

10-10-98
drug

President Clinton:
Fighting Drugs, Protecting communities and Saving Kids

President Clinton is committed to continuing our progress in reducing drug use and to reversing the trend among youth by focussing our efforts on our children. While overall drug use in America is down, the problem of youth drug use remains a top priority of the Administration.

The President's Anti-Drug Media Campaign

Targeting Young People With The Anti-Drug Message. Because our first priority is to prevent drug use among our youth, the Clinton Administration is funding a massive national media campaign to motivate America's youth to reject illegal drugs and substance abuse. This \$195-million media campaign will rely on high-impact, anti-drug television and radio advertisements aired during prime-time to educate and inform young people and their parents on dangers of illegal drug use.

This Achievement Builds on the President's Five-Year Effort to Fight Drugs

Historic and High Profile Anti-Drug Strategy

The largest anti-drug budgets ever. Year-in and year-out, President Clinton has proposed the largest anti-drug budgets ever. Between 1996 and 1998, resources for drug control increased by 19 %, from \$13.5 billion in FY 1996 to the President's proposed budget of \$16 billion in FY 1998. For example, resources increased for domestic law enforcement by 14% and interdication by 22%.

Elevated the Drug Czar to a Cabinet Position. President Clinton is the **first** President to make the Director of National Drug Control Policy a Cabinet position. He appointed four-star general Barry McCaffrey to lead our nation's fight against drugs.

Developed a comprehensive National Drug Control Strategy that will reduce illegal drug use through law enforcement, prevention, treatment, interdiction and international efforts. Building on this effort, the Administration is now putting in place a ten-year strategy to reduce drug use in America to the lowest ever historically recorded rate of drug abuse.

Protecting our Communities from Drugs

Strengthened and expanded the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act.

The President's proposed FY 98 budget contains a \$60 million increase for Safe and Drug-Free Schools Program, which reaches 97% of the nation's school districts. Schools use these funds to keep violence, drugs and alcohol away from students and out of schools.

Proposed funding for 1,000 after-school initiatives in communities across the country. The President's Anti-Gang and Youth Violence Strategy will help keep schools open late, on weekends and in the summer so young people will stay off the streets and out of trouble.

Fighting drugs at the local level. The President signed the Drug Free Communities Act of 1997, which will provide grants to community anti-drug coalitions throughout the country.

Getting Tough on Drug-Related Crime

Developed a comprehensive strategy to combat the trafficking and abuse of methamphetamine, one of the country's most dangerous drugs. The President fought for and signed legislation that increases penalties for trafficking in meth, and toughens the penalties for trafficking in those chemicals used to produce met. And the Clinton Administration's targeting of met has gotten results: in the eight cities where meth use has been skyrocketing, it declined substantially in 1996. Meth use was down 52% in Dallas, 20% in San Jose, 19% in San Diego, 7% in Portland, and over 40% in Denver, Omaha and Phoenix.

Mandatory drug testing of state and federal prisoners as a condition of parole. President Clinton fought for and signed legislation requiring states to drug test prisoners so that they can send them back to prison if they get back on drugs.

Expanding drug courts. The Clinton Administration has established drug courts across the country because they've proven effective in breaking the cycles of drugs and crime - they give nonviolent offenders a chance to get off drugs before they end up in jail. The President has asked Congress to increase funding for this program 150% over last year's funding.

Putting 100,000 new community police on our streets. The President's plan represents the federal government's biggest commitment ever to local law enforcement.

Real Results, But More Needs to be Done

Youth drug use - making progress but much work needs to be done. For the first time since 1992, illicit drug use among teens aged 12-17 declined. However, teen drug use is still too high and we must continue our efforts to fight it.

Crack use is declining. The most recent data from the Drug Use Forecasting Program show a decline in crack use across the nation, a good indication that the crack epidemic that began in 1987 has finally begun to abate.

Overall Drug Use Is Down. In 1996, there were half as many current illicit drug users than there were in 1979, when drug use was at its height.

House COP forms drug war task force

Critics say policies haven't curtailed use

By Jennifer Maddox
SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE

Upset with what they say has been five years of absent leadership on the drug issue, House Republicans will announce today a task force designed to "recommit" the nation to the war on drugs.

"We have the will to make it happen," said Rep. Dennis Hastert, the Illinois Republican whom House Speaker Newt Gingrich has asked to chair the task force.

