

not have the power to work with the Federal agencies and task forces to take the meth and trace it back to their origination and be able to dismantle these incredible drug rings.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to conclude this tonight with a couple of somewhat lengthy, but I will read fast, the works of some of our local police officers.

I will start with Police Chief Melvin Griggs in Gering, Nebraska. He said: "I am the police chief of a city of 8,000 people. We are bordered by a town of 13,000. In 1989, the increase in the cocaine drug traffic prompted us to start a drug task force. The wealth of the people dealing allowed them to purchase property, semi-trucks and farms. They were becoming very powerful. They were also starting to challenge each other for control of the drug trade.

"One family we put away caused a drop of all criminal activity by 33 percent. Within a year, people were already starting to fill the void. But before they could reach the power base, we were always able to stop them because of the task force.

"Meth replaced cocaine. I have lived in this area for 60 years. We did not have murders, and now we have several every year. Our drug task force also helps investigate violent crime. We have seven agents highly trained. They have been able to solve most of these crimes. If we had ever been able to increase the task force, they may have been able to stop some of them. Yet the task force has remained the same.

"It has taken years to develop this team, to develop the cooperation and expertise. Taking away the funding to keep it going will defeat the progress in a matter of months. The dealers will again gain strength, and by the time our leaders realize the mistake they have made by taking these funds, many communities will have developed catastrophic results. Then the leaders will return the funds. It will take years to develop the level of response we now have, and we may never get it, as the problem may have well become beyond our reach.

"I have talked to other police chiefs, and we are not the only community facing this problem. Maybe we have not been vocal enough. We have seen this every day, it is in all of our newspapers, it is on CNN. It is hard for us to believe that anyone cannot understand this problem. It is hard for us to believe that they really plan on a significant reduction in funding. It is hard for us to believe that whoever wrote this article on task forces being ineffective has any idea what a task force does. I hope reason prevails. Reducing this funding is a serious mistake."

Another Nebraska police chief, Stephen Sunday of David City, heads up a 12 county, 28 agency multi-jurisdictional drug task force funded with Byrne dollars. He told me, again it is a rather lengthy quote, "Those grant dollars are the only, and I mean only way the task force was able to form as a group. In South-Central Nebraska there are nothing but small, rural law

enforcement agencies that cannot afford to deal with drug investigations to the degree that we are able to do with Federal grant funding.

"Our primary goal is to investigate the individuals who are dealing drugs in our communities. The drug of choice is meth, and I am here to tell you that meth is a killer, a killer of families, of lives and of health. Health costs for dealing with meth users is terrific. Families cannot afford it.

"The drug task forces are the only effective means of going after the drug dealers. On our own, we cannot handle it. The first problem is that most of the drug dealers in rural Nebraska know all of the law enforcement officers by name and know that we are spread thin. Working with undercover investigators, our task force is able to get next to the drug dealers, but it takes money to have your own separate, dedicated drug investigators.

"By banding together with the Federal Government through Federal dollar grants we can fight the drug dealers. The task forces share intelligence information, which did not happen prior to the creation of Nebraska's drug task forces.

"The intelligence information is so important to us that if the drug task forces are shut down due to lack of Federal funding, then we will be in serious trouble. If the drug dealers find out that the government is cutting off grant funding and as a result the task forces fold up and go away, they will be holding a big party to rejoice at this news. If Federal funding is taken away, the drug task forces in the State of Nebraska will fold up shop and disappear.

"We cannot fund the task forces by ourself. If Congress wants to hear an angry outcry from rural America, take away our task force funding. See what happens. Our Federal elected officials will be eaten alive by the voters. If Congress wants to be progressive and deal with illegal drugs, give us back our funding.

"The Federal Government needs to take care of issues at home more than anywhere else. Public safety needs need to be a high priority. If the drug task force is shut down from a lack of Federal funding, the illegal drug problem in rural America will get out of control and you will pay dearly in ruined lives. Don't take away Federal funding that was coming from the Byrne grant dollars."

As the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) mentioned in his talk a few days ago myself, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE), the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT), the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE) met with the Speaker to express our frustration with any proposed cuts to Byrne grants and HIDTA funding. The Speaker was completely knowledgeable and empathetic with this and promised to help us work with it. So I really appreciate that the leadership in the House of Representatives shares the concern that the speakers did tonight during this special

order, as well as the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT), the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER), the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE) and the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING), who could not be here tonight.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BECERRA (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and the balance of the week on account of continuing to recuperate from surgery.

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today on account of family reasons.

Mr. LATOURETTE (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today on account of a family emergency.

Mr. POE (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today on account of personal business.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. PALLONE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MCCARTHY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. DEGETTE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SNYDER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. INSLEE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CLEAVER, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. JONES of North Carolina) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, May 24, 25, 26, and 27.

Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, May 24.

Mr. HOSTETTLER, for 5 minutes, May 24.

Mr. RAMSTAD, for 5 minutes, today.

#### SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. Con. Res. 35. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the Government of the Russian Federation should issue a clear and unambiguous statement of admission and condemnation of the illegal occupation and annexation by the Soviet Union from 1940 to 1991 of the Baltic countries of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, to the Committee on International Relations.

□ 2230

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.