

News from Senator

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
AUGUST 4, 1989

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TIME FOR STREAMLINING THE WAR ON DRUGS;  
DOLE CALLS FOR NEW SUPER CONGRESSIONAL  
COMMITTEE ON DRUGS  
SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE

MR. DOLE. MR. PRESIDENT, EACH AND EVERY DAY WE ARE REMINDED OF THE HORRORS OF AMERICA'S DRUG EPIDEMIC. EACH AND EVERY DAY THERE IS A NEW HEADLINE TELLING US OF THE TRAGIC LOSS OF LIFE FROM THE DRUG NIGHTMARE. AND EACH AND EVERY DAY WE DISCOVER ANEW HOW FAR WE HAVE TO GO IN THE WAR ON DRUGS.

JUST TODAY, THERE ARE FRONT PAGE STORIES REPORTING HOW DRUG GANGS FROM THE COASTS ARE EXPORTING THEIR TERROR AND THEIR DRUGS TO AMERICA'S HEARTLAND. IS THERE ANY QUESTION WE HAVE TO ACT -- NOW, NOT LATER.

FOR TOO LONG, THE WAR ON DRUGS WAS JUST A PHRASE. BUT LITTLE BY LITTLE, WE HAVE ADDED SOME MUSCLE AND MONEY TO THE NATIONWIDE CRUSADE TO WIPE OUT THE DRUG SCOURGE.

ON CAPITOL HILL, CONGRESS HAS ADOPTED ANTI-DRUG AND ANTI-CRIME LAWS. AND WE DID IT ALL WITH BI-PARTISAN SUPPORT, COMBINING THE BEST IDEAS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE AISLE INTO EFFECTIVE LEGISLATION. NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, HOWEVER, WE NEED TO DO MUCH, MUCH MORE -- AND THAT IS WHY I AM INTRODUCING A NEW CONCEPT TODAY TO THE WAR ON DRUGS, ONE THAT I BELIEVE IS CRITICAL TO MAXIMIZING CONGRESSIONAL EFFORTS TO GET THE JOB DONE.

TODAY I AM CALLING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW COMMITTEE ON CAPITOL HILL -- A SUPER COMMITTEE ON DRUGS TO COORDINATE, FACILITATE AND STREAMLINE CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITY.

MR. PRESIDENT, IN 1982, CONGRESSIONAL DEMOCRATS HAD A GOOD IDEA. THEY CALLED FOR THE CREATION OF A SO-CALLED DRUG CZAR, A CABINET-LEVEL DIRECTOR WHO COULD CUT THROUGH THE DUPLICATION, THE BUREAUCRACY AND THE POLITICS TO MAXIMIZE AMERICA'S ANTI-DRUG EFFORTS. NOW, I'LL ADMIT, THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION DID NOT AGREE WITH THAT CONCEPT -- AND IT BLOCKED IT.

BUT A GOOD IDEA IS HARD TO BEAT AND NOW, WITH A NEW PRESIDENT AND A NEW TEAM IN PLACE, THE DRUG CZAR IS NO LONGER A CONCEPT -- HE IS A REALITY; AND HIS NAME IS BILL BENNETT.

I APPLAUD THE DEMOCRATS FOR THIS INITIATIVE. TODAY, IN THE FORM OF THE OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP OF MR. BENNETT, WE ARE SEEING THE FRUITS OF THEIR VISION.

BUT NOW THERE IS A NEW PROBLEM -- AND THE PROBLEM IS "US". DESPITE ALL OF OUR GOOD EFFORT HERE, THERE ARE SIMPLY TOO MANY COOKS IN THE KITCHEN. WHAT OUR NEWLY-APPOINTED DRUG CZAR NEEDS FROM CONGRESS IS MORE ORGANIZATION.

(MORE)



A REPORT FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE IDENTIFIES 54 HOUSE COMMITTEES AND SUBCOMMITTEES AND 21 SENATE COMMITTEES AND SUBCOMMITTEES WHICH COULD, AND HAVE, ASSERTED JURISDICTION OVER SOME PART OF THE WAR ON DRUGS. WHILE THIS TOTAL OF 75 MAY INDICATE THAT CONGRESS CONSIDERS DRUGS TO BE A REAL PROBLEM DEMANDING ANSWERS, IT ALSO POINTS TO THE NEED TO INSTALL SOME COORDINATION IN THE CONGRESS.

EVEN THE NUMBER SUPPLIED BY THE CRS IS LOW, SINCE IT DOES NOT INCLUDE THE COMMITTEES ON APPROPRIATIONS AND THEIR SUBCOMMITTEES, OR ANY COMMITTEE OR SUBCOMMITTEE WITH ONLY OVERSIGHT RESPONSIBILITIES.

IF A COORDINATED APPROACH IS GOOD FOR THE EXECUTIVE, AND I BELIEVE IT IS, A COORDINATED APPROACH IS GOOD FOR THE CONGRESS.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THREE RESOLUTIONS

TODAY, I AM INTRODUCING THREE RESOLUTIONS REPRESENTING THREE DIFFERENT WAYS TO ACHIEVE REORGANIZING CONGRESS TO ANSWER THE DEMAND BY THE PUBLIC FOR PROGRESS IN THE WAR ON DRUGS.