Mr. Gingrich and his 32-member panel will kick off their effort in a "war on drugs deployment ceremony" on the Capitol steps this afternoon. With school groups, grass-roots organizations and anti-drug coalitions assembled, they will announce 14 bills aimed at reducing drug supplies abroad and demand for drugs in the United States. Each bill will target a specific area, from schools to highways to public housing.

"We have the extraordinary heavy weight of an engaged leadership that is prepared to completely focus on this in the House," said Rep. Porter J. Goss, Florida Republican, a task force member who chairs the House Intelligence Committee. "The Clinton administration is not going to do it. We're going to do it."

Administrations have been trying to combat drug abuse since 1963, often with urgent rhetoric. Despite such efforts over 35 years, critics suggest the government has failed to fulfill its directives.

"Up until now . . . the leaders of the federal government have been unable to face the facts in regard to drugs," said Arnold Trebach, a professor at American University

who has studied domestic and foreign drug policies. "The science goes one way, and the policy goes the other way."

Several studies show that drug treatment, not longer prison terms, is the most cost-effective way to reduce drug use and drug-related crime. But treatment makes for "soft" public policy.

"There's been no ability to step back and say, 'This didn't work,'" said Jonathan Caulkins, an associate professor at Carnegie Mellon University's Heinz School of Public Policy. "It's very hard for legislators in general to step back from tough incarceration politics."

Mr. Trebach said he's found that the level of drug use in America isn't tied to government policies.

"Drug use rises and falls totally independently from government intervention," he said. "Its triggers are sudden, stylistic decisions by millions of individuals. It comes and goes like the hula hoop."

Drugs are back in fashion with children. According to the Office of National Drug Control Policy, fewer teens perceive drugs such as marijuana, crack and cocaine as harmful, and more children are using drugs at younger ages.

"Since serious measures of the drug problem began in the late '70s, a lot of these indicators have never been worse," said John Walters, former deputy director of the office. "The acceleration of use [among youth] has never been more rapid."

Also troubling to some is the growing movement to legalize certain drugs such as marijuana for medical purposes, adding to the perception that such drugs are acceptable.

The Washington Times
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Drugs

Democrats: GOP seeks segregated education

By Sean Scully
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Republicans are intent on returning to the old "separate but equal" days of segregated education, Democrats said yesterday.

"Discrimination is a fact of life in this country," Rep. Albert R. Wynn, Maryland Democrat, said at a rally outside the Capitol. "It's not enough to condemn it, we must take action — affirmative action — to balance the scales."

Rep. Frank Riggs, California Republican, wants to prohibit colleges and universities that use federally funded student loans from giving preferences based on race and sex. Since most schools accept such funds, the bill would in effect ban preferences nationwide.

Mr. Riggs and other conservatives say preferences actually perpetuate racial division rather than remedy historical discrimination against minorities. California banned preferences in a 1996 referendum.

The proposed national ban is part of a massive higher-education bill that renews a series of existing programs and creates some new ones. The package will cost \$101 billion over five years.

The bill has broad support, but Mr. Riggs' proposal threatens to fracture that, with Democrats saying they will recommend a pres-

idential veto if the ban on preferences is included.

"We're talking about continuing to divide our country," said Rep. Gregory W. Meeks, New York Democrat. "We're talking about going back to the old separate-but-equal status."

"Congressman Riggs, Newt Gingrich, and the right-wing extremists are trying to perpetuate a myth," Mr. Wynn said, "The myth is that there is a level playing field. We know otherwise."

Republicans concede that Mr. Riggs' amendment is probably doomed, but it is a potent election-year issue. Polls show that American voters generally dislike race-based preference programs. Republicans hope to energize their conservative base going into the November elections.

Mr. Riggs' ban is one of an expected 75 amendments to the higher education bill. The House plans to act on the bill today.

Among other things, the main bill would cut the interest rates for student loans; increase the maximum for Pell grants for students to \$4,500 from the current \$3,000 per year; give \$135 million in aid to historically black colleges to benefit minority students; establish a scholarship for bilingual teachers; and change the way families calculate their incomes, making it easier to qualify for financial aid.

CAPITAL ROUNDUP

School subsidy proposal defeated in Senate vote

The Senate, voting largely along party lines, defeated on Tuesday a Democratic plan backed by President Clinton to subsidize school construction with \$11 billion in federal funds. The defeat, 56-42, was expected.

