

battle, this time a battle to counter the threat of illegal drugs and drug abuse to this Nation. It is a threat as serious as any that has ever faced this Nation in our history from any foreign military power or terrorist organization. I congratulate the President of the United States. Indeed, he had awesome powers of persuasion, to get this American to step aside, to promptly retire as a four-star officer, a man who may well have been destined to become Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army. He will take on a new challenge and enter another battle in a life which, although this man is quiet and humble, is filled with heroism.

But General McCaffrey's appointment is timely, Mr. President. As today's Washington Post article opens up—and I will quote the article and I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in full at the end of my statement.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(See exhibit 1.)

Mr. WARNER [reading]: "By moving full circle in this election year, President Clinton plans an ambitious upgrading of the White House drug control policy office three years after virtually wiping out that office in order to fulfill a campaign pledge to reduce White House staff."

How tragic, Mr. President. Just look what happened statistically since the Clinton administration has been in office.

The statistics over the past 2½ years are astonishing and alarming. The number of 12- to 17-year-olds using marijuana in the United States increased from 1.6 million in 1992 to 2.9 million in 1994.

The category of recent marijuana use increased a staggering 200 percent among the 14- to 15-year-olds in this same period of time.

Since 1992 there has been a 52-percent jump in the number of high school seniors using drugs on a monthly basis.

I spoke with a group of parents the other day. The principal theme of our meeting was education. Yes, we talked extensively about education, but in the course of an exchange between myself and this group they quickly turned to the threat that drug abuse poses to their children's safety. We all know that safety in the educational environment equates with the quality of education that these children hope to receive. We also know that a portion of the violence that occurs in our schools is related to illegal drugs and their sales and distribution.

One in three high school seniors now smoke marijuana. The American people recognize the problems with drug abuse. A December 1995 Gallup Poll shows that 94 percent of Americans feel illegal drug abuse is either a crisis, or a very serious problem.

So, Mr. President, I am glad the President of the United States has responded. He has gone to general quarters, as well he should. He is providing

General McCaffrey considerable support, and I am glad General McCaffrey's conditions are being met.

Just look at the record. The Clinton administration has virtually wiped out the Drug Control Policy office reducing the staff from 146 in 1993 to just 25 as of today. This decision to staff up, made in conjunction with the appointment of General McCaffrey, comes at a time when numerous articles and television programs about the terrible increase in substance abuse are appearing throughout our country.

Mr. President, thank you for getting the message from the American people.

I pledge to this fine general and his staff my full cooperation so long as I am privileged to be a Member of the U.S. Senate. I daresay my colleagues likewise will support him.

I yield the floor. I thank the Chair.

EXHIBIT 1

ABOUT-FACE

(By Ann Devroy)

Moving full circle in this election year, President Clinton plans an ambitious upgrading of the White House drug control policy office three years after virtually wiping out that office in order to fulfill a campaign pledge to reduce White House staff.

According to requests submitted yesterday to Congress and sources at the White House, the president is seeking to increase drug policy staffing from 40 to 150 slots, reversing steps he took in 1993 to reduce the office from 146 workers to 25.

In addition, the White House has agreed to requests by its new drug policy chief, retired Gen. Barry R. McCaffrey, to move the operation from a relatively distant office near the New Executive Office Building back into the Old Executive Office Building, where it was located under its first and most high-profile director, William J. Bennett. McCaffrey, also at his request, will be given a slot on the National Security Council, a new power perk, and the job will continue to hold Cabinet rank.

One White House official explained the reversal this way: "The general wants some troops to command, and Clinton wanted the general." But White House aide Rahm Emanuel, who handled the upgrading of the operation, said the new staffing levels and access for McCaffrey signal Clinton's confidence in the former head of the military's Southern Command and his commitment to an expanded fight against drugs.

"This is what he needs to get the president's policy implemented," Emanuel said. "It is what the president believes will help us improve on our record."

While the new staff and spending are likely to consign Clinton's staff-cut efforts to history, it will help him with what may be a more potent political issue: his commitment to drug control at a time when drug use among young people has risen every year he has been in office.

Clinton yesterday sent to Congress a request for \$3.4 million in supplemental spending for the Office of National Drug Control Policy. That request will pay for 80 new jobs, according to the White House submission. In addition, McCaffrey has gotten White House approval to take 30 "detailees" from the Pentagon to his new operation. Detailees are paid by their home agencies, so their cost is not reflected in the White House budget.

The White House also has given McCaffrey the go-ahead to formulate a plan for spending an additional \$250 million this year on the anti-drug effort, much of it reprogrammed Pentagon funds.

In all, the new Clinton drug policy office will have funding for 150 employees, four more than its high point in the Bush administration. It was these workers that Clinton turned to in large measure when he had to make the cuts in White House operations to meet his campaign pledge to shave the staff by 25 percent.

Despite significant misgivings from his own staff and many outsiders, Clinton argued during the campaign that the White House should operate with 25 percent fewer workers than in the Bush era. The pledge was meant to symbolize the president's commitment to make sacrifices himself before he asked other parts of government and the American people to sacrifice in the name of deficit reduction and more efficient government.

On taking office, the Clinton team used some creative accounting to readjust the baseline of what is normally considered White House staff so that fewer cuts would produce the 25 percent goal. But they still had to cut 350 slots from a total of 1,394, and the drug office took by far the biggest hit. White House officials argued that other parts of the government, including the Pentagon and the State Department, could pick up the slack.

White House officials now say they will try to keep the staff level down for the full year to meet the 25 percent reduction, even with the rush of new workers.

And they reject any link between the election year and staffing up anti-drug efforts.

"Our policy has been strong throughout. The president has emphasized anti-drug efforts throughout his administration. It has been an important priority," Barry Toiv, a deputy to White House Chief of Staff Leon E. Panetta, said yesterday. "The president obviously has tremendous respect for General McCaffrey's ability, and the general feels that with additional resources he can do an even better job. The president wants him to have those resources."

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Thomas, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 1:52 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 497. An act to create the National Gambling Impact and Policy Commission.

H.R. 2778. An act to provide that members of the Armed Forces performing services for the peacekeeping effort in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina shall be entitled to certain tax benefits in the same manner as if such services were performed in a combat one, and for other purposes.