THE FIRST CONCURRENT RESOLUTION WOULD ESTABLISH COMMITTEES ON NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY IN BOTH THE SENATE AND HOUSE. ALL LEGISLATION ON THE SUBJECT OF ILLICIT NARCOTICS WOULD BE REFERRED TO THESE COMMITTEES, BUT COMMITTEES OF EXISTING JURISDICTION COULD MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE DRUG COMMITTEES, WHICH WILL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF EXPERTISE THAT HAS BEEN DEVELOPED OVER THE YEARS.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE IN THE SENATE WOULD INCLUDE THE MAJORITY AND MINORITY LEADERS, AND THE CHAIRMAN AND RANKING MINORITY MEMBERS OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES:

APPROPRIATIONS, ARMED SERVICES, BUDGET, COMMERCE, FINANCE, FOREIGN RELATIONS, INTELLIGENCE, JUDICIARY, AND LABOR.

IN THE HOUSE, MEMBERSHIP WOULD BE THE SPEAKER, THE MINORITY LEADER AND THE CHAIRMAN AND RANKING MINORITY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEES ON:

APPROPRIATIONS, ARMED SERVICES, BUDGET, ENERGY AND COMMERCE, MERCHANT MARINE, WAYS AND MEANS, FOREIGN AFFAIRS, INTELLIGENCE, JUDICIARY, AND EDUCATION AND LABOR. THESE COMMITTEES REPRESENT THOSE WITH MAJOR DRUG JURISDICTION. INCLUDING THE LEADERSHIP WILL PROVIDE THE NEW COMMITTEES WITH AN ASSURANCE THAT ITS RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE GIVEN PRIORITY IN SCHEDULING BEFORE THE HOUSE AND SENATE, AND THAT THE CONGRESS IS SERIOUS ABOUT FINDING CONCRETE SOLUTIONS TO THE SCOURGE OF DRUGS.

#### SENATE COMMITTEE

MR. PRESIDENT, I AM AWARE OF THE SENSITIVITY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE TWO HOUSES OF CONGRESS. GENERALLY NEITHER TRIES TO MANDATE THE OTHER INTO TAKING AN ACTION WHICH ONLY AFFECTS THE OTHER BODY.

EVEN THOUGH I STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT BOTH THE HOUSE AND THE SENATE SHOULD ESTABLISH COMMITTEES, I AM ALSO INTRODUCING A SENATE RESOLUTION WHICH WOULD CREATE ONLY A SENATE COMMITTEE, LEAVING TO THE HOUSE THE DECISION ON WHETHER TO CREATE ITS OWN COMMITTEE AND HOUSE IT SHOULD BE CONSTITUTED.

#### JOINT COMMITTEE

THE THIRD RESOLUTION, A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION LIKE THE FIRST, WOULD CREATE A JOINT COMMITTEE OF BOTH HOUSES. LIKE THE FIRST CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, THIS WOULD ESTABLISH A PRIMARY COMMITTEE FOR BOTH BODIES. BUT, RATHER THAN HAVING TWO COMMITTEES, ONE COMMITTEE SERVING BOTH BODIES WOULD BE CREATED. THIS FOLLOWS THE PRECEDENT ESTABLISHED BY THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON ATOMIC ENERGY. DUE TO SIZE LIMITATIONS, THE MEMBERSHIP HAS BEEN REDUCED TO INCLUDE:

THE MAJORITY AND MINORITY LEADERS OF THE SENATE AND TWO DESIGNEES OF EACH, AND THE CHAIRMEN AND RANKING MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEES ON JUDICIARY, FOREIGN RELATIONS AND LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES. IN THE HOUSE, MEMBERSHIP WOULD BE THE SPEAKER AND MINORITY LEADER AND ONE DESIGNEE OF EACH, AND THE CHAIRMEN AND RANKING MINORITY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEES ON JUDICIARY, FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ENERGY AND COMMERCE, EDUCATION AND LABOR.

#### SUMMARY

WHATEVER APPROACH IS TAKEN, IT IS CLEAR THAT CONGRESS MUST RESTRUCTURE ITSELF TO FULLY ADDRESS THE PETITION BY THE PEOPLE TO STOP DRUG ABUSE AND ABUSE BY DRUG ADDICTS AND DEALERS ON OUR SOCIETY.

THE TIME TO ACT IS UPON US, SINCE THE FIRST NATIONAL STRATEGY WILL BE BEFORE US WHEN WE RETURN FROM THE AUGUST RECESS. AT THAT TIME, WE WILL BE CONFRONTED WITH A CHOICE OF MOVING FORWARD WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DRUG CZAR, OR DELAYING TO AWAIT SCORES OF SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS AND LOSING THE WAR ON DRUGS.

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