Republicans are supporting a bill to let tax-free savings accounts be used for school expenses.

Clinton has said he would veto the savings bill, already passed by the House, because it would mostly benefit families sending their children to private school.

"The right way to fix schools is to fix them, not walk away from them," Clinton said.

"They believe it's OK for Congress to invest money in highly specific, local transportation projects, but not to give even the most general kind of support for our education infrastructure," he added.

He was referring to a \$217 billion transportation bill passed by the Republican-dominated House.

NEW GREEN CARDS: Seeking to slow down counterfeiters, the Immigration and Naturalization Service unveiled on Tuesday a high-tech green card for legal immigrants who reside permanently in the USA. The INS spent \$38 million developing the plastic card, which replaces a laminated paper version. It uses sophisticated technologies such as digital photos and optical memory stripes with encrypted information that can be read by scanner. INS officials say they hope the new design, which features microdot portraits of all the nation's presidents, will make it easier to detect fakes.

PRESIDENT TO ADDRESS GRADS: President Clinton will address the 1998 graduating classes of the U.S. Naval Academy on May 22, Massachusetts Institute of Technology on June 5 and Oregon's Portland State University on June 13, the White House announced Tuesday. Vice President Gore has commencement speeches scheduled at South Carolina State University on May 9 and New York University on May 14.

JUICE SAFETY: The Food and Drug Administration proposed on Tuesday that warning labels be placed on containers of juice that is not treated to kill disease-causing microbes. The FDA hopes to implement the labeling plan by the fall apple harvest when more untreated juice is sold. The FDA estimates there are from 16,000 to 48,000 cases of juice-related illnesses each year in the United States. In 1996, the dangerous E. coli O157 bacteria contaminated one brand of bottled apple juice, killing one child and making at least 66 people sick. People also have become infected with salmonella in orange juice.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE: Supporters of overhauling the campaign finance system gained ground Tuesday in their drive to force the measure to the House floor over the objections of the GOP leadership. Three Republican lawmakers and two Democrats added their names to a petition demanding the issue be debated on the floor, and other lawmakers have said they are ready to join them. GOP Reps. Arno Houghton of New York, Tom Davis of Virginia and Zach Wamp of Tennessee, as well as Democrats Bennie Thompson of Mississippi and recently elected Rep. Barbara Lee of California brought the number of signatures to 200. That's 18 shy of the total needed to force the hand of the leadership. House Republican leaders discussed the petition drive at a closed-door meeting but came to no conclusion about how to proceed, according to one official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Written by Ken Washington with staff and wire reports

First
Juices
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Microsoft makes gains in antitrust battle

By Paul Davidson
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — An antitrust battle once stacked in the government's favor looks more like an even match Tuesday after an appeals court sharply questioned the Justice Department and Microsoft.

"There's reason for Microsoft to be happy," says company lawyer Charles Rule. Justice officials refused comment.

Rule said the three-judge panel appeared more willing than a federal judge to give credence to Microsoft's highly technical defense, which Justice

downplays as an attempt to cloud issues.

Justice charges Microsoft with violating a 1995 consent decree by bundling its Internet Explorer browser, which surfs the Web, with its Windows 95 operating system, which runs 90% of new PCs. Microsoft says it has created one integrated product, as the decree permits.

Federal Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson forced the company to offer PC makers two versions of Windows 95, with and without the Explorer icon, while a special master reviews evidence and makes a recommendation. Microsoft appealed.

Microsoft says Windows and Explorer share programming code. "That sounds a lot like integration," Judge Stephen Williams said. The judges also questioned Justice's claim that Explorer is a separate product simply because it's marketed separately.

But the panel also seemed suspicious of Microsoft's claim that it could blend any two products consumers want, rendering the consent decree meaningless.

In its appeal, Microsoft said Jackson should have ended the case when he failed to find Microsoft in contempt for violating the consent decree.

Judge Patricia Wald seemed receptive to Microsoft's claim that the preliminary injunction exceeded Justice's request and should have required proof of "irreparable harm" to PC makers or consumers. When Justice lawyer A. Douglas Melamed said he thought a request for permanent relief was enough, Wald said, "You were wrong."

If Microsoft wins on such procedural grounds, Justice could formally ask Jackson for a preliminary injunction, says antitrust lawyer Kevin Arquit.

The appeals court is expected to rule in several weeks.

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