bennett as the nation's drug czar. Bill's talent as an educator, and his rapport with young people, will be of particular help in communicating our attitude of zero tolerance to the next generation.

Over the next four years, we will face many common challenges -- to our environment, to our prosperity, to our compassion for those who have yet to fully participate in the American Dream. But we face no common domestic challenge as grave or as urgent as that of drug abuse.

I pledge, leader to leader, to work with you and your state governments in this struggle. Just as war tested America and our allies in the 1940s, so our people are undergoing a test of our national will today. Again, to paraphrase Churchill, we shall not flag or fail. We shall go on to the end fighting the scourge of drug abuse, with growing confidence and growing strength . . . we shall never surrender. With your help, and your leadership in the states, I know that we shall also prevail.

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Davis/Dooley
March 6, 1989
3 p.m.

REMARKS: NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES
OLD EXECUTIVE OFFICE BUILDING/RM 450
MARCH 10, 1989

I am very pleased to be here. I would like to thank the present and past officers for your gracious invitation -- Sammy Nunez (Noo-nez), Lee Daniels, Ted Strickland. Thank you all.

The last time I spoke to you, we were in the middle of America, in the middle of summer, and in the midst of a tough campaign year.

Fate has smiled on us since that July day in Indianapolis. Then, we were all candidates. Today, everyone in this room is a winner. For those of you who are Republicans, I hope my coattails were of use. For those of you who are Democrats, I claim absolutely no credit whatsoever . . .

In all sincerity, I want to congratulate every legislative leader in this room, Democratic as well as Republican. You won more than a political victory. You won the highest honor of all -- the opportunity to serve your state and your country.

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True, there are always naysayers who believe we will never clean up the environment; that we will never shelter the homeless; that we will never end that age-old affliction of mankind, poverty -- poverty of knowledge and skills, poverty of opportunity, poverty of hope.

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I know funds at all levels of government are tight. I know you are called upon to make hard choices, as I am. But, by and large, you are meeting the challenge of a frugal age by devising creative new solutions to the age-old problems of care and concern for the very young, the very elderly, the disadvantaged and the dispossessed.

So whenever I see a problem that some say is insurmountable, I draw inspiration from what you are already doing in the states.

The resilience of state government in the 1980s vindicates the wisdom of the Founding Fathers, and forever discredits those who would have Washington do it all. Let me assure you: I will preserve and protect a healthy balance, a sharing of power, between the states and Washington. Federalism works.

As you know, one policy area clearly designated as a prime responsibility of the federal government is our national defense. So perhaps the appeal I am going to make to you today will be all the more unprecedented. The time has come for me to enlist your energy and expertise in a different kind of national security crisis -- the threat of drug abuse to the health and the very future of our nation.

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Thank you.

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